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# BALAKNAMA

**World's Unique Newspaper for and by Street and Working Children**

Balaknama is outcome of neglect and injustice to street and working children across the world. When children did not find space among adults, they decided to pen down their issues and glories, an attempt to change people's perception and ensuring identity, dignity, and participation of street children.



## POLICE BEATS AND ABUSES US: STORIES OF HORROR

Balaknama Bureau

When Balaknama reporters went to know about the well being of children living and working on railway stations, they were shocked to know about the real face of police.

Children reported that Police has been torturing them very much from last few months. They beat them badly and force them to work at railway stations.

14 years old Rashid (name changed) said, "I have never seen such a bad behavior of police in last 8 years. We are grafted in false theft cases". Not just this, they even coerce children to carry the dead bodies at railway station. Children are forced to pick garbage and clean the premises of police station. "We are paying a price to live at railway stations in the most brutal manner" said Rashid with a helpless face.

15 years old Banti (name changed) reported, "We do not have any security at railway stations. Police is misusing its power to torture us every day. We are very scared of police now. Those who should provide us a secured life are the only ones snatching our right to live."

## EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

very warm greetings from Editorial Team.

Balaknama has become strong voice of street children with your support. In this edition we bring to your attention violation of human rights of street children like Street Children continue to be abused openly by the Police; are forced to drink Contaminated Milk by a Headmistress; not welcomed at schools; still lacking attention in budget and polices; and inspiring stories of good work done them. Those who get moved by reading and wish to support (small or big, money or kind, skill or contact) or give feedback may write to balaknamaeditor@gmail.com

-Editorial Team

## FROM DUST TO GLORY



Balaknama Bureau

15 years old Jyoti stays in a night shelter with her family at Sarai Kale Khan once a beggar and a rag picker is now a confident and fearless leader of Badhte

Kadam- a federation of 12000 street and working children.

This dream has not been fulfilled in just one day but by many days of hard work and by her long *continued on pg. 2*

**Journey of National Secretary Jyoti**

## CHILDREN FORCED TO CONSUME CONTAMINATED MILK

Balaknama Bureau

Where the aim of midday meal planning should be to provide nutritious diet to children and improve their health, we came across a different scenario and saw the real face of mid day meal planning. This incident came to light at junior high school of Ashok Nagar located near BSA office of Agra where children were forced to drink the spoiled milk by their own school principal compromising on their health.

More shocking thing was when children refused to drink that milk they were abused and treated very badly by the



principal. Coincidentally, Badhte Kadam's District Secretary Poonam who studies in the same school witnessed all this happening and called childline number 1098 immediately and informed them about it. Timely response

from Childline workers saved the children from consuming the spoiled milk and after taking cognizance of the whole situation they informed BSA office also. BSA officers have assured principal's suspension on the whole issue.



## PRAYING FOR INDEPENDENCE, HE SOLD NATIONAL FLAGS

Balaknama Bureau

In spite of celebrating Independence Day at school with his school friends, 12 years old Sunil is seen selling flags at different traffic signals. Three years ago, 12 years old Sunil was taken to Delhi by his contractor by assuring his parents to give him job and will also let him study along with work. But it never happened. Sunil said, "I have been selling books under Defence Colony and Moolchand's flyover of South Delhi since last 3 years".

He added with a sad face, "My contractor broke all the promises

he made to my parents of letting me study along with work. He makes me work from morning till 11'o clock in night. During this I am abused, thrashed by many people and when I complain about it to my contractor, he scolds me more and tells me to go and work".

Sunil told that he stays with his 12 friends who work along with him at different traffic signals. He says, "Most of the time I sell books at traffic signals but when 26th January or 15th August approaches I celebrate these festivals by selling flags at signals as I cannot go to school and celebrate there like other children".

## From dust to glory

*continued from pg. 1*

lasting fight for the rights of street and working children from the time she became the leader of Badhte Kadam. She has been putting forward the issues and problems of street and working children very boldly in front of Government and Non-governmental organizations.

Due to all her qualities, she has carried on her journey from being a core committee member, to District Secretary and then finally to National Secretary of the federation.

