



SATYARTHI

KAILASH SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

**CREATING A
CHILD FRIENDLY
WORLD!**



***“The Soul
of India
Lives in its
Villages”***

- Mahatma Gandhi



**...yet children continue to
suffer in villages.**

On 26 March, 2017 a mine collapsed in a small village of Indian State of Jharkhand, where a 10 year old girl child was buried alive while mining



Satyarthi Movement for Children, India



Bal Mitra Gram (BMG)/Child Friendly Village





Structure of BMG

- BMG is a cluster/single village unit
- Average number of households: **120 - 150**
- Average household size: **5 - 6 family members**
- Average number of children in a BMG: **200 - 250**

Core Values of BMG

- Safe and secure **childhood**
- **Educated** and literate society
- **Compassion** for all
- **Gender** sensitization
- No taboos/ No superstitions/ **No social evils**
- Social Justice and inclusion
- Democratic **participation of children and communities**
- Clean and healthy living **environment**

BMG: The Guiding Principles



The fundamental parts of a BMG

- All child labourers are **withdrawn from work**
- All children are **enrolled in and attending school**
- Ensuring Child Participation in Democratic Decision-Making: Children form a ***Bal Panchayat*** (an elected Children's Village Council)
- The *Bal Panchayat* is officially recognized by the ***Gram Panchayat*** (**elected Adult Village Council**) for ensuring comprehensive development
- **Empowering communities** including women and youth, marginalised, vulnerable and minority sections.

Which can lead to overall village and school **development**

BMG: HOW ?



With Children

1. Formation of Children's Council
2. Participation in awareness rallies and campaigns
3. School enrollment and retention
4. Life skills training
5. Extra curricular development
6. Participation in village development

With families

1. Counselling to send wards to school
2. Awareness on government social welfare schemes
3. Attitudinal and mind-set change

BMG: HOW ?



With Communities and leaders

1. Contain social evils such as early and forced marriages, trafficking, migration, violence against children
2. Organise village meetings and ensure participation
3. Awareness on basic human rights with a focus on sexual and reproductive health
4. Raise concerns with local governments on development issues
5. Information centres
6. Alternate livelihood programs
7. Organizing legal awareness and health and hygiene drives

With government and other agencies

1. Meetings and trainings
2. Sensitisation drives
3. Policy and programs
4. Law enforcement agencies
5. Partnering and networking
6. Advocacy and policy influence

Philosophy of BMG>>>



**A SOCIAL
MOVEMENT**
towards Protection
of Children



**A UNIQUE SOCIAL
INNOVATION** to
prevent children
from all forms of
exploitation,
violence and abuse



CHANGE-AGENTS to
facilitate the
Empowerment Process
by flourishing a
relationship of Friendship
with Children

