

BALAKNAMA

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

“Balaknama is the newspaper presented by Street and Working children themselves to fight for their own rights and problems because they are being completely ignored.

WHY DID PEOPLE BEAT STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN

CHILDREN FROM 14 STATES PUT FORWARD THEIR THOUGHTS

Two day meeting was organized in National Bal Bhavan by Campaign Against Child Labor. Children from following 14 states participated in this meeting – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Orissa, Haryana, Rajasthan, Telangana. Balaknama Team covered this event. Things heard, seen and felt by Balaknama Reporters were as below

Reporter –Shambhu, Chetan and Deepak

Children discussed the issues of child labour through plays and charts, how children are getting involved in child labour. Children who are working in their homes were told by their parents to get involved in small work in homes but sooner or later they get involved in bigger works. Parents keep their children involved in work for the whole day which is harmful for them. This type of work is becoming dangerous for children as children who are 14 years of age or less get involved in family work and these children who help their parents remain devoid of education. Small children are working in their homes. Is this not child labour? Government has made the law that a child of 14 years of age cannot be involved in child labour but can be involved in family work but in reality if we see children are getting involved in dangerous works inside their homes too. Government law has not

done by children that is why children are mostly now seen employed in homes. Children showed their anger and said, “Children are getting devoid of education because they are compelled by their own parents to work and that is why children get distracted from their studies. Children start moving to the feeling



WHY PEOPLE BEAT STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN?

1. Madhya Pradesh Bhopal Chetakbridge, 16 years old Akash (name changed): I work at a tea shop. If I get a bit late, my owner beats me up and threatens me to go away.
2. 15 years old Reshma (name changed): I stay at railway station and people ask me to do bad things and if I refuse to do that they beat me.
3. 15 years old Ankit (name changed): I do the work of picking garbage from people's homes. If the garbage gets spilled on the stairs, the owner abuses me and sometimes even beat me too.
4. 14 years old Aarti (name changed): I sell toys in the market. Whenever I go to market people starts beating me and shoo me away from the market.
5. 17 years old Ravi (name changed): I pick rags at railway station. People there consider me a bad element and thus beat me up.
6. 15 years old Asha (name changed): I beg at red lights. People molest me there and at times beat me up.
7. 13 years old Kundan (name changed): I work at a garage shop. My owner asks me to pick heavy car tools and if I am not able to do so he abuses me and hit me by the tool itself.
1. 17 years old Payal (name changed): I work in a bungalow. I do not do any mistake still my owner beats me.
2. 14 years old Hari (name changed): I wash utensils at a dhaba. One day by mistake I broke a glass for which my owner beat me and did not give me salary for one month.
3. Tamil Nadu Shalu (name changed): I work in a mill for the whole day. They do not allow me to use washroom and if I say two three times, they abuse me and starts hitting me.

of greed that working gives you money and not studying and this money will support

their parents too”. After this children explained through the medium of chart paper that

child rights memorandum of understanding says that if parents of a child are not

getting proper wages then it is responsibility of the government that they help such parents so that their family's situation can change and they can send their children to school and should make sure that their rights are not exploited. Children further said, “People who employ children forcefully will not be spared from legal action. We all are against those people who make children work in their adolescence”.

Children added, “Government announced that children can be involved in non-dangerous work and people are taking advantage of children from this. People employ us in dangerous work saying that we will be working in non-dangerous work. Government has given the permission to children to work by making the workable age as 14 years”. Street and working children said showing their anger, “This should not at all happen that a child of 14 years can work. This decision is against us. This should be stopped and 18 years should only be the working age. Nobody has the right to exploit our rights”. This way street and working children shared their worries and on other hand they expressed their happiness about the world conference on child labour to be held in Argentina who is asking our country
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EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

Heartily wishes from street and working children on the occasion of International Street and working children.

Friends Street and working children's newspaper Balaknama has come up again with real stories and news with this edition.