"I am glad that members of Badhte Kadam considered me as a deserving candidate for the post of National Secretary" said Jyoti. The election was held between two candidates- Chandni (15years),

District Secretary of West Delhi and Jyoti.

Both the leaders gave an inspiring speech before casting their votes. Jyoti won the election with 17 votes over Chandni. "I was initially disheartened that I did not win the election but now I am happy that most deserving candidate and my close friend Jyoti has won this election, said Chandni. "I suddenly feel responsible of being National Secretary of the federation now, said Jyoti". I thank all those members who voted for me and made this dream possible. I assure all, that I will maintain the dignity of this post and will work for the organization and its members with my full commitment - added Jyoti".

# STREET GIRLS NEED SHELTER

Chandni (18 years old)

This is a sad story of three girls- 12 years old Kumkum, 11 years old Kiran and 9 years old Komal who were abandoned by their mother in childhood only and father is a drunker. Till now they were being taken care of by a family who themselves have no fixed place to live. This family along with these three girls was somehow managing in the temporary shelter

constructed outside Temple in Delhi but now they have to leave this place.

Girls with disheartened faces said, "We are thankful to this big hearted family who provided us the shelter and took care of all of us during our difficult times. We understand their problems also but we are afraid where we will go if this family also leaves us".

"We too are very helpless as we also live along the

roadside. We are now not capable of taking care of these girls anymore. We are not able to take care of our own children, how we will look after them" – said Family. They added, "We have no support from anywhere. Being girls I am more worried about their safety. If something goes wrong who will see to it. We cannot keep them with us now."

Girls are just praying day and night and wishing to see a miracle that they get a shelter soon to live a secured life so that they can also have a brighter future. "There are many children especially girls who find support from peer families but the moment they grow up, the families drop their support in absence of security." Said Jyoti (16 years), National Secretary of Badhte Kadam.



## OUR SCHOOL NOT SAFE-URGE STREET CHILDREN TURNED STUDENTS

Balaknama Bureau

Balaknama reporters got to hear shocking tales regarding the safety of students studying in government schools of Badarpur Area. This is the area where children do not wish to go to schools because they feel they are not safe in going to schools. When asked by our Balaknama reporters, Children answered, "There is no safety of children here in government schools. There is no one to look after who visit our schools. Every day we get to hear horror stories of boys and girls who get attacked on their way to school".

Children added, "Some thieves entered our schools premises



and created chaos there. Then recently a child was kidnapped while going to school. We were very scared now and thus stopped going school so that we are safe back at our homes".

When Balaknama reporters further enquired about the kid who was kidnapped, they got to know a very

horrendous story about the child. Police found out the kidnapped child after few days but he was in a very bad condition. He was brutally thrashed and assaulted by the goons and most probably he was being taken in a gunny bag due to which his face had many marks. His leg was also cut by the kidnappers.

This case has left scar on children's mind and they are very scared in going to the school. Parents also fear in sending their children to schools. "Please save us from these kinds of incidents and assure us a better future by providing us safety in our schools", Children appealed to the Government.

# WHEN WILL WE GET FREEDOM FROM CHILD LABOR?

## QUESTION RAISED BY BADHTE KADAM ON OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

Balaknama Bureau

On 15th August, when rest of India was celebrating India's Independence Day, members of Badhte Kadam, too, got an opportunity to hoist Indian Flag, courtesy Punjab National Bank. Around 30 members from parts of Delhi gathered in the morning with Tri Color in their hands and hopes in eyes.

69 years have passed since our independence but 40 million children are still not independent in its true sense. Childhood of our nation is still thriving on roads. Children are deprived of their rights. When they should be studying in School, they are being forced to work. They are not even sent to the school to study. The children showcased dance



on some patriotic songs and later shared their views.

"When children will get their rights and dues? When we will consider ourselves free from child labor? Asks Jyoti (16 years), National Secretary of the Federation.

"We will achieve our Independence on the day when our rights will not be exploited anymore and our participation will be ensured in development of the nation considering us also a part of it". Said 12 years old, Rahul.

"I am really happy to see such brilliant children. Their visit has changed our perception about street children. We will definitely help them achieving their vision". Said official from Punjab National Bank.