Issues we Tackle >>>

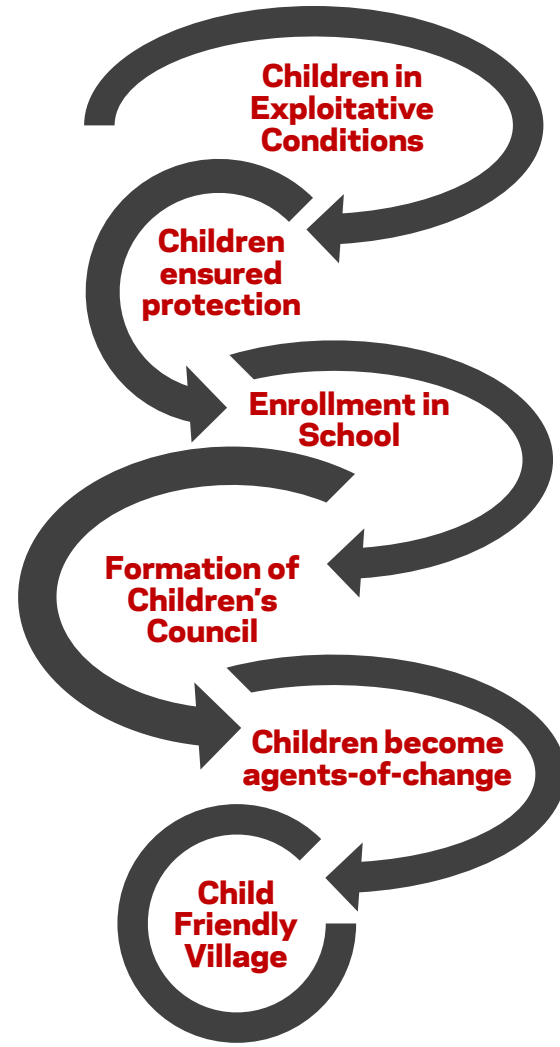


Child Labour, Child Marriage, Child Trafficking,

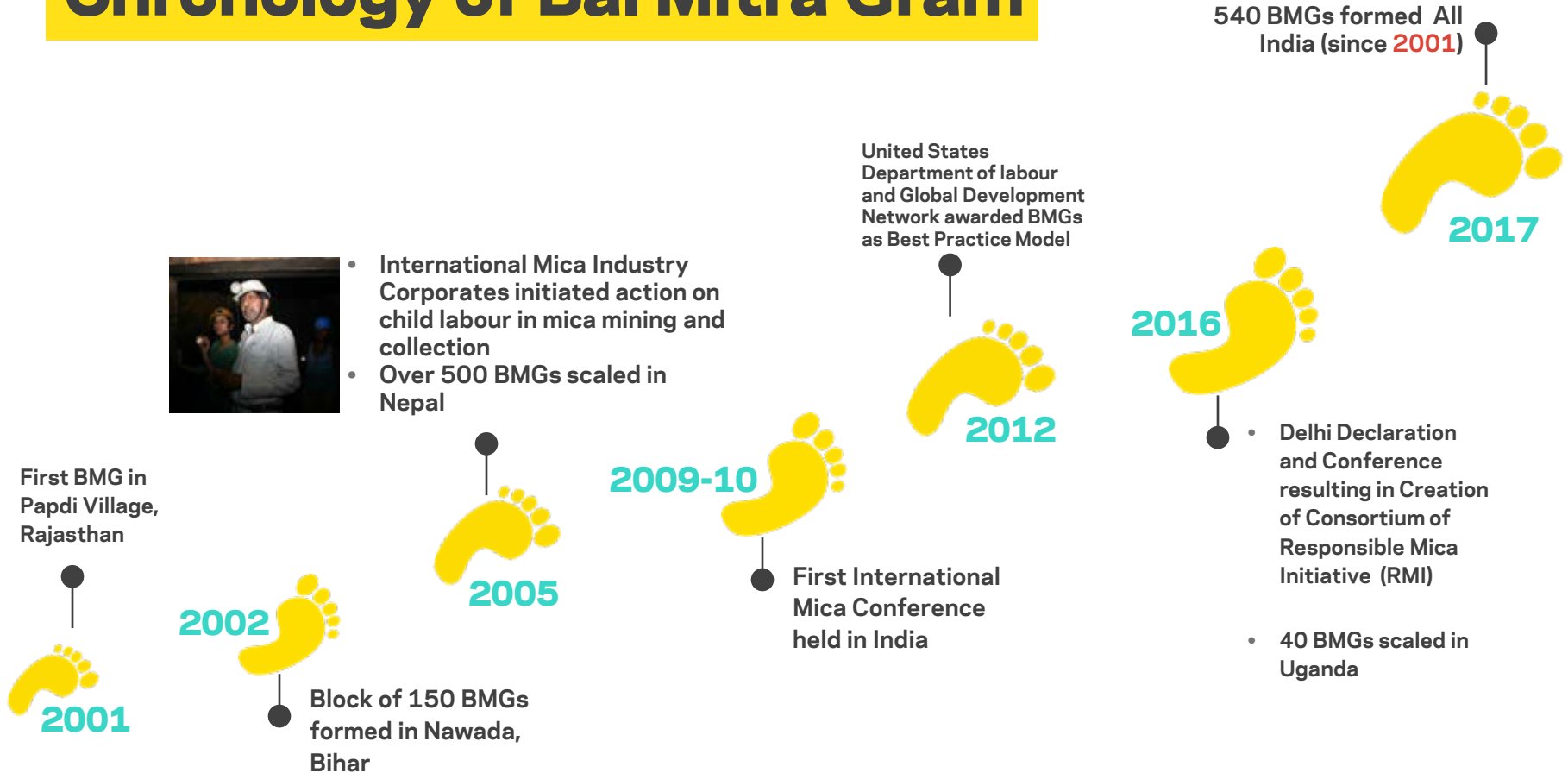
Gender and Caste-based Discrimination



Access to Quality Education, Health, Malnourishment, Clean Environment



Chronology of Bal Mitra Gram



Formation of a *Bal Mitra Gram*

Identification of villages and prevailing issues



0-2 months

- Formation of stake holders' groups
- Rapport building with communities and local government



3-6 months

- Formation of Bal Panchayats or Children's Council
- Recognition of Bal Panchayats by Gram Panchayat (Village Council)
- Enrollments of school drop-outs and out-of-school children
- Awareness generation on social evils (child marriages, alcoholism), health, hygiene, environment and community development



7-12 months

- Ensuring quality education to all children
- Access to drinking water and basic amenities of life
- Women and youth empowerment (income generation and vocational skills)



13-24 months

- Declaring a village as *Bal Mitra Gram*
- Follow-up BMG activities



25-36 months

Geographical Coverage: BMGs (2001-2018)

