



Towards "CHILD LABOUR FREE MICA" अभ्रक क्षेत्र को बाल श्रम मुक्त बनाने की पहल

२८ अक्टूबर २०१८ | बाग़ीटांड स्टेडियम, कोडरमा





Shri Raghubar Das

Honourable Chief Minister, Jharkhand

Honourable Chief Minister Mr. Raghubar Das, Government of Jharkhand, said, "I am very thankful to Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation for taking this initiative. Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi has been working for the cause of children for many years. I urge KSCF to constitute Bal Panchayats (Children's Parliaments) in every village in Jharkhand."

Addressing a large gathering of over 25,000 people comprising state government officials, legislators and parliamentarians, village community and BMG members, students and the business community, Honourable Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Raghubar Das, stated, **"I am very thankful to Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation for taking this initiative. Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi has been working for the cause of children for many years**.

He also announced that every worker of Bal Mitra Gram established in Jharkhand would be awarded a Rs 500 cash prize for their immense contribution to the cause. He added, "In 2001 when I was the labour minister, I had myself conducted raids in Ranchi to curb child labour. We have to get rid of poverty collectively because this is the root cause of child labour. Quality education is the answer to this monumental problem. **The state will put in place a law if need be, to make education compulsory and accessible for all children till they are 18 years.** The issue of Placement Agencies is another concern to address. These agencies sell the children from Jharkhand in cities and even sexually abuse them."

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Shri Kailash Satyarthi

Nobel Peace Laureate 2014

Shri Kailash Satyarthi addressed the gathering:

"Today is a historic day as the Government, village communities, business leaders and civil society have come together for a collective commitment for child labour free mica mining. The innovative, participative and holistic approach of creating Bal Mitra Grams (Child Friendly Villages) in the state has proven that eradication of child labour is possible with joint efforts and a strong will for the children."

"I am confident that the lustreer of cosmetics, glitter of paints and insulation in electrical appliances will not be tainted with blood, sweat and toil of children in mica mining. Bal Mitra Gram (BMG) is a classic example of social engineering pivoted with child participation, youth leadership and assurance of education for all children."

"I earnestly call upon all stakeholders including national as well as international brands that use mica in their supply chains to become champions in change. BMG is not only about eradication of child labour, but to end all kinds of abuse and exploitation of children like child marriages, ending sexual abuse, social discrimination and trafficking by active participation of village community."

While we have made 126 villages in Jharkhand child labour free, around 50,000 children attending school daily, we believe that thousands of children are at risk and are vulnerable in the around 500 villages where mica is collected and mined. The Child Friendly village model has successfully proven that access to education and other schemes of the government have ensured 100% school enrollment, no instances of trafficking and child marriage. With the support of the Government of Jharkhand, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and other civil society organisations, KSCF is committed to creating a model in Jharkhand of child-centric community development that can be replicated and up-scaled across the world."

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Mr. Mukhtarul Haque

Former Member, Child Labour Commission, Bihar

Mr. Mukhtarul Hague is a former member of the Child Labour Commission, Bihar. He has been associated with Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) since the last 18 years. During the event while welcoming the guests, he stated,"With your presence here you have showed your zeal to change Jharkhand, your part in the process of this change, your will to free those children who have been enslaved by child labour and other forms of exploitation. It also reflects your commitment to development, to progress and the Honourable Chief Minister is also witness to your strong will. This is the land of development and this land is rich with rare minerals like MICA. Today we stand witness to the fruits of the seeds sown by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) in 2005 promoting Child Friendly Villages (BMG[™]) ".



Vice-Predident, National Children's Council President, Children's Counsil, Jharkhand

Ms. Champa Kumari is the Vice-President of National Children's Parliament as well as the President of the Children's Council, Jharkhand. While addressing the audience, she stated "I would like to thank Bhai Sahab (Kailash Satyarthi) for helping children and rescuing them from evils like child labour and child marriage. When I was younger, I would see many children whose childhood had been sacrificed to either child labour or child marriage. Ever since my village has become a Bal Mitra Gram (Child Friendly Village), every child goes to school. There is no more child labour in my village."