# STREET CHILDREN WILL MISS THEIR "ROLE MODEL"

Balaknama Bureau

Former Indian President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, known as the father of the country's military missile program died of a sudden heart attack while delivering a lecture in Shillong. As soon as this news spread, whole nation came under a state of grief. Not even elders, members of Badhte Kadam were also upset on hearing about his sudden demise.

"Either we knew



Chacha Nehru or Kalam Uncle", said 14 years old Mala, Badhte Kadam's member who sell garlands at traffic signal. She added, "Who will

now show us the right direction?"

"I heard that Kalam Uncle used to work in childhood for his family's survival. When

he can become President of India then why can't we? He was our role model." Said 14 years old Rahul, a rag picker.

Dr. Abdul Kalam was not only an inspiration to all generation but even to street children and children living on railway stations. They were his big time fans. It was amazing to know that Dr. Abdul Kalam had such a great aura that even children living on streets knew about him and how he reached this long

way..? Children were so impressed by him that his achievements and struggles were talked about by these children in all meetings of the federation.

A condolence meeting was organized by the members of Badhte Kadam to bid him last farewell and to pay their tribute to great scientist of the nation and adorable of all children "Dr. Kalam" by observing silence for five minutes.

# STREET CHILDREN'S GOLDEN FUTURE SOUGHT IN RAMDAN PRAYERS

Balaknama Bureau

Iftar party was organized by Badhte Kadam - A federation of street and working children on last Friday of Ramdan. "Party was organized to bid farewell to the month of Ramdan and to celebrate Eid on Saturday"- said Shanno, advisor of the federation in a festive mood. She proudly added- "The aim

of this party was to pray for the well being and bright future of street and working children and to spread the message of unity."

All children enjoyed the party very much but they also taught us (Balaknama reporters) some of the great lessons to learn from them. 13 years old Moin said, "We are very happy that federation organized this

party for us. We want that all people of our country should also live in unity and celebrate every festival in the same way like we did with great happiness".

15 years old Aftab proudly said, "This is the specialty of our federation Badhte Kadam that we celebrate every festival with great enthusiasm, either Diwali or Eid".



# POONAM-THE SAVIOR

**Poonam (15 years old)**

Poonam, District Secretary of Badhte Kadam federation came as a messiah in lives of four children- 14 years old Sonu, 12 years old Kali, 10 years old Ruby and 8 years old Tulsi when they were going through their difficult times in their family living in a colony in Agra.

Children told, "Our mother used to take care of us by working in people's homes after our father died but she suffered from T.B due to which she had to be admitted in S.N Medical College. After

few months, our brother also got affected by T.B. and we dint had money for our mother's treatment, how we will manage his treatment along with taking care of ourselves also".

Poonam called up Child line number 1098 to help this needy family. Child line team came to meet the children and helped in providing every kind of support to them. Child line wrote a written letter to District magistrate seeking help from him who in turn assured that these children will be their responsibility now.

Meanwhile, some

neighborhood also came forward by Poonam's efforts and helped in providing food materials for children. Due to federation efforts this case reached in media by which a anonymous person came forward to help this whole family and sent full month ration for them and a social activist named Sh. Naresh Paras is taking care of their mother's treatment.

Not only this, all three children got admission in Primary Girls School by Poonam's timely efforts. Federation salutes Poonam for her great efforts.



## REHABILITATION OF DESTITUTE CHILDREN- A MATTER OF CONCERN FOR THE COMMITTEE.

**Balaknama Bureau**

Orphans and destitute children surviving on streets have no place to live in Agra- our Taj city. 15 years old Poonam, District Secretary of the federation spoke to Smt. Kamlesh Kumari, Chairman of Bal Kalyan Samiti of Agra on the issue of rehabilitation of destitute children.

On which Kamlesh Kumari, Chairman of Bal Kalyan Samiti replied "Rehabilitation of destitute children has always been our matter of concern. We try and strive that no child remains on streets". Knowing

about the problems of destitute children Smt. Kamlesh Kumari added, "Children staying in slums can anytime come to us and share their problems with us. We will try to solve them after listening to them. We have been working on the issue of their rehabilitation".

