## CASE STUDY ON BAL MITRA GRAM (CHILD FRIENDLY VILLAGE)

# ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR IN MICA MINING AREAS

**MARCH 2018** 

DEVELOPED BY

P. NAGASAYEE MALATHY Consultant





# CASE STUDY on Child Friendly Village (Bal MItra Gram) - BMG

Eradication of Child Labour in MICA Mining areas.

Developed

By

P. Nagasayee Malathy Consultant

BAIN & COMPANY 🕙

For

# Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation

March' 2018



KAILASH SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

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Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) No 23, Friends Colony (West) New Delhi 110065 India. Landline: +91 11 47511111

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Also this book is being dedicated to all the children withdrawn from mining areas, all community social workers, and all brave children from BMGs (Bal Mitra Grams).

P. Nagasayee Malathy

## PREFACE

The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), established in 2004 under the leadership of Nobel Peace Laureate Shri Kailash Satyarthi to achieve a child friendly world, operates with an integrated approach towards the problems of the children. Spreading Awareness, Policy Advocacy and Capacity Building are the foundation blocks of the KSCF approach. A diverse team of experts with keen interest in issues of child rights, internal expertise and strong stakeholder collaboration are the strengths and drivers of the organization.

The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) is the global umbrella for KSCF India and KSCF US and UK. A crucial ingredient of the KSCF philosophy is the participation of people, in bringing about the change they deserve. The involvement of people is achieved through our Campaigns and Programmes, where people are made aware about the issues faced by the society and are endowed with solutions that work efficiently. The KSCF Institute looks after the Policy Building and Strengthening process, with its team of experts adept at designing solutions to the problems of people.

KSCF India wanted to come up with a book based on the efforts put in for a long time in the area of addressing Child Protection and Child Rights through promoting Child friendly villages (Bal Mitra Gram). This is an effort to document the context and background in which the work has been initiated since 1980 and the milestone achievement till date. The work captures the background about mining sector and the contexts in which involvement of government efforts or interventions to address illegal mining etc.,

The main chapters on KSCF India and interventions by the sister concern of BBA in addressing the issue of child labor is elaborated in detail documenting the learning and gap analysis for addressing future course of action for replication or up scaling.

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# **I INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 Purpose and Scope

The overall purpose is to document the interventions adopted by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) in promoting Child Friendly Villages also known as Bal Mitra Gram (BMG – Bal Mitra Gram) in local language. This is also considered as the best practice model in addressing the issue of child labour especially in the Mica mining areas. The efforts are to document the approach adopted by the foundation in addressing the issue of Child Labor. As Noble Laureate Shri Kailash Satyarthi has been involved in more than three decades in addressing the issue of child labour and prevention of violence against children, it is essential to have the achievements documented to note key learning, gap analysis and to identify opportunities for replication for a wider reach.

#### **1.2 About this document:**

The document is to capture the case study of Child Friendly village (Bal Mitra Gram) concept promoted by KSCF since more than a decade.

- The document provides the contexualisation of Mining, area of operation, about Mica mining etc., as introduction.
- The next chapters provides information on Child Labour status, legal perspective as well as impact of mining on children etc.,
- The major chapter provides based on the above background how the BMG approach was conceptualized and executed.
- The overall impact achieved, lessons learnt, gap analysis, etc.,
- The last section addresses the potential for replication, recommendations and way forward.



# II MICA MINING IN INDIA

### Mining in India:

India is endowed with significant mineral resources. Constant endeavor of humans to mine more and more resources from the earth has been going on for centuries. Metals, stones, oil, gas and even sand are all mined.

Mining has, throughout history, been a symbol of the struggle between human need and human greed; the human need to dig into the earth and take control over its resources. Industry, infrastructure and investments have been decisively stated as basic vehicles to drive India into this race, which automatically translates into mineral extraction and processing being of utmost importance to implement this dream. Further, development visions are based on certain premises built into public thought processes. The first of these premises is that mining brings economic prosperity at all levels of the country — national and local. It has been based on the principle that the high revenues generated by mining activities will convert poverty stricken and marginalized communities and workforce into economically grounded communities with positive developments in employment generation, health, education, local infrastructure and the creation of a diversified opportunity base.<sup>1</sup>

India currently produces nearly 89 minerals under different groups such as fuel minerals, metallic minerals, non-metallic minerals, atomic minerals and minor minerals.

In India 80% of mining is in coal and the balance 20% is in various metals and other raw materials such as gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, mica, bauxite, zinc and Uranium. India is the largest producer of mica blocks and mica splitting.

### 1.2 What is Mica?

Mica is a group name, and the Latin word micare means to shine, to flash or to glitter<sup>1</sup>. The mica group represents a total of 37 different types of mica, such as muscovite, phlogopite, biotitic and vermiculite. Muscovite and phlogopite are important micas for commercial application. Muscovite is by far the most frequently mined and used type of mica.2 A typical chemical composition of muscovite mica is: silica (SiO2) - 45%; alumina (Al2O3) - 38%; potassium oxide (K2O) - 12%; other – 5%.3 Phlogopite contains less alumina, but its composition also includes magnesium oxide.4 Mica has a crystalline and layered structure and can be split into very thin sheets. It exhibits outstanding physical properties and no other natural substance possesses all the same properties.

India's Childhood in the "Pits", A report on impact of Mining on Children in India By Dhaatri Resource Centre for Women and Children – Samata in partnership with mines, minerals and People.



- Mica is chemically inert, meaning it does not react to water, acids, oil or solvents; lightweight, flexible and strong;
- able to resist extremely high temperatures or sudden changes in temperature;
- able to withstand high voltages and insulate with low power loss;
- able to absorb or reflect light, which enables a decorative effect and protects against ultraviolet (UV) light.

### 2.2 Status of Mica Mining in India

The best known fact is Mica is produced in vast proportions in India. In reality, India is one of the foremost suppliers of mica to the world. India as a country single-handedly accounts for a large portion of the world's export of mica splitting and block mica. As it is known, Mica can endure high temperature because it is a bad conductor of electricity. Furthermore, it can also be ripping up into thin films. These unrivalled properties of mica have in fact made it vital for the production of numerous electrical equipment. India produces estimated 90 % of the world's mica and accounts for 60 % of mica that embarks in international trade. It is also an indispensable part of the electrical industry.

This helps the companies in the worldwide market to increase their business and meet to the demands of their clientele. Interesting fact is that maximum part of Mica is manufactured in India as per its demand in the worldwide market. However, the demands are stringently and easily met before the deadline because India is the core hub of exporting Mica as its availability is stretched all over various corners of the country.

India's mica exports have been growing steadily over the past 10 years. The quantity of mica sold abroad comprised 78,000 tonnes in 2006. In 2015, the figure stood at 136,000 tonnes, an increase of 75% <sup>2</sup>. It is also unfortunate to note that illegal mining is found profusely. The children are being exploited in this industry as the work/task they execute is very harmful to them interms of physical, psychological and emotional aspects.



<sup>2</sup> International Trade Center (ITC), HS code 2525 group. Based on UN COMTRADE statistics, http://bit.ly/1UUWtA0.



### 2.2.1. Main Uses of Mica :

Mica is a naturally occurring stone that directly applies to a set of minerals containing silica in its highest form. This mineral is mostly used in gypsum wallboard combined compound where it acts as wadding and prevents cracking. There are a variety of uses of this mineral such as: It is used in paints as a pigment extender and also helps to brighten the tone of colored pigments in the electrical industry the same as thermal insulation, and electrical insulators in electronic equipment. Its shiny and glittery appearance makes it ultimate for toothpaste and cosmetics. The high thermal resistance allows it to be used as an insulator in various electronics.

MICA SHIELDS or Gauge Glass Mica can be used to secure the liquid level gauges from corrosive and acidic solutions. The highest level of silica content in it makes it the most preferred mineral to be used in various industries and also for other personal uses. It is invariably used for fillers, extenders along with providing smoother uniformity, improving workability and prevents cracking. This can be used as an insulator in home attics, concrete blocks and also poured into open top walls. It can also be added to grease to increase its durability and giving it a better surface. Mica can also be used as a soil conditioner particularly in potting soil mixes and in gardening plots.