324 BMGs currently operational in India

540 BMGs in India (2001 - till date)

216 BMGs Handed-Over to communities

Impact Outreach

11,44,000 : Population

6,55,000 : Children



BMG stakeholders and target groups

Direct Stakeholders

Children

Age group 0-5 years,
6-14 years, 14-18 years

Youth

Young men and young
women age group 18-25
years

Women

All women

Communities

- Marginalized and vulnerable groups
- Minorities

Intermediate target groups

- Teachers
- Employers of children
- Local Business /Traders
- Local Administration
- Local Leaders
- Local Government Institutions
- Local Media
- Local Civil Society Organizations

Activities in a *Bal Mitra Gram*

1

Withdrawing Children from Work and Enrolling in School



Impact >>>



Over **10,500**
children withdrawn from situations
of Child Labour and Out-of-school

>50,000
Children retained in schools

2

Ensuring access to quality and inclusive education



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a red jacket, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is sitting on the ground and holding a green chalkboard with a drawing on it. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in blue shirts.

Impact >>>

14 new schools
built in BMGs + **40**
school building
renovated

30 schools
renovated

more than **70**
schools were
upgraded from
Primary to Secondary

>100
Regular teacher
appointments

Classroom supplies
were provided in
240
schools (ex.
blackboard, benches,
rug, sports material
etc.)

Emerging Changemakers

Ankita, aged 15 years from BMG Bhilay, Ganj Basoda (MP), is today a graduate from higher secondary school who wants to pursue education and become a teacher.. Owing to her parents' decision of not sending her to school, she was a drop-out. But she wanted to study. She got in touch with the local Community Social Worker and got herself enrolled in a school in her village. This was symbolic of the empowerment process the girls in her village have gone through as they were now not only voicing their opinions but vehemently shattering the set structures of the society.



Impact >>>



Retention rate of
enrolled children in
BMGs across India is

95%

Retention rate of
enrolled children
(Jharkhand and Bihar)

75%
2005-2010

95%
2010-2016

Retention rate in government-run
and monitored schools is only
64% (2015, DISE Report)

Impact >>>



Access to Education for Girls

Over

675

**Bicycles distributed
all over India**

*In 2015 a public event held by
BBA resulted in the govt. to
order distribution of bicycles
to all children going to school
in Koderma.*



Emerging Changemakers

“Jyoti, a 13 years old girl, from BMG Kalina of Meerut, could never be enrolled in a school. Victim of gender-based discrimination, she was denied education and was domesticated at home for household chores. But it is because of her determination and her fellow classmate-Bharti’s will, who was also a Bal Panchayat member, that Jyoti was made regular in school .”



“The Primary School of BMG Mangala Panchayat was only till 5th standard. Beyond 5th, children had to travel for more than 12 kms to attend school.

The Bal Panchayat decided to raise this concern at the Gram Panchayat meeting. They also gathered support from community members, teachers and stakeholder groups. Gram Panchayat decided to take up the issue in one of the public hearings held by Karnataka State Commission of Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) in Bangalore.

With the special permission from the Chairperson the matter was taken into consideration immediately and within a period of 2 months a new building for the Higher Primary School was set up in Mangala BMG.”

3

Promoting democratic child participation



Impact >>>

540

**Bal Panchayats
(Children's
Council/Parliament)
formed**

2,970

**Girl child members
out of 5,940
members**

6,480

**Applications written
and raised by
Children's
Council/Parliament**



4 Empowering girls and women



Impact >>>



18

**Self Help Groups
trained**

55

**Post natal care
facilities in villages
improved**

> 230

**Complaints raised
to health and civic
authorities**

>140

**Meetings held on
adolescent sexual
health awareness**

Emerging Changemaker

Payal, 13 years old, lives in Hinsla, Rajasthan, a Bal Mitra Gram (2012) where all the children are free from exploitation and are enrolled in elementary school. Growing up, Payal witnessed child labour and other exploitations against children around her. Through her participation in the Bal Panchayat as Bal Pradhan of the village, she has not just been actively involved in helping the children but also women twice her age. Needless to say, there has been a positive change in the gender roles within many households of the village wherein women have now started voicing their opinions much more firmly. "Until and unless children themselves realise that they have some rights, they won't feel unyoked. A child must have some agency which enables her/him to decide." added Payal. She also carried out rallies and protests to engage various women's groups and youth forums of her village on ill-practices, namely *Ghunghat Pratha*, child marriage and other rituals that perpetuate patriarchy.

In 2013, Payal was invited by the Swedish council to judge the World's children's prize and to meet the Queen. Payal has become an inspiration for the people, especially youth and girls of her village and the world.



