

STATE-LEVEL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR IN JHARKHAND

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR 2024

JUNE 12, 2024



Let's Act on Our Commitments: End Child Labour

INTRODUCTION

A State Level Multi-Stakeholder Consultation was organized on 12 June 2024 to mark the "World Day against Child Labour 2024" aiming to take forward the ongoing efforts of State Government of Jharkhand towards Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in State, especially in the Global Mineral Supply Chains including MICA.

The Consultation was organized in Ranchi, Jharkhand, India by International Labour Organization (ILO) through the implementation partner, Bal Kalyan Sangh (BKS) with cooperation of the Department of Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Training, Jharkhand State Children Protection Society, Government of Jharkhand and support from ILO Japan Multi-bilateral Programme. The Honorable Minister of Labour, Employment and Skill development, Government of Jharkhand, Shri Satyanand Bhokta graced the occasion as chief guest.

BACKGROUND

In the heart of India's eastern region lies Jharkhand, a state rich in natural resources including diverse minerals, yet plagued with the pervasive child labour and exploitative labour practices. From the depths of hazardous minefields and mineral processing units to various informal establishments including roadside eateries, child labour has been rampant in the state of Jharkhand. Such children, instead of enjoying their formative years often find themselves toiling under rigorous work conditions and being deprived of basic rights, care, and protection besides denial of educational and developmental opportunities. Despite efforts to curb this grave menace, the persistence of child labour in mineral supply chains reflects deep reality of socio-economic complexities, inadequate enforcement mechanisms, and not-so-effective implementation of child protection programmes.

Recognizing the urgent need to act on the commitments by the stakeholders, in a coordinated and collaborative manner, International Labour Organization (ILO) through the implementation partner, Bal Kalyan Sangh (BKS) with cooperation of the Department of Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Training, Jharkhand State Children Protection Society, Government of Jharkhand and support from ILO Japan Multi-bilateral Programme organized State Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Elimination of Child Labour in Jharkhand.

The consultation aims to address the challenges faced by stakeholders including the Government, Workers' and Employers' organizations, and the civil society organisations in progressing towards elimination of child labour to meet the Target 8.7 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework. The Consultation deliberated on the issue of Child Labour in general and on Mineral Supply Chains in particular with MICA as immediate focus and explored pathways to Action on the Commitments by all the stakeholders including Academia and Media. The strategy for elimination of child labour in mineral supply chains based on the ILO framework of Decent Work and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) along with a convergence and collaborative approach with child and family-centric interventions provides for an effective and sustainable model. This model will draw upon earlier experience of ILO globally on integrated approach to address child labour while utilizing the social protection and income generation schemes of the national and state Government



THE EVENT'S THEME, AS ELABORATED UPON BY MR. GIOVANNI SOLEDAD, CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, NEW DELHI, "LET'S ACT ON OUR COMMITMENTS: END CHILD LABOUR."

The 25th anniversary of ILO convention 182 on the worst form of child labour is being celebrated worldwide. This convention, is the only convention to be universally identified, aims to address the issue of the 160 million children still engaged in child labour, with 79 million of them working in hazardous conditions. Two years ago, world leaders gathered in government^[1] and declared that the eradication of child labour must be a central focus of economic and social policies. The message being emphasized is the importance of turning this universal commitment into universal action. It is imperative that we act on our commitment to end child labour and ensure the well-being of all children.

Objectives

- Cultivate dialogue and collaboration among diverse stakeholders working on child labour and child protection issues in Jharkhand.
- Build an understanding of the existing functioning of the institutions at the State and District levels and propose pathways for collaborative functioning and synergy.
- Share knowledge, experiences, and best practices in combating child labour and promoting child rights in the hinterlands of Jharkhand.
- Discuss Inter-agency Collaboration and Coordination within the Government and Convergence Strategy to accelerate progress towards eliminating child labour in mineral supply chains in Jharkhand with focus on mica belt districts of Koderma and Giridih.
- Develop a roadmap incorporating a coordinated action plan with state government in coordination with other stakeholders including the NGOs and Law Enforcement working towards eliminating child labour in Jharkhand.