Kamlesh Kumari, Chairman of Bal Kalyan Samiti told Poonam that they have availability of child care homes in the city where children from age group 0 to 10 years can be taken care of. Any child of this age group can be brought to the child care homes with the help of Committee.



## PARROT AND MYNAH-CHIT CHAT

### SOCIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE-A NEW HOPE FOR CHILDREN HOMES

Parrot and Mynah were sitting on a branch of tree; suddenly Mynah started flying towards somewhere.

Parrot: Hey Mynah, Where are you going so early morning?

Mynah: Parrot, I am going in a very important meeting today.

Parrot: Really, Can I also come along with you? Let me also see in which meeting are you going?

(Both flew and reached social audit committee's meeting)

Mynah: You know what Parrot, we are in the meeting of social audit committee which is formed by Ministry of Women and Child Development for children homes.

Parrot: Hey Mynah, which committees is this and when was this formed?

Mynah: This Social Audit Committee was formed by women and child department on 17th April, 2015 at central level according to Juvenile Justice Act after Supreme Court orders. Social Audit Committee is based on 2000 provisions of Juvenile Justice Act.

Parrot: Oh wow Mynah, that is very good but tell me what work will this committee do?

Mynah: This committee will have seven members who will review and evaluate the work and features of children homes made for children every year.

Parrot: But Mynah, How will the committee do such hard work..?

Mynah: Oh Parrot..

Committee will work in two ways.

Its first work would be to review and evaluate the implementation of Juvenile Justice Act according to which-

- Reviewing of Juvenile Justice Board, Bal Kalyan Samiti and Special Juvenile Police Units,

- Investigating the pending cases of Juvenile Justice Board and Bal Kalyan Samiti.

- Reviewing the working of Special Juvenile Police Units,

- Reviewing those who violate laws and those who care for children in need of protection in relation to the use of child friendly resources.

- Reviewing the other pending cases effecting the implementation of Juvenile Justice Act.

Parrot: And the other one is..?

Mynah: Second is, reviewing its own work like-

- Reviewing Child Protection homes like- Child Observation Homes, Special Homes, Protection homes, Children Homes and Shelter Homes.

- Reviewing Special child adopting agencies.

- Reviewing the work of District Social Audit Committee.

- Checking the reports submitted by District Social Audit Committee and providing suggestions to improve their work.

- Sending yearly reports to the Ministry.

Parrot: Wow Mynah, This is really very good, it will help the needy children.

Mynah: Yes Parrot..

Saying this they flew away for their next news.

## STREET CHILDREN VOWS CONSORS THROUGH RADIO

**Pooja (15years old)**

Radio has started gaining importance in life of common man after the famous radio program "Mann ki Baat" (inner voice) hosted by our honorable Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to create connect with common man directly. Street and working children also look forward to radio as a better communication medium to convey their problems to people. Recently, Radio mantra 91.9 F.M. organized a program for children living and work-



ing on railway stations through which children shared their problems with common people.

Bobby and Nisha, Members of Badhte Kadam, living at railway stations shared some horrific stories. They

said, "We are treated very badly at stations. People cast bad eyes on us and abuse us. We are not at all safe at railway stations".

"Not only Police, passengers visiting railway stations also consider us

as criminals. We are the first ones to be seen as suspects whenever something bad happens with anybody at station. We feel very bad about it", says Gopal, one of our federation's member.

"There is nobody to

support us. Badhte Kadam is the only federation which talks about street and working children's identity and fight for their rights", says Pooja, District Secretary of the federation. She added, "This federation was made out of children's efforts only and we are running it very proudly on our own".

Badhte Kadam were able to put forward their problems and issues to general masses. They demand security for them at railway stations and expect love and care from society and system.

**Balaknama Bureau**

Street and working children shared their perception and thoughts on how to "Stop Child Labor" by making some unprecedented paintings which were portrayed in art exhibition organized at Arpana Art Gallery in Delhi. Around 81 paintings were exhibited in the art gallery. This art exhibition came at the right time to show the disapproval and unhappiness of children against a law revision where the Government is allowing a 14 year child to work along with going to school. This art exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Aseem Srivastava, Member Secretary of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

## ART BECOMES MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION "STOP CHILD LABOR"

paintings have made me realize that Child Labor is a very serious topic to



(NCPCR).