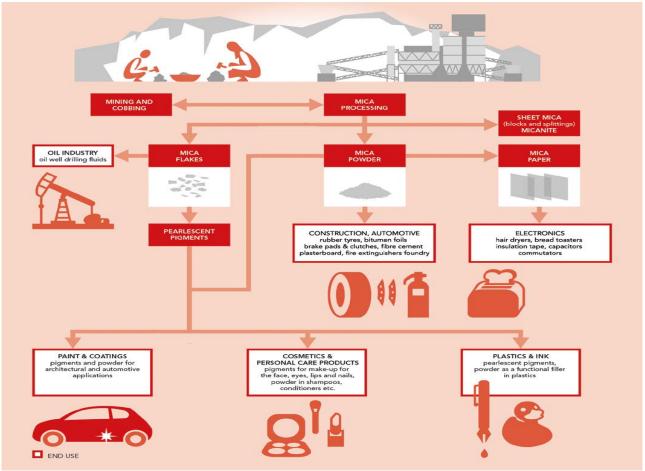


Fig source : SOMO report



As the use of Mica is wide range inclusive of personal use which is the cosmetics industry. Mica mining and processing requires significant manual labour given lack of investment in machinery at illegal mines. Children are involved in the mica mining stage using simple tools to get crude mica loose from rocks, digging holes which are 10 meters + deep and the cabbing stage.

#### 2.2.2 . Direct and Indirect Impact of Mining on Children

The direct and indirect impact of any mining on children remains the same as stated in the study conducted by Dhaatri Resource centre for Women and Children of Samata in partnership with mines, minerals & People is presented in the below box in detail;

#### DIRECT OR INDIRECT IMPACT OF MINING ON CHILDREN

<u>1. Increased morbidity and illnesses</u>: Mining children are faced with increased morbidity. Children are prone to illness because they live in mining areas and work in mines.

<u>2. Increased food insecurity and malnutrition:</u> While almost 50 per cent of children in many states across the country are malnourished, mining areas are even more vulnerable to child malnutrition, hunger and food insecurity.

<u>3. Increased vulnerability to exploitation and abuse</u>: Displaced, homeless or living in inadequate housing conditions, forced to drop out of schools, children become vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and being recruited for illegal activities by mafia and even trafficking.

<u>4. Violation of Right to Education</u>: India is walking backwards in the mining affected areas with respect to its goal of education for all. Mining children are unable to access schools or are forced to drop out of schools because of circumstances arising from mining.

<u>5. Increase in child labour:</u> Mining regions have large numbers of children working in the most hazardous activities.

<u>6. Further marginalisation of adivasi and dalit children:</u> Large-scale mining projects are mainly in adivasi areas and the adivasi child is fast losing his/her Constitutional rights under the Fifth Schedule, due to displacement, land alienation and migration by mining projects. As with adivasi children, it is the mining dalit children who are displaced, forced out of school and employed in the mines.

<u>7. Migrant children are the nowhere children:</u> The mining sector is largely dependent on migrant populations where children have no security of life and where children are also found to be working in the mines or other labour as a result of mining.

<u>8. Mining children fall through the gaps:</u> Children are not the responsibility of the Ministry of Mines that is responsible for their situation and the violation of their rights. The mess that is created in the lives of children as a result of mining has to be addressed by other departments like child welfare, education, tribal welfare, labour, environment and others. Without convergence between various departments and agencies, the mining child falls through the gaps. All laws and policies related to mining and related processes do not address specific rights and entitlements of mining children.



### 2.3. Central and State Governments Interventions 2.3.1. ILLEGAL MINING

Almost all mica mining in Jharkhand/Bihar is illegal, but in the past tolerated by the government. Mining licenses were not renewed after the Forest Conservation Act 1980 of India's central government entered into force. Even before 1980 the number of legal mines had been decreasing steadily. In 1961 there were 432 legal mica mines operating in Bihar (which included Jharkhand until November 2000); by 1980 the number had decreased to 147, and in 1986 there were only 73 legal mica mines left in the area<sup>3</sup>. The study 'Problems and Prospects of Mineral Industry in India: A study of Mica industry', which was published in 1993, reported: "The case of illicit mining and underreporting of production is a well-known fact. This situation is very much prevalent in the Bihar mica belt. A large number of mines in this state have been closed and lie abandoned in the forest areas and they are accessible to those who collect whatever mica they can get. Mica is taken away and then sold to the dealers."<sup>4</sup> Currently there are no legal mines listed by the Indian Bureau of Mines in Jharkhand.

Mining areas tend to be occupied by the poorest and most marginalised sections of society. Indeed, it is a twisted irony that the poorest people live on the lands richest with natural resources. This is because a vast majority of mining in the country is taking place in tribal areas. Adivasi children lose their constitutional rights under the Fifth Schedule over their lands and forests when their families are displaced from their lands. Despite the passing of the Samatha Judgement in 1997, which is intended to protect the rights of tribal people to their lands, violations continue and over 10 million adivasis have lost their land in India. Across the country 77 districts or parts of districts have been identified as under Fifth Schedule Areas.<sup>5</sup>

In 2015 and 2016, separate investigations by The Guardian and Thompson Reuters Foundation exposed terrible working conditions and child labour connected with the major mica producing states Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan in North East India, where a quarter of the world's mica is produced.

The National Mineral Policy, 2008, recognizes that "Mining operations often involve acquisition of land held by individuals including those belonging to the weaker sections."<sup>6</sup> It highlights the need for suitable Rehabilitation (R&R) packages and states that "Special care will be taken to protect the interest of host and indigenous (tribal) populations through developing models

<sup>3</sup> Mittal Publications, Kumar Sanjay, "Problems and prospects of mineral industry in India: A study of mica industry", 1993, page 54, http://bit.ly/1QdW77t.

<sup>4.</sup> Ibido.

<sup>5</sup> Samata, Fifth Schedule Areas, http://www.mmpindia.org/Fifth\_Schedule.htm, uploaded: 11 December 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Government of India, National Mineral Policy, 2008.



of stakeholder interest based on international best practice. Project affected persons will be protected through comprehensive relief and rehabilitation packages in line with the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy." However, several problems with respect to the R&R policy, such as under-estimation of project costs and losses, under-financing of R&R, non-consultation with affected communities and improper implementation of the promised rehabilitation, are some of the glaring failures on the part of the state with respect to mining projects. This is well reflected, for example, in the case study of the resettled camps of NALCO in Orissa<sup>7</sup>.

Child rights experts say legalising the mining of mica will allow the sector to be regulated, root out child labour, and ensure better wages and conditions for mine workers. There is only one way of addressing this by rescuing the children from work and also by educating the buyers and mine owners on the evil effects of child labour and ensuring their supply chain is clean and free from child labour. In addition to that effective execution of R & R (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) policy in scheduled areas.

KSCF has been addressing the above with respect to ensuring child rights and protection through rescuing children from mines completely and enrolling them in schools through promoting Child Friendly Villages (BMG - Bal Mitra Gram).

#### 2.4 Legal Perspective

#### THE POLICY FRAMEWORK SURROUNDING CHILD LABOUR

The key international laws dealing with child labour include the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment of 1973 (ILO Convention138) and on the Worst Forms of Child Labour of 1999 (ILO Convention182). India has ratified both the ILO conventions.

#### **Related National Legislations**

- 1. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016.
- 2. National Policy on Children 2013
- 3. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act Amendment 2015 Respective state rules need to be followed.
- 4. The Right to Education act of 2009
- 5. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) of 2012.

<sup>7</sup> case study report on NALCO project-affected community in Koraput, Orissa from the report of India's Childhood in pits by Dhaatri resource centre for Women and Children and HAQCRC – Samatha in partnership with mines, minerals & People.



The above legislations are the binding factors for addressing the issue of child labor and exploitation of children in all forms. India has done well in enacting suitable legislations and policies to combat child labour. Nonetheless, its implementation at grass root level is very much lacking. The child labour laws today are like a scarecrow which does not eliminate child labour but only shifts it geographically to other places, to other occupations like agriculture which may be less remunerative or it might be still continued clandestinely. The lack of a specialised enforcement officers leads to lesser attention being given to child labour legislations. Furthermore, many of the child labour programmes remain poorly funded.