It is a very happy moment for street and working children that they are recognized by UNCRC now. It is now believed that street and working children exists in the world and they also have their problem which needs to be addressed.

We are glad that we have got the recognition and our problems will also be taken care of now and something good will be done for us.

Thus Street and Working children are bringing with it (This is our time now, are you listening to us) and some similar stories of struggle.

We hope that you will like this edition and do send us your feedback on above mentioned address.

The Editorial Board

CHILDREN PUSHED INTO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY THEIR OWN PARENTS

Reporter Vijay Kumar

When reporter went to meet children in slums, he got to know that wrong things are happening with children there and nobody was ready to talk about it. Children were very scared and were not ready to disclose anything to the reporter. 13 years old Girl said, "My mother forcefully sends me to an uncle and in return takes money for it. And if I refuse she beats me up and does not even give me food so I have to go. But whom do we tell our problems to". When reporter asked a 14 years old girl about her problem, she said, "There are some

dominant people who get involved in obscenity with our mother too. When we or our mothers go to pick wooden logs, area staff sexually exploits us and they even snatch our logs and beat us too". Reporter got to know from other people that this is their profession. People come here from nearby colony and pay for this obscenity. Their parents are also involved in it. Children said, "We have been seeing these people since very long. Nothing has changed in them".

Reporter got to know from 12 to 15 years old girls that around 40 to 50 children are into sex work pushed by their known or their parents. They said, "50% children do not go to school here and their parents do not even want them to go. Children here work with their parents and do the work of monkey play, begging, boot polishing and of cleaning ears. When reporter spoke to these children, they said, "We want to study but our parents make us do wrong things forcefully".



CHILDREN SELLING RAW ALCOHOL OPENLY

Balaknama Bureau

"These children are 10 to 15 years old only". Reporter was shocked seeing that this work was done by such small kids. After investigating reporter got to know that their parents make the raw alcohol but does not supply on their own. They get it sold by the children near them. 15 years old boy said, "We remain involved in this work since morning till 9 at night. We supply in the markets also and most of the people come to buy from us only as they all know that nobody sells this raw alcohol here except us. Our parents have set up shops selling betel leaves and tobacco. People come here to eat betel leaf and buys alcohol also". Reporter asked, "Do you not fear police while supplying raw alcohol?" Children replied, "Police also come to us to buy alcohol and our parents handle those who say something. We children do not suffer anything". Reporter asked, "Where do

you get this alcohol from?" 14 years old boy said, "We do not buy it from anywhere, it is made by our parents only. They have been doing this work since very long". Reporter asked, "What is the cost of one packet?" Children said, "That depends on you, what kind of packet you require. We sell three kinds of alcohol packets, one is very small, second a bit larger than it and third the largest. They are priced according to their size". Reporter asked children, "Do you all go to school?" 16 years old boy replied laughingly, "We have been selling liquor from the time we have gained consciousness. Our parents have also never discussed about studies. Only money matters for them. We children are into this work for the whole day". 14 years old boy said, "I once said to my parents that I want to go to school but they scolded me and said what will you get by going there, do your work. Since them studying is only a dream for me".

REPAIRING CARS TO RUN HOME

Talkative Reporter Vikas, Reporter Chetan

There is a market where iron is sold and bought where people come in their cars from far off places to buy iron. Labours load iron in the cars. There are two kids here who do the work of repairing the cars. One is 14 years old and other is 8 years old. These two repair all the cars which break down like they fill water in the water tank of the cars if it becomes less. Reporter asked these children, "Why do you only repair these cars?" The child replied, "When cars are loaded with iron then they cannot be taken anywhere because if it de load the car again then the labour

has to be paid again. So we roam here in this market only. Whosoever needs us can call us". Reporter asked, "You guys are very small, how do you do this work?" 14 years old boy said, "We have been doing this work since childhood. Earlier it was scary but now we does not feel scared. Our homes run on Rs 40 or 50 which we get from repairing one car". Reporter asked, "Do you feel any problem while repairing cars?" 8 years old boy said, "We face difficulty while removing a punctured tyre. We have to apply much strength to open the tyre nuts, due to which we feel pain in our bodies. We have to do this work out of compulsion".