13 year old Suman showed the reality of Child Labor by drawing a picture of a child being burdened by the work. Along with it she asked some eye opening ques-

tions. She asked, "Why a child has to work? Why there is no one to take care of us? I am shocked by government's view saying that a child can work after coming from school. What kind of schooling

that would be?"

Mr. Aseem Srivastava was highly touched and amazed by the way children have expressed their views against child labor through their paintings. He said, "These

be taken care of. I agree with children's suggestions and will make sure that NCPCR also consider their suggestions seriously and should definitely do something about it".

**Balaknama Bureau**

Balaknama reporters got to know that though there has been an increase in the budget for health and education this time by Delhi's Government. But nothing came in favor of street children. There is no improvement seen in the conditions of government schools and government hospitals. Street Children still remain out of the reach of these services.

This real scenario was revealed by those 18 students who got admission in government schools. Children shared their sad experiences with Bal-

aknama reporters. They said, "We were treated very badly by the school teachers on the day of admission. Nobody spoke to us properly". 14 years old Rahul added, "I lost my confidence and my keenness to study when teachers present there humiliated us saying that we will have a bad effect on other students as we live on roads and are beggars. Does that mean we do not have right to study?"

When reporters met



the vice principal of that school they got to know that most of the time teachers are not available

in government schools to teach. Vice Principal reported, "Children are not taken care of well because

the number of teachers teaching in our school is very less and I have been complaining about this via email to the education department but there is no response from their side".

Children feel that merely by increasing the budget will not help until and unless there is proper implementation of policies in the education department and teachers should be held responsible for neglecting their duties.

# JOURNEY FROM DARKNESS TO ENLIGHTENING WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE

## Balaknama Bureau

It is very difficult for a person to come out from the clutches of drug addiction but a person's will power and the confidence of changing oneself can do miracles and one such miracle which we saw around us was that of Mukesh.

Mukesh (16 years old) was just 11 years old when for the first time he came to railway station. He has been selling betel leaves since last 5 years. Slowly and gradually, he

started doing bad things like pick pocketing, got addicted to drugs in his friends' company. His life started becoming hell engulfing him in the darkness but his will power over powered him and took him out of this.

Badhte Kadam came as a ray of light in his life. He got associated with CHETNA and started coming to harm reduction centre but his addiction o dugs started pulling him back to the same life. He stopped going to te reduction centre after



few days.

Members of Badhte

Kadam acted as a very crucial part in his life. They did not leave him alone and counselled him to come back to the centre. He started coming again to the centre and started taking interest in studying. He could study Hindi well, started having good knowledge of English and Maths also.

Mukesh's life took a turn from here towards a better future. He became an honest leader of the federation now and started helping other children who are involved in bad

activities and consume drugs. He counsel those children and make them get involved in various activities so that they remain away from drugs. He encourages them to study at centre and is all the time engrossed in helping those children.

Mukesh has become a responsible citizen with the help of Badhte Kadam. He is working very hard towards achieving his dream of becoming teacher and encourages other children to lead a better life.



## WHERE ARE OUR GOOD DAYS??

### Balaknama Bureau

When on one side our honorable Prime Minister promises of a prosperous future by coining the term "Ache Din" (Good Days) for people of India and on the other side our street and working children asks, "When will our good days come?" This same question was asked by 35 leaders of Badhte Kadam representing different districts in national meeting organized by Badhte Kadam on 7th August, 2015. Serious topics like education, child trafficking, child labor and problems of children living on streets were discussed.