### 2.5 Negative Impacts/dangers involved in Mining:

There are always dangers associated with mining. Few of them are listed below :

- Threat of collapse of mine leading to death of children in difference occasion due to roof collapse.
- Suffocation from gas leaks leading to suffocation in underground mines due to dangerous gases produced (in case ventilation is inadequate)
- > Vulnerability to diseases :
  - (i) Vulnerability to lung and respiratory diseases
  - Long-term exposure to silica dust, may lead to silicosis a potentially deadly lung disease; Also associated with the lung cancer, pulmonary tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases
  - (iii) Other dangers, as reported by children include Malaria, snake bites, scorpion stings, broken bones, exhaustion and heatstroke.

Hence it is essential to ensure all mines are legalized and Government and local communities take up the responsibility to monitor adherence/compliance to safety methods to prevent causalities.

Legalising and organizing the mines, along with strict lease conditions, could facilitate the implementation of good practices and control systems. This would further help in reduction of child labour and the corporate companies/buyers/owners need to take up the responsibility to ensure child labour free supply chain in their entire business process.



## **III Status of Child Labour in India**

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." - Nelson Mandela

Children are future citizens of the Nation and their adequate development is utmost priority of the country. Unfortunately, child labor engulfs children across the world. The world is home to 1.2 billion individuals aged 10-19 years. However, despite its menace in various forms, the data shows variation in prevalence of child labor across the globe and the statistical figures about child labor are very alarming. There are an estimated 186 million child laborers worldwide. The 2001 national census of India estimated total number of child labor aged 5-14 to be at 12.6 million.<sup>8</sup> Small-scale and community-based studies have found estimated prevalence of 12.6 million children engaged in hazardous occupations. Many children are "hidden workers" working in homes or in the underground economy<sup>9</sup>. Although the Constitution of India guarantees free and compulsory education to children between the age of 6 to 14 and prohibits employment of children younger than 14 in 18 hazardous occupations, child labor is still prevalent in the informal sectors of the Indian economy<sup>10</sup> Child labor violates human rights, and is in contravention of the International Labor Organization Conventions 182 (worst forms of child labour); 138 (minimum age convention) Article 32, Convention Rights of the Child). About one-third of children of the developing world are failing to complete even 4 years of education<sup>11</sup> Indian population has more than 17.5 million working children in different industries, and incidentally maximum are in agricultural sector, leather industry, mining and match-making industries, etc.<sup>12</sup>

Indai's 2011 census showed that there were more than 10.2 million "economically active" children in the age group of five to 14 years - 5.6 million boys and 4.5 million girls, Eight million children were working in rural areas, and 2 million in urban areas, Although in rural setting the number of child workers reduced from 11 million to 8 million between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, over the same period, the number of children working in urban setting rose from 1.3 million to 2 million.

<sup>8</sup> Basu K, Tzannatos Z. The Global Child Labor Problem: What Do We Know and What Can We Do? World Bank Econ Rev. 2003;17:147-73.

<sup>9</sup> Angnihotram RV. An overview of occupational health research in India. Indian Journal of Occupational Environ Med. 2005;9:10-4

<sup>10</sup> Burra, Neera "Child labour in rural areas with a special focus on migration, agriculture, mining and brick kilns" National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. [Last retrieved on 2009 Oct 19]. www.ncpcr.gov.in/report.

<sup>11</sup> Unicef, Guide to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 2006. [Last accessed on 2006]. Available from: http://www. unicef.org/crc/

<sup>12</sup> Tiwari RR. Child labour in footwear Industry: Possible occupational health hazards. Indian J Occup Environ Med. 2005;9:7-9.



Child labour is undoubtedly a human rights issue. It is not only exploitative but also endangers children's physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and moral development. It perpetuates poverty because a child labour, deprived of education or healthy physical development, is likely to become an adult with low earning prospects. This is a vicious cycle which apart from ruining the lives of many results in an overall backwardness in the masses.

Child Labor has become a big problem in India. It is no doubt, a socio-economic problem. A national survey had shown that more than 16 million children between eight to fourteen are largely appointed in hotels and boarding houses, in tea-shops, restaurants, in commercial firms, in factories and fisheries<sup>13</sup>. They are engaged into all sorts of work for the sake of earning something for the family. As a result, they are also deprived of primary education, without which chance of success in life is remote. Children are employed in agricultural labor; they drive carts and take care of cattle. Girl children have to act as maid servants and baby sitters. They cook and clean, they wash clothes and collect fuel. It is true that a number of laws have been imposed to prevent child labor. But they are more disobeyed than obeyed. The ban has been imposed to save the children from hazardous works and to restore their care-free childhood. But some opines that if the ban is imposed without the arrangements of proper rehabilitation of the child workers, it would be of no effect.

Indian law forbids children below the age of 18 working in mines and other hazardous industries but many families living in extreme poverty rely on children to boost household income. This leads to more children working in the mines leading to exploitation in all forms (physical and emotional).

Over the past two decades India has put in place a range of laws and programmes to address the problem of child labour. According to UNICEF, Child labour cannot be dealt with in isolation. It is intrinsically linked to socio-economic factors. The factors that contribute to child labour – including "hazardous" child labour are the poverty and illiteracy of a child's parents, the family's social and economic circumstances, a lack of awareness about the harmful effects of child labour, lack of access to basic and meaningful quality education and skills training, high rates of adult unemployment and under-employment, and the cultural values of the family and surrounding society. Often children are also bonded to labour due to a family indebtedness. Out of school children (OOSC) or those children at risk of dropping out can easily be drawn into work and a more vulnerable to exploitation. Girls, especially those from socially disadvantaged groups, tend to be at a higher risk of being forced into work.

<sup>13</sup> International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention ISSN (Online): 2319 - 7722, ISSN (Print): 2319 - 7714 www.ijhssi.org Volume 4 Issue 1 || January. 2015 || PP.23-32



In addition to above the other reasons why children are forced into work are lack of livelihood options which forces the children to contribute to the family income. Due to conflicts, droughts and other natural disasters, family indebtedness, rural poverty, urban migration etc., also often exposes children to being trafficked for work. Children are employed because they are cheap and pliable to the demands of the employer and not aware of their rights. The risks that these children face can have an irreversible physical, psychological and moral impact on their development, health and wellbeing.

## IV. IMPLEMENTATION/INTERVENTIONS BY KSCF ON CHILD LABOR AND ITS IMPACT

SATYARTHI KAILASH SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATIO

### 4.1. Introduction to Child Friendly Village (Bal Mitra Gram - BMG):

"I would say that if the village perishes India will perish too. India will be no more India. Her own mission in the world will get lost. The revival of the village is possible only when it is no more exploited. Industrialization on a mass scale will necessarily lead to passive or active exploitation of the villagers as the problem of competition and marketing come in"

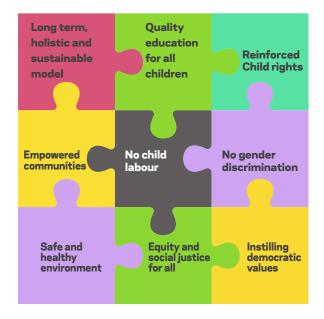
Mahatma K Gandhi..

India's heart lies at villages. Village development leads to district development and district development leads to state development, State development leads to development of the nation. The concept of child friendly village or Bal Mitra Gram (BMG) directly addresses the multi-dimensional problems that generate and maintain the child labour situation in the country. It attacks the root causes to assure sustainability and perpetual settlement of the child labour. Not only this approach aims at withdrawal of children from work and enhancement of quality of education, but it also aims at a holistic development of Indian villages towards creation of a child friendly society. In the whole process emphasis is given on child participation, community mobilization, promotion of education, victim's/survivor's empowerment, gender equity and awareness on gender issues, convergence of various schemes and programmes and ensuring long term sustainability of the initiatives through the creation of sound community organization and resources base.

The rationale for creation of Child friendly village is, there is a lack of proper educational infrastructure and of quality education at various villages in the country. There is no social audit on this as well. This is only fostered by the Village Panchayat which is the most important local administrative/governance body. Through the formation of child friendly village KSCF is trying to address the twin idea of inculcating the democratic values of self-governance and self-monitoring system with the children as focus. This also fosters social audit of child labour as well as their education.



