



International
Labour
Organization

Sustainable prevention of child labour through community-based child labour monitoring committees (Nepal)

BACKGROUND

The IPEC Project “Sustainable Elimination of Child Bonded Labour (SECBL) is implementing in eight districts in western and eastern Nepal. The SECBL Project used community-based Child Labour Monitoring Committees (CLMCs) at village level in order to prevent child labour as well as to withdraw and offer referrals to working children identified by the community. The practice was to extend the scope of the monitoring beyond the target group (in this case child bonded labour in agriculture) to all forms of child labour. The practice was initiated in 2008, and institutional building and other capacity building support is still being provided in order to complete the process by June 2010.

ACTION

Before the SECBL Project, there was no labour inspection mechanism in the rural areas of Nepal. With full participation of various stakeholders in the designated village community, a need to monitor each household for child labour was realized. This motivated stakeholders to keep their village child labour free. After providing training and conceptual clarity on the system, a committee comprised of 7-11 members (including women, marginalised persons and teachers) was formed and trained on child rights, the negative effects of child labour, legal provision under the existing laws and international labour standards. This led them to identify potential centres to which children could be referred depending upon the circumstances. The committees monitored the households in their villages and identified children at risk of falling victim to child labour as well as working children.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

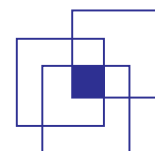
As a result of the full involvement of stakeholders and training of committees, efforts to prevent children from entering into child labour and actions to withdraw children already engaged in child labour were taken immediately. One of the CLMCs has withdrawn 67 children from situations of child labour, prevented 58 children from entering into child labour, and provided referrals to 32 children to date.

The practice involves community members from various social classes, ethnicity and religious groups. It builds ownership among those involved by bringing tangible results that develop the committees’ confidence and is sustainable beyond the completion of the Project. This has been informally evaluated by NGOs, community leaders and the Project. This practice will eliminate all forms of child labour from the village.

SUSTAINABILITY

The practice is sustainable in terms of ownership and effect, as it covers manageable geographical areas and develops a sense of “My village” that motivates stakeholders to eliminate child labour in the village. The local government in many districts has provided resources to these committees in order to sustain these efforts and their positive effects.

Good practice



“The former working children are heading monitoring processes that have created an environment in preventing and withdrawing children from exploitative labour.”

One of the village leaders at Mongragadhi in Bardia district.

The practice involves key partnerships that contribute to its sustainability. It is linked with teachers, health professionals and Village Development Committees (VDCs) in ensuring the provision of services such as education, health and protection. It has addressed the causes of the problem, particularly those dealing with poverty, and strengthened at the village level the provision of public services that directly impact the reduction of child labour in the community. The members of unions and employers organizations have also supported the committees in the prevention of child labour and the withdrawal of working children. The women members and girls from the community, including teachers, are actively involved in the identification and withdrawal of working children and the prevention of child labour through education. The local forest-users' group has also supported this community in the elimination of child labour by extending various supportive measures, including financial aid, to improve services in the villages. It has also promoted social dialogue with the employers in the communities.

LESSONS LEARNED

It is beneficial to encourage the participation of women, men, youth and children's clubs during the initial period in order to build ownership of the mechanism. Supporting the committee in the identification of potential resources within the community will help ensuring the Project's sustainability.

The practice mentioned above is very useful where there is no effective and efficient labour inspection system to prevent children from engaging in child labour, particularly in the informal economy.

NECESSARY CONDITIONS

In rural parts of the country, it is especially important that the community members have been exposed to issues regarding the rights of the child, the ill effects of child labour and have a common understanding of the importance of education. It is essential that the education programmes continue in the villages. The promotion of child labour monitoring under the overall perspective of child protection in order to generate support from different societies is vital. It is necessary to develop clarity on the criteria for withdrawal and prevention of child labour, as well as the conditions under which a child is known as a child worker.

REFERENCES

- Proceedings of training on community-based Child Labour Monitoring Committee.
- Sustainable Elimination of Child Bonded Labour Project Phase –II.
- Guidelines for Child Labour Committee; Format for information collection on children.
- Case studies of CLMCs.

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