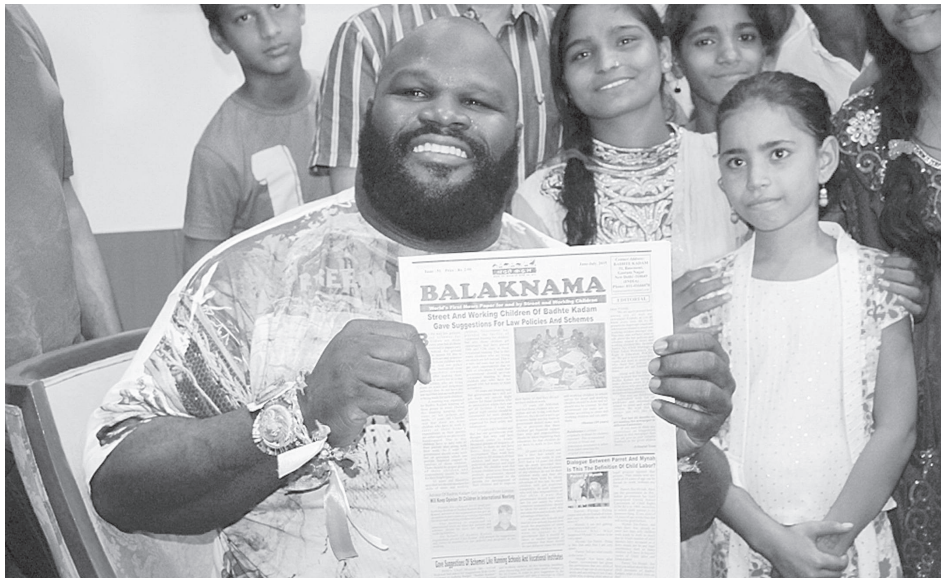
Jyoti, National Secretary of federation said, "Does our Prime Minister know that around 11 million children are still compelled to live on streets? Children are

deprived of their basic rights due to which they remain deprived of basic education and health facilities in today's scenario when we are talking about good days for everyone".

Our former National Secretary Chandni present in the meeting also said, "During my tenure of two years we met around 20 Government, Non-governmental organizations and various government officers and spoke about the issues of children but no strong step has been taken till now for children".

"We have this Balaknama newspaper as our only medium to communicate the problems of street and working children to our Prime Minister. I request him to look into our problems and bring good days for us also", added Jyoti.

## STREET CHILDREN SOUGHT PROTECTION FROM MARK HENRY



### Balaknama Bureau

20 members of Badhte Kadam had a gala time when they met world well known wrestler "Mark Henry" on the occasion of Raksha

Bandhan.

Girls tied rakhi on his wrist and took a promise to fight for the protection of children living on streets and footpaths, deprived of security. Mark Henry was very

happy to know about Balaknama newspaper. He said, "I appreciate the thoughts and efforts of street and working children and I appeal to all people to read this newspaper".

## CHILD PROTECTION FOREMOST, SAYS ASSISTANT COMMANDANT R.P. TOMAR

### Balaknama Bureau

Street and working children participated in the "Safety Week" organized by RPF Police station at Agra. Theme of this campaign was "Child protection". Children met Mr. R. P. Tomar, Assistant Commandant of RPF and got to know more about the week. This meeting proved to be a successful platform



for interaction between children and Police to get to know about each other. Children said, "Police asked us about the problems which we face

at Agra Cantt Railway station. They assured us that they are always ready to help us whenever something wrong happens at railway station".

# STREET CHILDREN SHARED PM'S CALL ON CLEANLINESS

**Balaknama Bureau**

Members of Badhte Kadam organized a 'Swachchta Abhiyan Rally' to appeal to people to keep trains and railways sta-

tions clean. Around 150 street and working children participated in this rally.

Children had impactful messages to be shared with general masses.

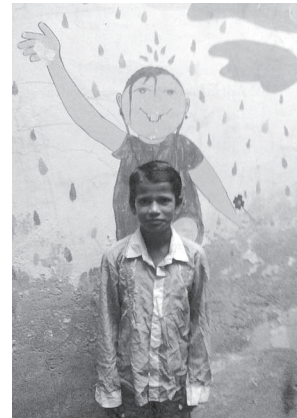
14 years old Golu said, "When our Prime Minister can pick up broom and clean then why cant we? We should be responsible enough to keep our surroundings clean".



