



**New Delhi Office**  
Cluster Office for Bangladesh,  
Bhutan, India, Maldives,  
Nepal and Sri Lanka

## WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR (WDACL) 2015

### ***No to Child Labour, Yes to Quality Education***

#### **Technical Consultation**

#### **Exploring Education Strategies to Address Child Labour in India**

12 June, 2015, New Delhi

(Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road)

#### **Background**

According to recent global estimates, 168 million children aged 5 to 17 and some 120 million 5 to 14 children are involved in child labour, with boys and girls in this age group almost equally affected.<sup>1</sup> This persistence of child labour is rooted in poverty and lack of decent work for adults, lack of social protection, and a failure to ensure that all children are attending school through to the legal minimum age for admission to employment, among other factors.

According to a recent ILO Report on South Asia,<sup>2</sup> based on national (government) household surveys<sup>3</sup>, more than 88 per cent of all children ages 7-17 in India attend school, with children in employment less likely to doing so than elsewhere in South Asia. The school attendance rate drops from 93.5 per cent among 7-14 year olds to 74.3 per cent for 15-17 year olds. The school attendance rate for children drops by more than 6.5 percentage points per year for children over 14 years of age. In addition, only 12.8 per cent of 7-17 year old children in employment also attend school in India, less than half the rate of comparable children in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka<sup>4</sup>. The Report also estimates over 12.9 million 7-17 year olds, i.e. 5.1 per cent of the total, as being in employment, primarily working in agriculture and unpaid family work. Over 5.7 million 5-17 year olds are engaged in child labour, with 2.5 million 15-17 year olds in hazardous work, boys being more likely to be engaged in child labour than girls.

According to the government's U-DISE 2013-14, the enrolment rate is 97 per cent for elementary level and 76.64 per cent for secondary level. The data also shows that 36.3 per cent of children dropout before completing the full eight years of their elementary education, and the number of drop-out children increases as children move on to secondary level. Along with the drop in attendance above, the data shows that while access to education is good at elementary level (enrolment rate of 97 per cent), there are challenges with attendance and dropout. For secondary level, there are challenges with both the access and attendance.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Marking progress against child labour: Global estimates and trends 2000-2012*. ILO 2013

<sup>2</sup> *Measuring Children's Work in South Asia: Perspectives from national household surveys*. ILO 2015

<sup>3</sup> Employment-Unemployment Survey (national sample survey) - Round 68, 2011-2012

<sup>4</sup> Similar data is not available for other countries in South Asia

<sup>5</sup> *(SRI-IMRB Study for MHRD, Govt. of India, 2014) an estimated 6 million elementary school children are out of school*

It is well recognized that countries addressing child labour find that lack of access to quality education is a key driver of child labour, and that child labour itself prevents children accessing or fully benefitting from schooling. The theme for the 2015 World Day against Child Labour is **“No to child labour - Yes to quality education”**.

**Globally**, the World Day against Child Labour this year will focus particularly on the importance of quality education as a key step in tackling child labour and calls for:

- Free, compulsory and quality education for all children at least to the minimum age for admission to employment and action to reach those presently in child labour;
- New efforts to ensure that national policies on child labour and education are consistent and effective;
- Policies that ensure access to quality education and investment in the teaching profession.

**In India**, the ILO and UNICEF have partnered since 2008 in joining the global movement in marking the World Day against Child Labour. Over a period of seven years, this partnership supported the autonomous government body, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), established in 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. In 2008, with the theme of child labour and education, the national event was followed by state (regional) campaigns on the same theme, culminating in a national conference that brought together a broad range of stakeholders, including from the Ministries of Labour and Employment, Women and Child Development, parliamentarians, employers’ and workers’ organizations, civil society organizations and other concerned government agencies, together with the children. Over the years, the national WDAFL event was supported by similar events in the States.

### **Technical Consultation**

This year, the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (NLI), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, in collaboration with the ILO, UNICEF and UNESCO, will organize the **Technical Consultation on Exploring Education Strategies to Address Child Labour**.