#### WHAT IS A BMG?





The Bal Mitra Gram is as much a movement of principles as it is a model for change. It is not to be seen simply as a way to eradicate child labor, it is rather a thought process which has participation, equality and empowerment as some of its key cornerstones. It recognizes the importance of addressing the root causes for problems holistically and involves all stakeholders. The best evidence of success of a BMG is when a community brings about change on its own through sheer determination. And when this determination lasts long and they are able to fight on their own for justice and this remains as a sustained effort.

In a Bal Mitra Gram, all members of the village – children, parents, teachers and village heads, realize the constitutional, legal, social and cultural rights of children and respect them in letter and spirit. Views of children are provided a legitimate forum, and the importance of eradicating child labor and enrolling all children of the village in schools is recognized and supported by all. The socio-economic climate that forms the root of the vicious cycle of child labor, illiteracy and poverty is countered by the realization that empowerment is not just about obtaining a ration-or BPL card; it is also about the recognition that everybody has the right to have their voices heard.

#### Hence the concept of Child friendly

Village (Bal Mitra Gram) evolved to address Child labour and promotes child rights. The Bal Mitra Gram activity was initiated in Jharkhand where the mining activity was intensive and child labour was high. The children were not going to school and awareness on legal rights of the children were lacking.

The Child Friendly Village is a micro concept of a macro vision of Noble Laureate Shri Kailash Satyarthi in promoting and ensuring fully functional Child Friendly World.



The Initial focus on child labour was based on the urgency and immediate need of the issue. In this regard Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) – <u>"Save Childhood Movement"</u> was introduced to raise awareness on the issue of Child Labour in Rajasthan. The inception of this concept was a Membership driven entity and not a registered body. This entity continued till 2014. The BMG (Bal Mitra Gram) meaning Child Friendly village was initiated with the objective of prevention of Child labour in the year 2001. Hence BMG is considered as the approach to address child labour in the mica mining locations and not a project or programme. This is considered as a Child rights based approach since the interventions or strategies are developed keeping child at the center.

The uniqueness of this approach is addressing the child participation at the village level. The BMG approach tries to address the four principles of UNCRC (Non-discrimination, Best interests of children, Survival & Development and Child Protection and Participation) with more emphasis on "Child Participation". It is not a solution to child labour which is a complex issue but an approach.

### Characteristics of BMG:

The key characteristics of BMG include child rights based approach which also includes sensitization on environment around the village. The awareness raising on nature preservation and conservation of species and keeping the environment clean is integrated in the BMG concept. Emphasis is paid on raising awareness on child rights education to all in the village leading to the benefit of all in the community. This concept also lead to formation of youth and women's groups at the village level as support groups to the children's committees/groups. The uniqueness of the concept is formation of Bal Panchayat (Children's Council) which is a significance of democratic.





The emphasis was laid on promoting child participation through child rights education. This has facilitated growth of the concept of child centric community development as well as child centric decision making processes.

#### 4.2. Selection of area for intervention:

The name "Jharkhand" means "the land of forests". Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar on15 November in 2000, 65 after almost half a century of people's movements around Jharkhandi identity, which disadvantaged societal groups articulated in order to augment political resources and influence the policy process in their favor. The Jharkhand identity and the demand for autonomy was not premised solely on the uniqueness of its tribal cultural heritage, but was essentially a fallout of the failure of development policy to intervene in socio- economic conditions of both the Adivasis and non-Adivasis in the region. The dynamics of resources and the politics of development still influence the socio- economic structures in Jharkhand, which was carved out of the relatively 'backward' southern part of Bihar.

The problem of poverty and economic inequality can be identified as vital in accelerating the pace of movement. The absolute numbers of the poor have increased over the decades. The poor in the area feel condemned to one's fate quite another. Rising incomes in the post-reform India have created a rapidly growing aspiring class but these have also contributed to an army of socio-economic orphans who have been rejected by all mainstream political parties. In addition, a contractor-politician nexus controls the wealth of the forests and pushes tribals to the margins<sup>14</sup>.

The above condition persuaded KSCF to initiate their interventions to address the child labour issue to protect the child rights in the region. Hence KSCF has designed the selection criteria for their intervention. This is very crisp and clear as stated below :

- 1. The location where mining is rampant
- 2. The number of children working as child laborers in mines
- 3. The number of school dropouts is high
- 4. Non-School going children number is high from the underprivileged communities.
- 5. The number of children not going to school

<sup>14</sup> Naxal problem in Jharkhand: historical, social, political and economic perspective - Chapter 3



Based on the above criteria KSCF identifies the villages for their interventions especially initiating formation of Child Friendly village which is known in local language as Bal Mitra Gram (BMG). The inception of the programme was in the year 2001. It was initially executed and managed by BBA (Bachpan Bachao Andolan) which is a "Save Childhood Movement". It was executed not as a project or programme but as an intensive campaign. Also the BMG concept was held at school level and later shifted to village level. All children in the villages were inducted on this concept irrespective of their background.

### 4.3. Interventions addressed by KSCF

The intervention adopted to address the issue of Child Labour is through promoting Child Friendly Villages. These are provided below in chronological order for easy reference. Also this provides history of events taken place to reach the current stage.

#### 4.3.1 Chronology of work in Mining areas in addressing Child Labour, 2002–2017 <u>Time Line (with highlights)</u>

2002 - Child Friendly Block was formed in Nawada with the support of Government .

2004- Mica mining challenges aired on BBC.

**2005-** Aveda (owned by Estee Lauder Companies) initiated a program that was authorized by top management at Estee Lauder Companies. Initially the program was based on 2 years to carry out extensive research and finding solutions.

**2005-** Budget and team in India formed. David Hircock first visits area.

**2006-** First round of research and economic mapping carried out - BBA primary research pointed to over 5,000 children in Bihar and Jharkhand working on collection of mica. 2017 found to be approx. 30,000 children.

**2007-** Solution activated for Elimination of child labour planned in 9 villages as model based on Child Friendly Village:

- All children enrolled at school
- Children become part of village Panchayat (Village elected Government)
- Youth groups formed
- Women are also part of the village Panchayat



Including access to water program in 9 villages 80 hand pumps wells were either repaired or built - Bike Club formed by David Hircock's (of Estee Lauder Companies) family to supply bikes to girls so that they could get to school

**2008-** Approximately 20 children from area attend school in Bal Ashram as they had lost so much schooling that it was not possible to catch up.

**2009-** Sunday Times Article published on mica mining – Merck and Eckart ask Aveda/ELC team/BBA for advice and solutions. Suggested that they fund three conferences, two in local mica mining areas to gather information and one International Conference in Delhi to find long term plan.

**2009-** Manan Ansari ex-mica child from Jharkhand addresses UN in Geneva. http://articles. timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2009-06-11/india/28179811\_1\_child-labour-mica-mines

**2010-** International Mica Conference – Merck and Eckart agreed to fund 30 CFV villages program.

**2010-** ELC Public Affairs Anna Klein first visited mica areas of India in October. - Additional water program funded in 30 villages funding also accessing Govt. schemes - Hand-pumps installed and repaired, Deep- boring wells constructed, Ponds and culverts to protect roads constructed.

**2010-** "Protecting Indigenous Children from Child Labor: The Power of Education" Conference at United Nations held during the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Ninth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - UN Headquarters, New York - Special Theme: Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity; articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. ELC funded and attended the meeting.

**2011-** NRSC Natural Resource Stewardship Circle first visits area – Givaudan, P&G, Chanel, Yves Rocher with ELC and Catherine Peyreaud founder of NRSC.

**2012-** NRSC funding further 30 villages with 10 existing villages chosen to be researched into strengthening economic models and find solutions to decrease of earnings due to the taking out of children from the work force.

**2012-** Eckart has sold company and withdrew support from the programme and mica mining interventions.

**2013-** Merck withdrew its support from the programme and Mica mining interventions. But Merck continued to fund 2-3 non-government schools.



**2013-** July to Sept - School of Social Work Delhi University conducts two evaluation reports on Child Friendly Villages:

Main points of School of Social Work:

- There has been a drastic change in the status of children after formation of BMG (Child Friendly Village). Almost all the children those who have been in the school going age found enrolled in school. An overwhelming majority of children have withdrawn from mica collection and/or exploitative labour
- Based on findings, it is recommended that BMG concept can be launched <u>nationally</u> <u>and internationally</u> because this is an ideal "<u>participatory model for children</u>" which should not suffer by manpower constraints.
- All the villagers have reported that they feel proud to be part of a Child Friendly Village BMG.
- An overwhelming majority of villagers have reported that BBA's presence/programs have positively impacted them significantly

**2013-** BBA carries out a Health Report on the new villages, health care very poor if not non-existent and major lobbying to States to be carried out for access to services.