WHY DID PEOPLE BEAT STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN

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about our law and status of child labour. Children said, "People from India would be present there and we are glad that they are also asking about the condition of street and working children of our country". Then children who performed plays said to the children who came from 14 different states, "This is a golden opportunity for all of us to share our problems. We can tell our children's status to them by participating in this conference so that they can help street and working children so that we can become capable of moving ahead in our lives".

Some main points discussed there:

- If Government makes any law regarding street and working children they should surely consult them before doing so.

- People who are employing children to work should not do so and they should not exploit children's rights.

- Vocational training centre should be opened for street and working children so that they are trained according to their skills and to keep their future secure.

- There should be no kind of children's exploitation. Children would not do heavy work in their homes too because that is also considered child labour only. Children would be working for 15-20 minutes only otherwise their study time and playing gets wasted and no proper development takes place.

Children who have come from different 14 states had also spent their life miserably. There were some girls among these children who have done work of lifting lights in marriages and there were boys who

do work of carrying bricks. These children asked following questions to Sh Omkar Sharma, Labour Department Officer who puts forward the things favourable for children in front of the Government-

- Does 14 years to 18 years old children not work?

- Is it necessary for children of age 7 to 14 years to work after their school?

- If children help in family work, will it not be considered child labour?

Sh Omkar Sharma said, "Any person who employ children in some work will be imprisoned for 6 months and have to pay Rs.20,000 as fine. According to Government, 14 to 18 years is the adolescent age. If you see any such children working somewhere you can tell us through social media so that those children can be given help".

CHILDREN'S HELP
LINE NUMBERS

CONTACT THESE TOLL FREE
NUMBERS IF YOU FACE ANY
PROBLEM.

Child line Number

1098

Police Helpline Number

100

Street and Working children suffering from scorching heat

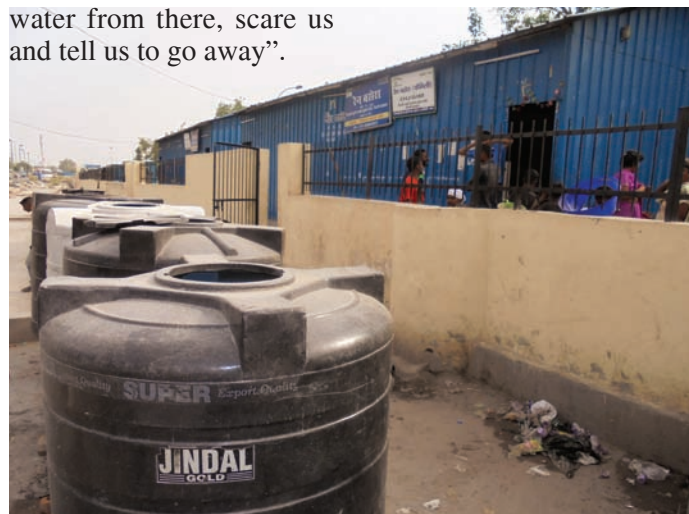
Balaknama Bureau

Reporter asked street children, "How are you staying in such scorching heat?" 15 years old boy said, "Increasing heat is troubling us a lot. Our work has also reduced due to scorching sun as earlier we could sell our things the whole day in market but now it is not possible so we sell things in the evening". Children staying in night shelters and under the flyovers are facing

terrible water problems. Reporter saw there are three tanks outside the shelters but all were empty with no single drop. Children said, "Tanker comes daily from Delhi Jal Board in morning and night but these three tanks also remain insufficient due to large population here. Water is also not good in it as these three syntax tanks were put here in winters and since then they have not been cleaned and its lid is also broken. All dirt gets inside

it and water becomes hot too. This water stinks badly still we have to drink this only". They added, "We go to railway station when there is no water inside the tanks but we are scolded away by Policeman there. Then we go to a temple there also we are shooed away. There is Gurunanak drinkable water in market and people get cold water to drink from there free of cost but the uncle does not let street and working children drink

water from there, scare us and tell us to go away".