¹ 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour : The Durban Call to Action



BKS child champions welcoming the participants with Jharkhand Traditional folk song



Officials along with delegates taking oath to eliminate child labour

On the occasion of World Day against Child Labour, the forum was gracefully used to pass a strong message against child labour, by the Hon'ble Labour Minister, Government of Jharkhand, Mr. Satyanand Bhokta, who announced the new Initiative by the State Government making it mandatory for all government servants to sign an undertaking against employing child labour, and he himself along with other officers signed the undertaking during the event. Everyone present there pledged not to employ child labour based on the undertaking



Mr Satyanand Bhokta, Hon'ble Labour Minister of Jharkhand addressing the participants

PARTICIPATION

The event was graced by the Hon'ble Labour Minister, Government of Jharkhand, Shri. Satyanand Bhokta. The Consultation witnessed insightful discussions through contribution by senior officials from various departments including Mr. Mukesh Kumar, IAS, Labour Secretary; Mr. Sashi Prakash Jha, IAS, Director, Social Welfare Department; Mr. Sanjeev Besra IAS, Labour Commissioner; Smt. Nidhi Dwivedi, SP, CID Jharkhand; Mr. Vikas Dodrajka, Member, Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, among others

The Consultation was attended by over 150 participants from Districts representing Labour Department, District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee, Police, Law Officers, Crime Investigation Department, Anti Human Trafficking Unit, Child Champions among others. There was a large gathering of NGOs including Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson, NACG-EVAC India, Bal Kalyan Sangh among others.

Representative from Specialized UN agency, ILO were present, namely Mr. Giovanni Soledad, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO; Mr. Gadiraju Lakshmi Narasimhan, National Project Coordinator, Partnerships, Policies, Learnings & Local Development (PPLL) project on child labour and Mr. John Arul Roy from ILO and Dr. Vikram Srivastava, Technical Advisor, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat).

LAUNCH



THE EVENT WITNESSED THE UNVEILING AND LAUNCH OF THREE KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS BY THE HON'BLE MINISTER ALONG WITH DIGNITARIES



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO) – DECENT WORK IN MICA SUPPLY CHAIN IN JHARKHAND – WHITE PAPER:

This working document is primarily aimed at policy makers which captures the relevance of the Mica sector for the Government of Jharkhand, including formalization of the sector. ILO aims to get further inputs from all the stakeholders specially from the government. This product will guide the workers' and employers' organizations and the civil society organizations in planning for interventions in Mica sector

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO) – DECENT WORK IN MICA SUPPLY CHAIN IN JHARKHAND – MASTER PLAN: CONTEXT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

This working document covers various aspects of the ILO frameworks of Decent Work and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW)² as applicable to the Mica Mineral supply chain of Jharkhand. This product will serve as an effective tool for all the stakeholders in development of specific action plans for elimination of child labour in Mica supply chain.

BAL KALYAN SANGH (BKS) GRAM SANDESH - MARCH 2024 - MAY 2024

Gram Sandesh is a newsletter about child rights activities implemented in rural Jharkhand.



² The ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, adopted in 1998 and amended in 2022, is an expression of commitment by governments, employers' and workers' organizations to uphold basic human values - values that are vital to our social and economic lives. It affirms the obligations and commitments that are inherent in membership of the ILO, namely: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and a safe and healthy working environment

DAY LONG SESSIONS



Mr Satyanand Bhokta and Mr Mukesh Kumar IAS signing oath document to eliminate child labour in Jharkhand

The day started with the inaugural Session where the Hon'ble Minister of Labour, the Secretary, Labour and other senior officials shared their insights and ongoing initiatives of the Government of Jharkhand. There were four technical sessions which were moderated by experts and an experience-sharing session involving Children, child rights advocates, NGOs, officials of Government. These sessions explored possible pathways of coordination and collaboration among stakeholders for prevention and elimination of child labour.

In the inaugural session, key government officials shared insights on ongoing initiatives in Jharkhand to combat child labour, highlighting the importance of social protection schemes and welfare measures for vulnerable families.

PANELIST AND DELEGATES DURING TECHNICAL SESSION



The first technical session emphasized the role of businesses in ensuring child labour-free supply chains, particularly in sectors like small-scale mining. Corporate accountability and ethical labour practices were identified as crucial in addressing the issue.

The second session focused on the establishment of dedicated task forces for increased identification and rescue operations in hazardous sectors like mining, as well as the importance of human rights due diligence processes in monitoring supply chains.

The third session highlighted the effectiveness of awareness campaigns in educating communities on the adverse effects of child labour and the significance of education. Local leaders and influencers were recognized for their role in changing societal attitudes towards the issue.