**2013-** August - A public hearing on child labour was organized in Koderma, Jharkhand on 26th August, 2013. Mr. Yogesh Dube, member, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights was the chief guest at the program. More than 6000 people from different villages participated.

**2014-** February – BBA reports from Sept – Dec 2013 positive, school enrollment in area over 80%, some areas prior to BBA work had no schools. Program has even involved the State building new schools/classrooms, etc. Goodwill in area very high, from building of school boundary walls, water, roads, etc. As not possible at this moment to get price of mica higher to the collectors, BBA concentrated on Livelihood generation programs, from access to State funded rations trucks for the very high %age of Below Poverty Level community to a Govt. programs including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

**2014-** November Kailash Satyarthi - awarded Nobel Peace Prize

**2015-** US State - Department Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) funded IMPAQ to design and implement random control trials to assist ILAB in determining the effectiveness of interventions aimed at reducing child labor. For example, in India, IMPAQ will evaluate the efficacy of the Child Friendly Villages program implemented by Bachpan Bachao Andolan in the mica mining areas.



**2015 June-** Estee Lauder Companies organize meeting for Kailash Satyarthi in New York with prominent International business leaders.

**October 2015-** BBA finishes 30 CFV NRSC program - positive outcomes

**November 2015-** NRSC agrees to new 20CFV – involving villages that will be researched by IMPAQ research team funded by USDOL.

**February 2016-** NRSC Mica Summit in Delhi – bringing together users of mica from around the world to discuss ways forward.

The Delhi Mica Sourcing Summit in February 2016 resulted in the Responsible Mica Initiative (RMI)being formed in January 2017. The initiative is supported by major brands, including Chanel, L'Oreal and Merck, to eradicate child labour in mica mining.

**November 2016-** NRSC field visit meeting with villages – the children are empowered and at school and voting for child parliaments.

**December 2016-** Laureates and Leaders meeting at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) in New Delhi, India - Children Summit to concentrate on building a strong moral platform for protecting all children from violence, and ensuring a world where all children are free to be children. The Summit convened Nobel laureates, the world's leading thinkers, heads of states, heads of United Nations Agencies, award winning child/youth leaders and over 150 eminent persons from academia, business, cinema, sports and civil society. A march with 10,000 children also took place, including children from the mica mining areas.

**Jan 2017-** Responsible Mica Initiative – launches the "Responsible Indian Mica Supply Chain" formed through NRSC initiative. <u>http://www.responsible-mica-initiative.com/. Which aims to</u> <u>eradicate child labour and unacceptable working conditions in the Indian mica supply chain by</u> <u>joining forces across industries.</u>

<u>2018 - Ongoing Work with funding for BMG's from The Hans Foundation, TDH, Oberoi, Infosys,</u> <u>MDL, McKinsey, etc.</u>,



The formation of a Bal Mitra Gram follows a systemic approach and it has the uniqueness of addressing the issues poverty, illiteracy through Child Centric approach.

#### **Objectives of Child Friendly Villages (Bal Mitra Gram - BMG)**

- > To eliminate all forms of exploitation of children in villages.,
- > To ensure every child in the village is in school.
- > To form and strengthen child protection committees in the village.
- To strengthen education systems and mechanisms which ensure quality education in village Schools.
- To form Children Council (Bal Panchayat) at the village level and obtaining recognition to institutionalize their contribution through active participation in Gram Panchayat.
- To establish better links between government Public Health Programs for access to

health services in communities, particularly for children. (or to other government agencies and services)

- To ensure access to information on rights and entitlements to government benefits/schemes;
- > To facilitate communities to mobilize & organize themselves to demand their rights and entitlements.

The above objectives are addressed through 9 steps of interventions. Initially the BMGs are formed and followed up only for a period of 2 years. Recently the execution duration has been amended to 3 years. The nine steps of interventions are crucial in formation and sustaining the BMG. It initiates from identification of the appropriate village and project set up, educating the children and villagers through rigorous meetings inclusive of village/ward head, conducting household survey, formation of Bal Panchayat (Children council), Children withdrawn from work and enrolled into mainstream schools, formation of BMG advisory and working committees, enhancing the capacity of all the committees formed, handing over the BMG to village through the committees, render support through follow up to ensure sustenance of the BMG.



#### 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
- Convergence of Rights-based and Social Justice approaches
- Compassion for all children to provide a safe and secure Childhood
- Free, Healthy and Educated childhood
- Gender Equality
- Elimination of social, traditional and religious taboos
- Democratic, Meaningful & Informed Participation of Children
- Participatory Governance where communities take Ownership & Accountability of all Children
- Sustainable Transformation from adult lead society into a child friendly society

#### The fundamental parts of a BMG

- All child laborers 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.



### **Issues we Tackle >>>**

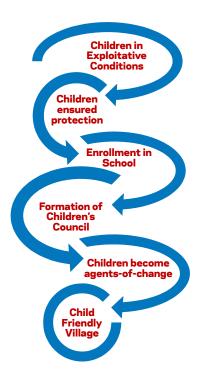


Child Labour, Child Marriage, Child Trafficking,

Gender and Castebased Discrimination



Access to Quality Education, Health, Malnourishment, Clean Environment

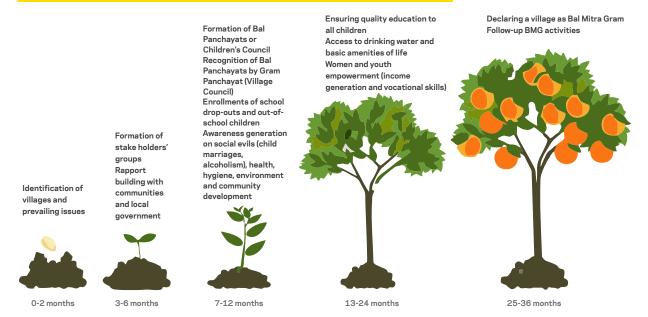


### **Chronology of Bal Mitra Gram**

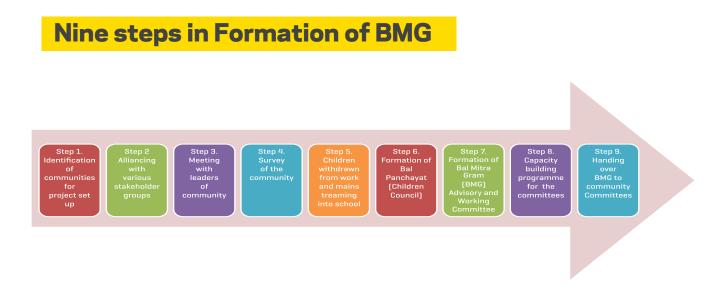




### **Formation of a Bal Mitra Gram**



To address the key issues like interior villages, lack of access, existence of no-schools, high level of child labour, lack of livelihood options other than mica mining in those locations in addition to the exploitation of mine owners has been great challenge to BBA and KSCF.





#### ldentification and Knowledge building (1-6 months)

### Follow ups to evaluate progress:

ŸContinuous follow ups
 with schools to assess the
 dropout rates
 ŸCapacity building and
 scaling operations of Bal
 Panchayat, Yuva Mandal
 and Mahila Mandals

### Liaising with Regulatory authorities:

ŸOrganizing village level
 meetings to involve the
 Zilla and block level
 government officials.
 ŸLobbying with
 government agencies to
 improve access of
 government schemes

#### Capacity Building (6-12 months)

#### Villages identified based on

ΫKnowledge of child labour ϔMica operations /ground knowledge

1 designated field worker assigned to 1-2 villages ÿcollection of data around number of mica mines , number of children in mica mines etc.