"Honourable Chief Minister, I would like to ask you, is there no programme for girls? Parents say that they will send their sons to study but not their daughters. They say that they will not educate their daughters beyond 10th standard. That is why, on behalf of all of us, I say that every Panchayat should have a model school which goes up to 12th standard so that our brothers and our sisters can study well".

Mr. Priyank Kanangoo

Chairperson, NCPCR

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The NCPCR report on "Survey on Education & Well being of Children in Mica Mining Areas of Jharkhand & Bihar" was shared with the Honourable Chief Minister during the event.

The Chairperson in his speech stated, "MICA mining has always been integral to this area. We cannot look for solutions through a foreign lens. Local problems can be effectively solved through seeking local solutions, and understanding the needs on ground. We are happy to release this report, and we will shortly develop an action plan to address the grim challenges of child labour and exploitation that have beset this area, using a participatory approach."

Collaboration of Government of Jharkhand and Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF)



This has been a historic event where Government of Jharkhand and Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) have signed a MoU for addressing the issue of Child Labour in Jharkhand and the highlights are listed below:

- Both the parties are committed to jointly undertake technical programmes and projects, which aim to build the capacity of state, district, and block and gram panchayat level functionaries in addressing the issues of children.
- Jointly design and implement innovative programmes such as Bal Mitra Gram (BMG) to ensure the protection of children in mica mining areas.
- The harmonization of applicable international/national/state legislation and regulations concerning child protection.
- Collaborative activities for ensuring holistic development of communities in general and families of child abuse/child labour survivors in particular.
- Promotion of appropriate measures and safeguards to curb the trafficking of children, women and men from mica mining areas.
- Jointly undertaking mass awareness campaigns on child sexual abuse, child marriage, child labour and child trafficking.
- Convergence with all the concerned government departments to address the need of community mobilization in mica mining areas on priority basis.



The efforts of KSCF since 2005 has created the below impact in Jharkhand and Bihar

S. No.	Activity	Outreach
1.	Number of BMGs promoted	146
2.	Outreach	108931
З.	Children withdrawn from labor	3334
4.	Retention of children in school	21900
5.	Bicycles distributed to needy girls for continuing their education	875
6.	Environment Trainings	105 youth
7.	Bal Panchayats (Children Councils) Formed	146
8.	Participation of girls in these Bal Panchayats	750
9.	Installation of new hand pumps	122
10.	Vocational Training is provided to youth	100 on 4 skill sets (parlor, motor binding, tailoring, computer operations)
11.	Agriculture based livelihood training and support	60 farmers

Bicycles for Girl Child Education

In addition to the above to promote girl child education, bicycles were distributed. Since 2008 over 500 bicycles have been provided by KSCF in Jharkhand and Bihar mica mining areas. Particularly for girls to attend high school where the distance was too far to be walked and there was no access to public transport. In 2014 based in part on the success of the bicycle distribution, the State of Jharkhand has started to distribute 460,000 bikes to girls to enable them to attend school.

Environment and Water works

Trainings about environmental protection were conducted in 3 states, which include Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Rajasthan where 105 youth members of 27 Bal Mitra Grams were acquainted about the environmental issues in their community and the ways to tackle them. In Koderma, the trainings oriented the youth group on soil and water conservation, sustainable agriculture including system of crop intensification and exploring sustainable livelihood opportunities in the area. The training of farmers has been initiated on organic farming as alternate livelihood option. Also 122 hand pumps have been repaired and made accessible for drinking water supply.

All of this was achieved through the determined and continual support of our strategic and funding partners.

We would like to extend our profound gratitude for our funding partners: Bajaj Auto, conglomeration of companies - Natural Resources Stewardship Circle (NRSC), Infosys Foundation, The Hans Foundation, TDH Netherlands, Estee Lauder Company, etc.

Also we extend our sincere thanks to our strategic partners Government of Jharkhand, Government of Bihar, Indo-German Environmental Protection Project, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, BVD, etc.,



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