# SHAPING THE DREAMS

**Balaknama Bureau**

Street children do have their dreams and they have all the rights to fulfill them but unfortunately many children are not lucky enough to fulfill them. Such a story was of Shabana (9 years old) before coming in contact with Badhte Kadam.



Shabana belongs to a very weak section of the society. She lives at Mathura station with her sister and two brothers. Their mother left them and father is a drunkard. Shabana has to work very hard to take care of her siblings. She wants to study but she has to work and her drunkard father is so merciless that whatever she earns, he snatches that even from her and spend it on his drinks.

One of the CHETNA's member got her enrolled in their centre seeing her interest in studies but her father did not let her study and started taking

her along with him for rag picking from Mathura to Faridabad.

When Pooja, one of the member of federation went to enquire about her. She was very sad to know Shabana's story. Shabana with tears in her eyes said, "My father does not let me study and if I persist on going he beats me up. He forcefully takes me with him to do rag picking".

Pooja consoled shabana and explained her that studying is also important along with working. Similarly, Pooja tried to explain her father also. She

said, "Shabana wants to become a good teacher so please let her study. Please do not misbehave with her and if you will continue with this we will report o the police against you."

Since then Shabana has been living a better life and she goes to school also with the help of Badhte Kadam.

"Railway stations represent our country's image. People from all over the world arrive here so first and foremost we should keep our railways stations clean.", said Hema (15 years old) 13 years old Harsh appealed to all the passengers arriving at railways stations and also the people who work there not to litter at rail-

way stations and help us in keeping it clean.

RPF and GRP staff of Mathura appreciated the efforts of children. They said, "It is not an individual effort to clean our surroundings, we all have to come together to keep our trains and railway stations clean. We appeal to all along with these children to keep areas neat and clean".

## BANKS MAY HELP STREET CHILDREN-A RAY OF HOPE!!

**Banks will now spend some percentage of their yearly profit for the development of needy children**  
Balaknama Bureau

There came a ray of light amongst dark clouds when the news broke out that now Government has asked all the banks to spend some percentage of their yearly profit on children who are below poverty line. This information was shared by Punjab & National Bank's manager Mr. Vijay Kumar Sharma with the members of Badhte Kadam. He said, "We open bank accounts and help people to save their money. The amount which we used to earn from opening accounts was earlier given to Government but now it will be spend for under-privileged children".

## ATTENTION ALL BADHTE KADAM MEMBERS!!

Dear members, many thanks for making Badhte Kadam a unique federation. You all are important to us. But to be a strong and informed member, you need to promise us following:

- Study well in schools
- Never get into substance or drugs
- Raise voice against discrimination. You can call

**CHILDREN'S HELP LINE NUMBERS**

Child line Number  
**1098**

Police Helpline Number  
**100**

**CONTACT THESE TOLL FREE NUMBERS IF YOU FACE ANY PROBLEM.**

# BALAKNAMA APPEAL SCHOOLS TO BE CHILD FRIENDLY

**Chandni (14 years)**

Balaknama's reporter Chandni met Smt Manju Khatri, Joint Director of education department of Municipal Corporations of Delhi and got to know about the working of government schools. She has been associated with education department from last 15 years.

Chandni asked her, "Why child labor is still prevalent in our country? Why children like to work rather

than to go to school and study?" Joint Director answered her question very calmly and said, "Children are very naive and innocent, whatever they are taught they learn that. We should encourage children to study and should always show them right direction".

Chandni asked her, "Why children does not like to study in Government Schools? Giving her reply on this Smt. Manju Khatri smilingly said, " Its not that chil-



dren are not taught well in government schools. The problem is teacher cannot look after every child in the school. They

cannot help every child in doing their homework. Thats why children stop coming to school. I think parents

should also take care about their studies."

Chandni asked, "Are there any kind of programs being run by education department for dropouts?" She replied, "Yes we are working on this issue and we have come up with many such programs which can help create children's interest in studies. We have employed specific counselors for helping children so that more and more children remain associated with education."