#### Engagement with

multiple stakeholders: <u>Village community:</u> ÿConversations and focus group discussions with children and parents ÿFormation of Bal Panchayat ,Yuva Mandal and Mahila Mandals <u>Mica Buying Companies:</u> ÿApproach the Mica buyers to put restrictions in suppliers employing children in mines

#### Mainstreaming / Reintegration (12-15 Months)

Enabling children to come out of child labor and reintegrate them into mainstream education ŸContinuous meeting and motivation of the children who are out school ŸEnsuring access to the education to local Govt. schools and makeshift school if necessary (Non Formal Education) and start lobbying for school under the night to education act. If school doesn't not exist. **Finding alternative** sources of employment & income

ŸCommunity engagements to find explore income generating activities apart from Mica Collection

#### Oversight (15 months onwards)

Ensuring Bal Panchayat are functioning and continue to liaise with gram panchayats ŸRe- election of new Gram Panchayat and streaming the process to make it more democratic Awareness about **Right to** Education and lobbying for access to schemes and facilities ŸIncluding adverse teacher to student ratio , provision of Middav meals. lack of proper Infrastructure etc. Training of women and Youth groups to liaise and lobby with Govt. agencies directly to fight for their rights Finding solutions along with the community by linking up with the community by linking up with various government departments for

accessing their entitlements (ex: ration card, pension scheme, housin etc.)

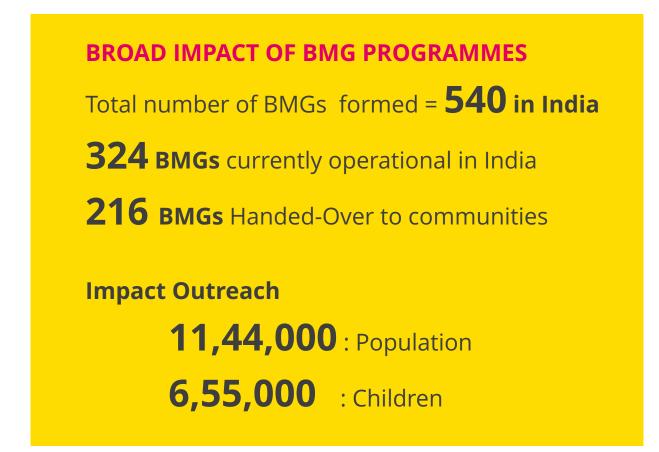
\*Assembly formed by the children that is designated official recognizes by the Gram Panchayat (elected village council) assuring that the two council work together on issues related to children, youth, women's groups as well as income generation activities

The BMG model involves multi-stakeholders in the entire approach like children, village administrative body, district level administration and various committees. Alliancing and networking has been one of the strategy for facilitating the various committees to access the government schemes under health, old age pension, which is a major outcome/impact achieved by BBA and KSCF.



### 4.4 Impact achieved :

The Bal Mitra Gram approach has created wider impact in the lives of the children and among the communities in the villages. The synopsis of the impact achieved by BMG's is



The BMG model is not just for addressing the issue of Child labour, but it is an approach which promotes participatory among all members in the community. It is also considered as the "Involvement of all for the benefit of all". This participation of children and community had benefited especially in addressing the key issues of child rights protection like preventing child marriages, increase in school enrollment. Children groups had been more active wherever efforts were put towards educating them on their rights.







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** 

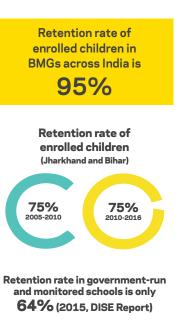
schools ( ex. blackboard, benches, rug, sports material etc.)













#### Impact >>>



Access to Education for Girls

Over



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.





**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





#### **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





#### 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

#### Impact >>>

#### **Promoting** Connectivity



> 140 Ponds, Culverts and Check dams construction facilitated



<sup>&</sup>gt;180 Hand Pumps installed and repaired



### 4.5 Challenges/Limitations:

- Naxalism (Maoist communism as practiced in South Asia; the principles and practices of the Naxalite movement) Origin was prevalent in the area even before the birth of Jharkhand in the then state of Bihar. Presently 18 districts out of 24 districts in Jharkhand are affected by Naxalism.
- The operational area of KSCF in Jharkhand, Bihar is a naxal belt as well as Mica mining area which has often led to face operational challenges. The staff often feared to go to villages due to naxal movement.
- Historical hostile attitude of Mica traders/buyers.
- Access to the villages due to bad or no roads in the remote areas where child labour due to mining is intensive.
- Lack of school infrastructure in some of the villages, lack of teachers/faculty for schools.
- Finding right skilled people at the village level for community social worker with knowledge on socio-economic, political etc., is a major challenge
- Age of child contesting for Bal Panchayat (Children Council) election need to be defined appropriately to meet the objectives.
- The prevalence of caste system is the primary challenge faced by the team in formation of BMG which lead to discrimination among children in majority of the villages.
- The other limitation is whole Child Friendly village promotion is a hard core rights based programme integrating service delivery dilutes the objective of the programme and hinders the empowerment process.
- Lack of political will and limited support from state machinery to NGOs due to high level of lobby from mine owners.
- Heavy lobby of government officials towards pro-mining serves as bottleneck for development course of action.
- The districts where KSCF is operational is the border district of the state, hence this becomes the least priority to receive any development aid.
- Very limited expertise in the organization on sustainable livelihoods has rendered a huge gap integrating under child centric community development for enhancing the livelihood options for the families.



- Lack of professional psycho social support for rescued child labours before mainstreaming.
- Streamlining line of communication is very much essential for clarity and effective communication within the team and external.
- Need to streamline and standardize reporting as well as facilitate reporting process and access to internet etc. to ensure accuracy of data and reports are on time and submission to donors.

#### 4.6. Lessons Learned:

- The programme design need to be relooked into especially on the duration of the project period. 3 years is short especially when social change is envisaged through rights based approach to ensure sustainability.
- The programme team should further include and integrate different skill set with development sector experienced staff on executing hands-on integrated child rights programme at senior level.
- The programme planning need to enhance and promote bottom-up approach and integrate at all levels.
- The BMG approach has flexibility for addressing multiple issues related to children like child marriages, child labour etc., but it also remains as a big challenge due to high expectations of the community members to meet their needs.
- Awareness raising on issues related to child marriages, child labour and importance of education need to be formalized/integration to have wider impact.
- Lack of evidence based data accuracy with BBA. It is a learning to carry out a in-depth study to collect data using new tools.
- Compilation and timely dissemination of data is essential and this requires at central level through MIS. This data collection needs to be more formalized with definite goals based on minimum BMG requirements (formalised KPI's) and also be such that "informal" data can be shared such as the "stories from the children/communities".
- Defining age group for Bal Panchayat election is crucial. For ex. A 5 year old child is not expected to talk about issues. Hence it is essential in each BMG the appropriate age is defined.
- Inclusion of provision for KSCF Head Office Hotline to address some key challenges at HO level.



# V. BEST PRACTICES

### 5.1 Why BMG is a best practice?

BMG/Child Friendly village concept has been continuous evolving process/approach in creating space and opportunity for Child Participation. This approach has been successful interms of promoting children going to school and removing them from work.

- The BMG approach ensures equality among all children irrespective of their background. To ensure freedom from exploitation and access to child rights Bachpan Bachao Andolan developed a unique model of intervention. The model is built on the understanding that sustainable change in the life of a child can be brought about only if the community to which they belong are exposed to an alternative form of knowledge, which then can be translated to attitude and practice.
- The approach of child friendly village is a concept of community mobilization and involving all the stakeholders Thus, the Bal Mitra Gram (BMG) approach works with villages to inculcate child rights in the community and fight against regressive practices such as child labour, child slavery, child trafficking, child marriage and so on exists and attempts to convert them into Child Friendly Villages through community empowerment.
- The gender dimension is addressed through strongly promoting girl child education and prevention of child marriages.
- Emphasis solidified on Child rights education not just to children but to entire community.
- The BMG concept revolves around promotion of Bal Panchayat (Children council) which is a unique concept in empowerment process for children. This is an appropriate strategy to promote and sustain efforts of child participation.
- Also the approach addresses accessibility to government schemes through raising awareness on the various schemes or services available to the community (women, men, older persons etc., ).



### **Promoting Accountability**



Checking ground realities on securing child rights



Vigilance meetings with community members

#### Access to social welfare & government schemes

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







## 5.2 Gap Analysis:

Overall the BMG concept/approach has been initiated with a view to address child labour through Child rights based approach involving multi-stakeholders at the community level. The great achievement is space and platform for Child Participation has been created. Even though the concept has been executed for more than a decade, there are areas identified for further improvement to address the issue in a holistic way.