The final session discussed the challenges of formalizing mica mining and combating illegal operations, emphasizing the need for strengthening and enforcing child labour laws, compliance with labour standards, and improving the outreach of enforcement agencies.

Recommendations included enhancing government programs through robust monitoring and digital diagnostic methodologies, improving collaboration between government and NGO workers, and ensuring a comprehensive last-mile approach to provide remedial support to affected children.



AHTU and SJPU officials from 11 districts of Jharkhand during the workshop



Delegates in the workshop

WAY FORWARD



Government of Jharkhand is taking initiatives for labour welfare and towards ending Child Labour and is open to ideas and collaboration for strengthening its Legal and Institutional Mechanisms.

Post the Dhibra Policy (Cooperative-based welfare for Mica workers) there is scope for taking forward the implementation of the same at the Districts with the stakeholders and with technical assistance from ILO.

Jharkhand being mineral rich State, there are other mining operations beyond Mica and labour welfare related challenges where both Policy and implementation related support are needed.



Mr. Satyanand Bhokta, Hon'ble Minister
felicitating Child Champions for her initiative
to combat child labour



Districts have a complex institutional setup where collaboration among various departments is required, and handholding, training, and the development of monitoring mechanisms are areas that require strengthening through technical and financial support.

Greater levels of government and police authority assistance are needed to make the lives of on-ground NGO workers easier.



Way forward session was further followed by felicitating Child Champions for their exceptional skills and efforts to combat child labour.



A last-mile approach is necessary to ensure that every affected child receives remedial support and effective rehabilitation through government initiatives and policies.

Comprehensive policies should be developed and implemented to address the root causes of child labour and to progress towards the effective implementation of ILO Conventions 138 and 182 through concrete action plans.

Multi-jurisdictional enforcement of child protection laws should be strengthened, and specialized training should be provided to law enforcement agencies on addressing child labour issues.

Businesses should be encouraged to implement transparent supply chain practices, particularly in the mineral sector, and develop certification systems for child labour-free products.

Rehabilitation programs for rescued child labourers should be enhanced by providing comprehensive support services, including education, vocational training, and psycho-social support.

FOR DETAILS CONTACT

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Media Coverage

THE EVENT WAS WIDELY COVERED BY BOTH PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA CHANNELS. THE HON'BLE MINISTER AND SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR USED THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENT.

विश्व बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस पर हितधारकों का संवाद कार्यक्रम बाल श्रम को खत्म करने के लिए संयुक्त पहल हो : सत्यानंद भोक्ता

19/02/2024



संवाद कार्यक्रम में हितधारी बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस पर हितधारकों का संवाद कार्यक्रम

विश्व बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस पर हितधारकों का संवाद कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर सत्यानंद भोक्ता ने कहा कि बाल श्रम को खत्म करने के लिए संयुक्त पहल होनी चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस का आयोजन हर साल किया जाता है, जो बाल श्रम को खत्म करने के लिए संयुक्त पहल होनी चाहिए।

बालश्रम है गंभीर समस्या, यह समाज के भविष्य को कर रही प्रभावित : भोक्ता



राष्ट्रीय श्रम नियोजन व प्रशिक्षण विभाग की ओर से विश्व बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस पर सभी श्रम संगठनों व स्ट्रेक होल्डर के साथ बुधवार को संवाद कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। इसमें बतौर मुख्य अतिथि मंत्री सत्यानंद भोक्ता मौजूद रहे। उन्होंने कहा कि बाल श्रम एक गंभीर समस्या है, जो हमारे समाज के भविष्य को प्रभावित करती है। बच्चे देश के भविष्य हैं, उन्हें शिक्षा, खेल और स्वच्छंद बचपन का अधिकार है। बाल श्रम उनके इन मौलिक अधिकारों को छीन रहा है। बाल श्रम को समाप्त करने के लिए हम सभी का सहयोग और संयुक्त प्रयास आवश्यक है।

