



**COVID 19: Protect Children from Child Labour, Now More Than Ever**  
**Webinar on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The World Day against Child Labour (WDACL) 2020 was observed on June 12<sup>th</sup> with focus on the impact of COVID-19 crisis on child labour. The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India jointly organised a Webinar with Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), V.V. Giri National Labour Institute and International Labour Organisation. The theme of the Webinar was 'COVID-19: Protect children from child labour, now more than ever!'

**Nobel Peace Laureate Shri. Kailash Satyarthi** in his special address emphasized that ending child labour in all its forms in India, especially in the supply chains, will create an additional incentive for economic growth and enhanced international investments from companies. He stressed that economic growth cannot be achieved and sustained without eradication of child labour and pointed that although laws to end child labour exist, the collective resolve of the people is the key in overcoming their lack of enforcement even as it should be the responsibility of the states. Appreciating the steps taken so far by the Government, Shri Kailash Satyarthi said that if India hoped to achieve its global commitment to end child labour by 2025 as part of SDG Goal 8.7, it must establish a clear vision and roadmap, and act with urgency. Failure to act with urgency today, by governments, businesses, civil society and communities, will push millions of children into exploitation and adversely impact India's economic growth for decades.

A technical session was hosted by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation on 'Barriers and Solutions in Accessing the Rehabilitation Programmes' for children involved in labour". The speakers included Amar Lal Advocate and survivor of child labour, Dr Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor of National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) University, Shri Priyank Kanoongo, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

(NCPCR) and Shri B.L. Soni, Director General of Police, Rajasthan. The session was moderated by Director, Training, KSCF - Ms. Jyoti Mathur.

The speakers emphasized the importance of social, educational and economic rehabilitation for children rescued from exploitative labour. Major recommendations by the speakers include:

- ❖ Extension of free and compulsory education till Class 12<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Mandatory registration of FIRs, speedy trials and time bound investigation
- ❖ Timely payment of back wages and compensation
- ❖ Revision in the amount recovered from the employer under the M.C. Mehta case of 1996
- ❖ Adoption of universal basic income to reduce poverty that forces children into labour
- ❖ Rescued children enrolled in NCLP schools to be mandatorily enrolled in formal school system
- ❖ Increased role of District Administration in linking families of rescued children to social security schemes
- ❖ Emphasis on reliable information prior to rescue operation by utilizing expertise of NGOs
- ❖ Involvement of village-level community workers in identifying families where children are vulnerable and are at risk of exploitation
- ❖ Emphasis on proper rehabilitation of children through coordination, cooperation and cohesion of multiple stakeholders

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