- The existing model of BMG follows the traditional approach as it was initiated at the time of inception. More innovations need to be explored based on the changing environment as well as related to environment work
- The capacities of the community level field staff need to be enhanced to address the field level challenges in a quicker way from Delhi Office. Also it is required for long term mentoring and handholding support.
- There is huge gap on evidence based data, formalization of data collection using KPIs due to lack of integrated holistic MIS system within the organization to capture M & E data.
- > The accuracy of data presented by BBA is questionable. After the child labor Amendment Act of 2016, lot of efforts has gone into addressing child labor by Government and



other key stakeholders also before the formation of the act. Hence there is a strong need for more in-depth study to be carried out for collecting accurate data and analysis of data using latest tools.

- > Enhancing the M & E system and strengthening for the programme for data compilation and to integrate key learning for next phase of execution.
- > Lack of analytical information on the overall programme/approach.
- With regard to gender dimension of the concept, focus on girl child education is there, but there is a gap in integration and mainstreaming gender related issues with emphasis on adolescent girls and reproductive health rights.
- It is interesting to note that Children, adults and other stakeholder groups are able to share spontaneously on list of child rights, but it also calls for strengthening the awareness and understanding for effective implementation at the community level.
- Child rights need to be addressed with 360 degree lens. As BMG is being executed with rights based approach it requires a comprehensive blending through child centric community development incorporating economic empowerment to address livelihood requirements to ensure sustenance and sustainability of structures established.
- It is essential for KSCF to educate during the beginning of the programme on BMG formation is a joint effort of community and KSCF and the organization is acting as facilitators. It is essential to downplay the community expectations from inception in order to avoid creating expectations from community.
- > Exclusive gender sensitization at village level session was lacking.

The above gaps need to be addressed in order to strengthen existing efforts and to expand this approach across the country as well as to address in other areas where existence of child labour in the mining areas is wide spread.

#### 5.3 Potential for up scaling

The BMG concept or approach of promoting child friendly villages is a unique model of addressing child labor, poverty, illiteracy through community mobilization education of children and community members through education on child rights. BBA possesses 12 years of experience in BMG formation, execution and expanding in 12 states in India. This model/ approach of withdrawing children from work and mainstreaming them back in schools is a right approach to address child labour. This approach has lot of potential and opportunities



for wider expansion and replication through customization to address child labour across the country. The similar approach with appropriate modification on methodology, along with introducing processes and systems would make it the only model/approach to promote child rights especially to address child trafficking for labour etc., and promote child protection.

The child trafficking especially girl child for commercial sexual exploitation could also be further addressed across the country through establishing Child Friendly villages incorporating vigilance committees (children as part of the committee) as key stakeholder groups at the village level.

There is lot of potential and opportunities to take this BMG/Child Friendly Village approach forward in the stone quarrying, other mining sectors like coal, bauxite etc., brick kilns, crackers industry for prevention and control of child labour. It is necessary and essential to promote this through Public Private Partnership(PPP) in order to obtain multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaboration. Corporates should be sensitized and involved in the entire process not just for ensuring child labour free supply chain, but to render appropriate alternative livelihood options for the affected communities through enhancing skills (technical and soft skills) of the adults, parents or guardians to increase family income to stop sending children for work.



# VI. CORPORATE INITIATIVES AND ASSESSMENT

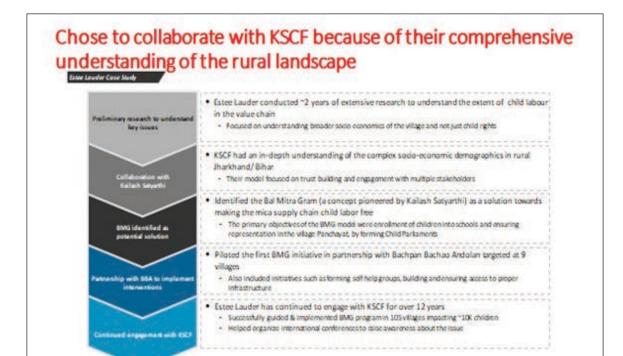
Mica mining is crucial for various corporates as it has wider commercial utilization at electric and electronic to personal products. In this regard BBA has partnered with MERCK to address child labour through BMG approach during the period of 2010-12.

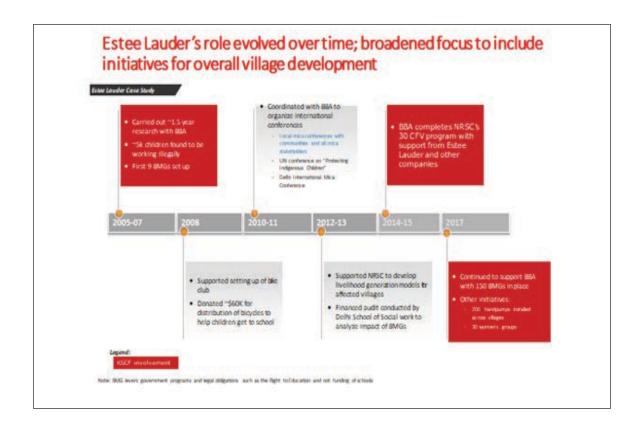
		NON-EXHAUS
Company	Mica use	Mica from India
AkzoNobel	Coating airplanes, cars, building roofs etc.	√
Prysmian Group	Mica tape used for cables	4
Unilever	Cosmetics and personal care	✓
PHILIPS	Hairdryers and to asters containing mica	đ
A.S. Watson Benelux	Raw material for cosmetic companies	4
🕅 Ahold	Cosmetics	✓
HEMA	Cosmetics	4
Ver create chemistry	Chemicals and coatings	1
Silimica	Electrical insulation	4



Child Labor	<ul> <li>Prevalence of child labour in mica supply chain</li> <li>Illegal employment of children &lt;18 years of age in the mining and collection of mica in Bihar and Jharkhand</li> <li>In 2005, ~5K children were identified to be working illegally in these mines</li> </ul>
	Wage exploitation of mine workers
	- Lack of alternate employment options forced locals to take up mica mining
Wage Exploitation	<ul> <li>Payment of wages to these mine workers were much below the minimum wage standard (sometimes as low as 5 cents/kg of mica)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Exploitation by mine traders who promise loans to workers in exchange for employment at bare minimum wages</li> </ul>
	Mine owners can also be exploited by large conglomerates
Stakeholder Involvement	<ul> <li>Owners of mines were mostly cut off by larger western conglomerates while addressing supply chain related issues</li> </ul>
	- Lack of long term and sustainable engagement with the mine owners

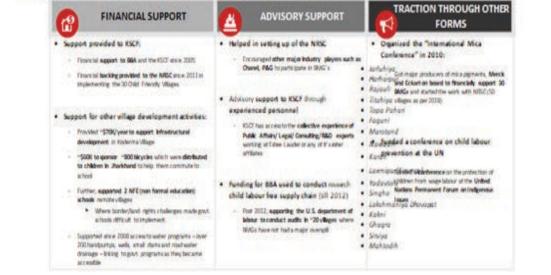














But from the above table it is also evident that without the involvement of corporate the social menace cannot be curtailed. Hence it calls for educating and sensitizing the corporates about their social responsibility to join hands to address this social evil by ensuring in their entire supply chain is free from child labour. In this regard KSCF has been working closely with few corporates in sensitizing and educating them through partnership engagement like MERCK etc.,



# **VII. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Overall the BMG approach needs to be strengthened through strengthening the capacities of the field level staff continuously with handholding and mentoring support especially on rights based approach with integrated development approach through expertise from Head Office.
- Right skillset of staff need to be recruited at the field level and trained continuous through handholding and mentoring support.
- Strong evidence based data collection is essential with regard to child laborers in the region. This calls for in-depth professional study to be carried out using latest and new tools to collect data for analysis and compilation. This is strongly recommended.
- The programme unit should also comprise of comprehensive skillset with various background inclusive of economic, health, social sciences, Livelihoods for addressing the child labour issue in a holistic way.
- Integration of Research and Development Unit in Programme department is need of the hour which would help in conducting baseline, mid-line and end line along with impact analysis of BMG programme before and after the end of the interventions. Also this will be useful for programme development using various developmental approaches like LFA (Logical Framework Approach) and PCM (Project Cycle Management) techniques etc., This would attract more partnerships and resource mobilization.
- Strong MIS development will strengthen the programme/approach and would be helpful for data compilation as well as would promote more partnerships (funding opportunities).
- Need for Operational policy development (appropriate SOPs) for execution of Child Friendly Village approach across the organization.
- Strong and continuous coordination and collaboration need to be there with programme,
   Finance and admin units of the organization.