## TODAY'S YOUTH, TOMORROW'S ENTREPRENEUR

**Balaknama Bureau**

Street and working children living at Nizamuddin railway station were very happy when they got an opportunity to participate in one day workshop organized by NSIC at their technical centre. The theme of this training was "Today's Youth Tomorrow's Entrepreneur". It was a great opportunity for children to learn various technicalities needed in starting a new venture. Children learnt the production of things like



bread, soap, socks, washing powder, jute, use & throw plate, glass, etc. and the machines used in making them Children said, "We never knew earlier that we can also start our business with less investment

by making a small group of us. We learnt about the prices of the machines and various tactics used to market the products".

They added, "We are grateful to NSIC who helped in increasing our information by conducting this knowledgeable workshop and helping us in attaining confidence to start our own venture someday".

## STREET CHILDREN GOT 'BIRTHDAY' AS GIFT

**Balaknama Bureau**

Suraj, Khushi and Sangeeta- members of Badhte Kadam were very delighted when they got an opportunity to celebrate their birthday which was very unusual for them as their birthday was never celebrated before. This was made possible by Mr. Nikhil Khurana who came there to celebrate his daughter Smriti's birthday with 65 members of Badhte Kadam. When he got to know that these three members also share the



birthday on the same day then he said, "I am very happy to know this. Now we will celebrate their birthday together with our daughter". He ordered cake for them and got burger, frooti, etc distributed among all

children.

Smriti's Mother said, "I am so happy that I celebrated my daughter's birthday with Badhte Kadam members. I feel proud that we celebrated four birthdays together and could bring smile to their faces".

"I wish these children could also celebrate their birthdays like all other children. I felt very happy coming here and I appreciate the efforts of Badhte Kadam who is doing such nice work for these children", said Mr. Nikhil Khurana.

## STREET CHILDREN INVITED AS "SPECIAL GUESTS"

**Balaknama Bureau**

One more day of happiness added into the life of members of Badhte Kadam federation when they got an invitation as "Special Guests" from TV channel Home Shoppe 18 on occasion of Independence Day. Children got an opportunity to meet the artists of advertisement world of Home Shoppe 18. Varun Dhanwan, Anchor of Home



Shoppe 18 explained children about the working of their channel. He explained the process of making the advertisements of different products and how they

are communicated to the outside world through the medium of artists.

"How can we get an opportunity to work with your channel?" asked, Sulekha, member of Badhte Kadam. Replying to his question, Varun said, "Any talented child who has completed class XIIth can join our channel". 12 years Rustom mesmerized the artists by his dance performance in the end.



## HARD WORK PAID OFF!!

**Balaknama Bureau**

Happiness of children associated with Badhte Kadam knew no limits when they received their job offer letters. Children of age group of 18 years or above associated with Badhte Kadam are sent to various training centres to help them get skilled. Similarly, 5 children of Nizamuddin railway station along with 4 children of Mathura Station participated in the business training provided by the G.M.R training centre. Children got certificates on successful completion of 45 days of their training. Children received training on the following topics- Basic Computer

(3 months duration), Basic Electrical and House Wiring (3 months duration), Fridge and Air Condition Repair (4.6 Months duration) and Basic Cargo Management (3 months duration). They were also groomed on English and Personality Development skills.

"I am grateful to Badhte Kadam who gave me the opportunity to get trained on skills which helped me in getting a good job. My life has got a better direction now", said 16 years old Vikas. Children said, "We feel more confident now after attending the training. This training has helped us in getting jobs in malls, guest houses etc".



## AN EXCURSION TRIP TO 'WATER PARK'

**Balaknama Bureau**

Wish of visiting Water Park came true on 6th July, 2015 when members of Badhte Kadam were taken to Water Park for picnic which is one of their favorite places. Children were extremely happy and had great fun at Water Park. They shared their fun filled moments with Balaknama reporters. "We took many rides. We did rain dance. We all enjoyed a lot", said Vishal. Komal said sharing her haunted

experience, "It was very thrilling experience to visit haunted house. It was very dark there and it had a room full of mirrors. We could hear the scary voices inside the room. We had to find out the right exit door after entering the haunted house and we did that."

"I was amazed to see this world in real. We have always seen such places in movies and serials. It was a different place altogether. I thank Badhte Kadam who gave us this wonderful day to enjoy".