कुमार ने कहा कि हमें मिलकर काम करना होगा, ताकि हमारे बच्चों को सुरक्षित और स्वस्थ भविष्य मिल सके। अंत में सभी को शपथ दिलाई कि हम बाल श्रम को समाप्त करने के लिए हरसंभव प्रयास करेंगे। कार्यक्रम में रांची समेत कई जिलों के बच्चे शामिल हुए। जिसमें चैंटिंग्स और कवाड़ से जुड़ाई की कला ने बाल श्रम, शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य जैसे मुद्दों सभी का ध्यान आकर्षित किया। बोराम प्रखंड की पटमदा निवा बबिता महतो चाइल्ड चैंपियन व मौके पर शिक्षा विभाग, अनुसंधान विभाग, गैर सरकारी संगठनों के प्रतिनिधि और चैंपियन के सदस्य उपस्थित थे।

विश्व बाल श्रम उन्मूलन दिवस पर कार्यक्रम का हुआ आयोजन

राष्ट्रीय श्रम नियोजन व प्रशिक्षण विभाग की ओर से विश्व बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस पर सभी श्रम संगठनों व स्ट्रेक होल्डर के साथ बुधवार को संवाद कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। इसमें बतौर मुख्य अतिथि मंत्री सत्यानंद भोक्ता मौजूद रहे। उन्होंने कहा कि बाल श्रम एक गंभीर समस्या है, जो हमारे समाज के भविष्य को प्रभावित करती है। बच्चे देश के भविष्य हैं, उन्हें शिक्षा, खेल और स्वच्छंद बचपन का अधिकार है। बाल श्रम उनके इन मौलिक अधिकारों को छीन रहा है। बाल श्रम को समाप्त करने के लिए हम सभी का सहयोग और संयुक्त प्रयास आवश्यक है।



बालश्रम गंभीर समस्या, हमारे समाज के भविष्य को कर रही प्रभावित : भोक्ता



राजधानी

श्रम नियोजन एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग, झारखंड के मार्गदर्शन में 'हितधारकों का संवाद' कार्यक्रम आयोजित

बाल श्रम के उन्मूलन के लिए सभी हितधारकों का सहयोग आवश्यक : सत्यानंद भोक्ता

राष्ट्रीय श्रम नियोजन व प्रशिक्षण विभाग की ओर से विश्व बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस पर सभी श्रम संगठनों व स्ट्रेक होल्डर के साथ बुधवार को संवाद कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। इसमें बतौर मुख्य अतिथि मंत्री सत्यानंद भोक्ता मौजूद रहे। उन्होंने कहा कि बाल श्रम एक गंभीर समस्या है, जो हमारे समाज के भविष्य को प्रभावित करती है। बच्चे देश के भविष्य हैं, उन्हें शिक्षा, खेल और स्वच्छंद बचपन का अधिकार है। बाल श्रम उनके इन मौलिक अधिकारों को छीन रहा है। बाल श्रम को समाप्त करने के लिए हम सभी का सहयोग और संयुक्त प्रयास आवश्यक है।



बाल श्रम को खत्म करने के लिए संयुक्त पहल होनी चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि बाल श्रम निषेध दिवस का आयोजन हर साल किया जाता है, जो बाल श्रम को खत्म करने के लिए संयुक्त पहल होनी चाहिए।

इस अवसर पर सत्यानंद भोक्ता ने कहा कि बाल श्रम एक गंभीर समस्या है, जो हमारे समाज के भविष्य को प्रभावित करती है। बच्चे देश के भविष्य हैं, उन्हें शिक्षा, खेल और स्वच्छंद बचपन का अधिकार है। बाल श्रम उनके इन मौलिक अधिकारों को छीन रहा है। बाल श्रम को समाप्त करने के लिए हम सभी का सहयोग और संयुक्त प्रयास आवश्यक है।



From left, Mr Vikas Dodrajka, Member, JSCPCR, Mr Giovanni Soledad, CTA, ILO, Mr. Mukesh Kumar IAS Secretary Department of Labour, Mr. Satyanand Bhokta, Hon'ble Labour Minister of Jharkhand and Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Secretary, Bal Kalyan Sangh inaugurating the workshop by lighting the lamp

GLIMPSES



Mr Giovanni Soledad felicitating Mr. Rajesh Prasad, Joint Labour Commissioner, Government of Jharkhand



Panelist during the technical session (Representatives from CSO, Academician, SJPU, CWC and DCPU)



Panelist during technical session (Dr. Vikram Srivastava, Advisor, SAIEVAC, CSO from Koderma, Giridih and relevant Govt Stakeholders)



Panelists during 'way forward session'