# VIII. WAY FORWARD

Moving ahead it is essential to address the gaps identified above through promoting appropriate strategy to expand the BMG approach in other parts of the country.

- As the BMG approach has potential for replication and up scaling, it is essential to do a thorough study in the areas of other mining areas or stone quarrying before proceeding with interventions by KSCF. This would help in developing appropriate strategic interventions.
- It is also essential to amend the approach as per context specific and customization accordingly.
- KSCF should upscale and replicate this approach of BMG execution incorporating the above gaps across the country in order to ensure sustainability of the approach and intervention.
- KSCF should move ahead with more appropriate partnership to buy in their ownership of the issue which calls for rigorous advocacy.



## ANNEXE I: DETAILS ON IMPACT OF BMG DURING THE YEAR OF 2016 - 2017

### 1. Elimination of Child labour

Impact	Milestone	Activities
<ul> <li>Ø Declining trend has been observed in %age of child labors identified</li> <li>Ø Mine owners/other</li> </ul>	593 V/s 713 : Children withdrawn from Child Labour in Year 2017/2016	<ol> <li>Activists visits to mines</li> <li>Sensitizing Parents and mine owners</li> </ol>
employers are hesitant to employ child labour		3. Meetings with Mahila Mandal and
Ø State administration including Labour Directorate department are vigilante to check incidences of child labour		Yuva Mandals

### 2. Access to Quality Education and Infrastructu

Impact		Milestone		Activities
Ø Average Retention R in Schools - increase 61.87%		Enrollment in schools - 1,810	1.	School Chalo Abhiyan
Ø Assertion by the Chi their Rights (Mid-da	y Meals	Regularization - 924	2.	Door to Door Campaign
/ School Uniforms/ S benches/ Books/ Spo material/ Scholarshi	orts 3. os)		3.	Bal Panchayat Initiatives
Ø Improvement in Scho		7 Playgrounds Created	4.	Meetings with
Infrastructure (Toilet / Drinking water taps Boundary walls/ play	s/ 3.	5 Teacher appointments		District/Block Authorities
Ø Teacher Attendance Teacher- Pupil Ratio improved/ Youth Volu	has	166 Cycles distributed	5.	Community mobilization
BMGs as Ad-hoc Tea Schools			б.	Cycle Distribution for Girl Child
Ø Girl Child Survivors a continue education	able to			Survivor.



## 3. Promoting Democratic Child Participation

Impact	Milestone	Activities
Ø Growing number of Girl Child Participation in Bal Panchayat Elections	1. 126 BMGs ( remaining are placed to take place in Jan'18)	1. Bal Panchayat Elections
Ø Increasing %age of Girl Child as Members of Bal Panchayats	2. 1,386 members Elected and received letters of recognition	2. Formulation of BMG Advisory Committees
Ø Bal Panchayat children becoming assertive and demonstrating participation	<ol> <li>60% Girl Child Candidates</li> <li>102 BMG Advisory</li> </ol>	3. Oath taking ceremony and recognition of Bal Panchayat by Gram panchayat
Ø State and District Administration sensitized on Child rights	<ul><li>Committees Formed</li><li>5. 634 Applications drafted and made</li></ul>	Gram panchayat
Ø Bal Panchayats recognized as a Icon of Change at grassroots	representation to District/Block Officials	
Ø Children receiving support from elderly and village heads/ community leaders		

## 4. Empowering of Girls & Women

Impact	Milestone	Activities
<ul> <li>Ø Society abolishing practice of Early Child Marriage</li> <li>Ø Economic sustainability and independence for women and young girls</li> <li>Ø Girl Child standing for their rights</li> <li>Ø Women overcoming inhibitions and taking leadership roles</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>28 incidences of Early child marriage foiled</li> <li>A Tailoring Center established for young girls and women</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Anti-Child Marriage Campaigns</li> <li>Establishment of Training centers</li> <li>Formation of Mahila Mandal Groups</li> </ol>



### 5. Promoting Youth Participation and Building Skills

Ø Youth voice their 1. 101 Yuva Mandals 1. Youth concern and stand for its formulated Conferences/ resolution meetings	Impact	Milestone	Activities
Ø Receiving advanced generation skills2. 2,444 meetings led by the Youth Group2. Yuva Mandal FormationØ Mobilize support for Bal Panchayats and Mahila Mandals3. 5 Youth Trained on Computer Basic Skills3. Wall painting and 	<ul> <li>Ø Youth voice their concern and stand for its resolution</li> <li>Ø Receiving advanced generation skills</li> <li>Ø Mobilize support for Bal Panchayats and Mahila</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>101 Yuva Mandals formulated</li> <li>2,444 meetings led by the Youth Group</li> <li>5 Youth Trained on</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Youth Conferences/ meetings</li> <li>Yuva Mandal Formation</li> <li>Wall painting and slogan writings</li> <li>Participation in BMG activities</li> <li>Youth Training on</li> </ol>

### 6. Village Development Activities

Impact	Milestone	Activities
<ul> <li>Ø Economic and social wellbeing in communities</li> <li>Ø Access to education made possible</li> <li>Ø Health indicators improved</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>430 Government Social Welfare Schemes made access to villagers/ families</li> <li>6 New Angawadi's built</li> <li>45 Handpumps , 15 water tanks, and 16 Borewells installed</li> <li>42Kms long PCC built in villages</li> <li>10 BMGs got Electricity connections</li> <li>9 Health awareness generation camps / 900 villagers benefitted</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Block and District level advocacy</li> <li>Regular Follow ups on applications</li> <li>Health awareness generation camps facilitated</li> </ol>



## 7. Environment & Climate Change

Impact	Milestone	Activities
<ul> <li>Ø Greening of environment in villages</li> <li>Ø Skills building on environment protection techniques</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>4,000 plantations</li> <li>80 Youth trained on conservation techniques</li> <li>2,000 villagers participated in rallies and campaigns</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Plantation drive</li> <li>Youth trainings on environment conservation Technique</li> <li>Campaigns on Water Conservation and Afforestation</li> <li>Rallies on Sanitation and Hygiene</li> </ol>

## 8. Capacity Building & Training Programmes

Impact	Milestone	Activities
<ul> <li>Ø Communities are getting aware to legal rights of Children under POCSO, JJ Act</li> <li>Ø Bal Panchayat members asserting their rights by approaching authorities</li> <li>Ø Village officials handing over necessary support to Children in their matters of concern</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>7 Legal awareness camps organized/ 5 complaint raised by the communities</li> <li>Participation of 40 Bal Panchayat Members in NCPCR/SCPCR Child rights camps</li> <li>25 Bal Panchayat members exposed to Leadership skills</li> <li>75 Village Officials build awareness on Child rights</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Legal awareness camps organized</li> <li>Training of Bal Panchayat members on Leadership skills</li> <li>Training of Gram Panchayat Mukhiya's and Village/Block officials on Child rights</li> <li>Participation of Bal Panchayat members in NCPCR/SCPCR led events</li> </ol>



# **ANNEXE : II**

#### Abbreviations :

- AVA Association of Voluntary Action
- BBA Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- BMG Bhal Mitra Gram
- CSR Corporate Social Responsibility
- ILO International Labour Organization
- LFA Logical Framework Approach
- MDM Mid-Day Meals
- PPP Public Private Partnership
- PCM Project Cycle Management
- OOSC Out of School Children
- RTE Right to Education
- SSA Sarva Siksha Abyan
- SACCS South Asian Coalition to Child Servitude
- UNCRC United Nation's Convention on the Child Rights
- UDHR Universal Declaration of Human Rights



# ANNEXE.III

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#### ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR IN MICA MINING AREAS



#### A-23, Friends Colony West, New Delhi-110065 | Ph: +91 11 47511111

🈏 @KSCFIndia 🕂 /KSCFIndia 🔂 /KSCFIndia 🖂 info@satyarthi.org