The Technical Consultation will provide an opportunity to share the global information as well as evidence and experiences from India as related to child labour and education, with a view to encouraging policy dialogue and action on evidence-based education strategies. In this context the following, among other work, will be presented and discussed.

Brief presentations on the nature and extent of child labour and education from the child labour point of view, as reflected in national government surveys and global reports, will introduce the context of the Technical Consultation.

The analysis of a recent Report based (on longitudinal data), entitled *Perspectives on Children’s work and Schooling: based on longitudinal data from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana*, produced by Young Lives India, will be presented with a view to informing the discussion on education strategies to address child labour.

Experience will be presented from projects in seven states (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh) that worked on the issue of child labour in cotton fields, carpets and metal-ware industry and informed strategic policy orientation in these states.

A presentation will be made on the Government of India’s National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme<sup>6</sup> in the current context of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act).

### **Objective of the Consultation**

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<sup>6</sup> The NCLP was initiated Scheme in 1988, pursuant to the 1986 Child Labour Act and the 1987 Child Labour Policy, to rehabilitate working children withdrawn from hazardous work.

This Technical Consultation aims to:

- 1) Contribute toward improved understanding of issues related to child labour and education and responses thereto by examining findings and outcomes of recent reports and discussion.
- 2) Identify key education strategies that can inform policy and action to address child labour in India.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The Technical Consultation is expected to contribute to the participants' understanding of children's work and education situation, particularly in India. Moreover, the sharing of the participants' ideas, views and knowledge is expected to inform the work of the organizers and the participants and act as a catalyst for further dialogue, research and action to address child labour.

A Summary Report of the Consultation will be produced.

### **Participants**

Participants representing a range of stakeholders, including

Government, related autonomous bodies of the Government, employers' and workers' representatives, NGOs/INGOs, researchers, academia, media, development partners and UN agencies.

### **Venue**

Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

### **Contacts**

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Programme: attached

## Tentative Programme

WDA CL 2015 – *No to Child Labour, Yes to Quality Education*

### Technical Consultation

**Exploring Education Strategies to Address Child Labour in India**

**12 June 2015**

9:00 – 9:30	Registration and informal introductions
09:30– 10:15	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p>Opening Remarks by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. P.P. Mitra, Principal Labour and Employment Adviser, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, and Director-General a.i. V.V.Giri National Labour Institute</li> <li>- Mr. Joachim Theis, Chief, Child Protection, UNICEF India Country Office</li> <li>- Mr. Alisher Umarov, Chief of Education and Programme Specialist, UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office<sup>7</sup> for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka</li> <li>- Ms. Panudda Boonpala, Officer-in-Charge, ILO Decent Work Team for South Asia and Country Office for India</li> </ul>
10:15– 10:35	Tea/coffee
10:35 – 12:00	<p><b>Technical Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child labour considerations in the education context – UNESCO</li> <li>- Child labour as reflected through national household surveys<sup>8</sup> by Ms. Sherin R. Khan, ILO Senior Specialist on Child Labour, South Asia</li> <li>- Visualization of prevalence patterns of child labour<sup>9</sup> by Ms. Deepa Das, Education Specialist, UNICEF</li> <li>- Perspectives on education from longitudinal data<sup>10</sup> by Ms. Renu Singh, Director, Young Lives India</li> <li>- Experiences of addressing child labour in seven states by Ms. Vandhana Kandhari, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF</li> <li>- Remarks by Ms. Parisha Singh, Senior Assistant Director, All India Organization of Employers</li> <li>- Remarks by Mr. Virjesh Upadhyay, General Secretary, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh</li> <li>- Government of India’s recent initiatives and developments on child labour by Mr. Manjit Singh Nayar, Deputy Secretary, Child Labour Division, Ministry of Labour &amp; Employment</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	Moderated Discussion toward education strategies to address child labour in India
13:00 – 13:30	<b>Wrap-up</b>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch

<sup>7</sup> UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, and Sri Lanka

<sup>8</sup> From: *Measuring Children’s Work in South Asia: Perspectives from household surveys*. ILO, 2015

<sup>9</sup> Based on Census 2011

<sup>10</sup> *Perspectives on Children’s work and Schooling based on longitudinal data from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana*. ILO, 2015