5

Promoting youth participation



Impact >>>



>21
Vocational Skills
building Trainings

55
Youth participated
in state level sports
competitions

> 293
Complaints raised
to education and
civic authorities

Emerging Changemaker



LALITA DUHARIYA

Thirteen year old **Lalita Duhariya** from a village in Alwar district of Rajasthan is classic example how determined children lead from the front in a battle against gender and caste prejudices that have bedeviled India for centuries. Lalita leads from the front to demolish these prejudices and work towards a fairer and more egalitarian society. Since her childhood, Lalita had protested against both caste and gender discrimination practiced in her village and nearby areas. She became a member of the Bal Panchayat and started fighting against caste discrimination in her school. She persuaded children attending the school to share their meals without bothering about caste. Normally, upper caste children would not share meals with children from the lower caste. Nor would they eat meals cooked by people belong to lower castes.

Actively helped and encouraged by her school principal and some teachers, Lalita led a campaign against this kind of caste prejudice and her efforts soon bore fruit. She persuaded her fellow school children to share meals cooked by a lower caste lady. Earlier, parents of upper caste children had ordered them not eat those meals. But all children soon started eating together. A major victory for her came during the festival Makar Sankranti. She led a team of Bal Panchayat members and encouraged all villagers to share the festivities and the meals together. These efforts have gone a long way in reducing caste prejudice in her village. Children and villagers have now understood that caste factor should not discriminate between human values. Makar sankranti's involves celebration of inter-caste celebration; they speak to each other in a group and share their issues or future development practices. They now say "it's our village" from "it's our caste".

6 Supporting Village Development-led Activities for a Child Friendly Environment

Access to Drinking Water facilities



> 140 Ponds, Culverts and Check dams construction facilitated



>180 Hand Pumps installed and repaired

Impact >>>

Promoting Connectivity



Facilitate construction of
>95 km of metallic road



90% of BMGs were made access to
Electricity line and Communication towers

Impact >>>

Mother and Child Care Centers



Ensuring functioning of neo-natal and post-natal services at *Anganwadi* Centers

Primary Health Care Centers



45 Health Camps facilitated with Government support

7 Environment and Climate Change



Environment awareness and water conservation rallies



Innovative environment protection and water conservation projects

8

Engagements and Advocacy Initiatives with Governments



"It is only because of reputable organisation like BBA that we are introducing this bill."

Minister for Labour and Employment Mr. Dattatreya while introducing child labour bill banning all forms of child labour, in the Indian Parliament



Minister of Mining, Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar contributed his first month salary to BBA and celebrated his birthday with former child labourers

9

Promoting Accountability



Checking ground realities on securing child rights



Vigilance meetings with community members

10

Access to social welfare & government schemes

- 1. Education and Vocational Training:** State Scholarship programs for ultra-poor to attend school.
- 2. Food:** Mid-day Meal - quality and regularity improved
- 3. Employment:** Facilitated access to MGNRGA and Bharat Sakshar Yojna For Women
- 4. Housing:** Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) to provide housing for the rural poor in India
- 5. Information:** Right to Information Act (RTI) training
- 6. Social Security:** Social Security for widows, Below Poverty Line Cards, Widow Pension - State funded, Old Age Pension - State funded
- 7. Health:** Cashless insurance for hospitalisation in public as well as private hospitals.
- 8. Electricity:** Solar Light - State funded
- 9. Loans for Farmers:** Credit card to provide affordable credit for farmers in India.
- 10. Women Empowerment:** Government supported Ujjawala Yojana facilitated distribution of over 60 cooking gas stoves

राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रोत्साहित की गई राष्ट्रीय बालीया योजना भारत साक्षर योजना वित्तिय वर्ष 11-12 वृषारो योजना								
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...	153	"	"
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...	1528	"	"

11

Capacity Building and Training Programmes



35 Legal Camps to build awareness on basic human and legal rights



Stakeholder Groups Capacity Building Workshops

Challenges in the field



Naxalites/Anti-Government Groups

Challenges in the field

A wide-angle photograph of a dense, hazy forest landscape, likely a savanna or woodland. The foreground shows a line of trees, including some tall, thin trees and a few shorter, rounded ones. The middle ground and background are filled with a vast expanse of green trees, which become increasingly hazy and less distinct as they recede into the distance. The sky is a pale, overcast grey. In the top left corner, there is a yellow rectangular box containing the text "Challenges in the field".

Difficult Terrain and Harsh Weather

Challenges in the field



Few Roads



Little Communication



Challenges in the field



Conflicts within and with Communities

Challenges in the field



Absence of CSOs



Low Capacity NGOs

Challenges in the field



**Untraced, Opaque
and Unorganised
Supply Chain**



Return On Investment

Partnership for a Social Cause

Wider Coverage and contribution for Education of Children and No to Child Labour

Mileage in-terms of Visibility and branding of child labour free products/Services





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