PARENTS' UNEMPLOYMENT LEADING TO CHILD LABOUR

Balaknama Bureau

20-25 children are brought from places like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal to make them employ in different kind of work. Reporter got to know from children that these children are involved in work for the whole day but are seen in the evening only. Reporter visited in the evening to confirm this information. Reporter saw that a 14 year old child is working at the momos shop and as the evening approaches the crowd increases at the



shop and the child faces difficulty in frying momos

in large quantity but he still manages somehow.

Reporter tried to talk to the child after people left but child did not talk. After contacting child for around 3-4 days regularly, the child responded. Reporter asked, "Why were you not talking to me earlier?" Child replied, "There was a boy standing beside me whenever you tried talking to me. This boy is sent by our owner to keep a watch on us that is why I was not talking to you. This boy is sent to check if we are saving any money". Reporter asked him the first question, "I got to know that

you work the whole day but the momos shop get opened in the evening then how come you are involved in the work for whole day?"

Child replied, "It is correct that momos shop get opened in the evening but the whole day we are busy preparing momos veg roll and non-veg roll. Our owner just gets us all the material and we prepare everything with the help of an uncle". Reporter asked second question, "Do you face any problem while preparing these momos?" Child replied, "Police does not create any problem for us or our owner handles them. We face problem while frying the momos and veg roll as the place where we have our shop remains too crowded so it becomes difficult for us to manage".

Reporter asked third question, "Why have you come here to work from your village and how much do you earn?" 15 years child said, "Our parents do not get any work in our village. That is why we have to roam here and there in search of work leaving or studies behind. We get Rs. 3000 per month".

NEW POLICE OFFICER ON DUTY CHILDREN STAYING AT RAILWAY STATION SUFFER

Balaknama Bureau

Children staying at railway station sharing their sad story said, "We pick rags at railway station for our survival but new Police officers who come at railway station behave badly with us". A child said, "I ran away from my house because of the physical abuse which I had to bear and I chose railway station as my home. We have been staying here from last 4 years. Recently only Police officer became our friend here, he used to listen to all our problems and help us. We were also studying properly but the sad thing is that he recently got transferred to a new place. New police officer tortures us badly. He just doesn't want to see us here. Whenever we go to pick bottles from trains, he comes running with sticks to beat us". He added, "Old police officer had also arranged a place for sleeping for us but our problem has increased since the old officer left.



We all children used to stay together earlier but now we again have to sleep somewhere on railway platform. Same problems have started arising again. So we want that whenever a police officer is transferred, he leave a written notice behind for children so that the new officer does not treat us badly".

GIRL STAYING COMPULSIVELY WITH MOTHER BEING TORTURED

Balaknama Bureau

Two children were staying happily with their parents in their village but after their father dies, their mother became mentally unstable who was not then able to differentiate between right and wrong. Their maternal uncle aunty threw them from their house. Currently these children are staying in a temple with

their mother. Their mother does not work and remains all the time in the drunken state. People do wrong things with these kids- a boy aged 12 years old and a girl aged 15 years old, taking advantage of their mother's mental condition. Talkative reporter got to know that anybody comes and pick them up from there as they sleep outside the temple and sexually exploit

the girl. Nearby children told the reporter that people give money to their mother. Talkative Reporter spoke to the girl. Girl told fully about her. She said, "It hurts a lot when people sexually exploit me. My mother also does not say anything when I tell her about this. She is only bothered about her liquor. Whenever somebody gets her liquor she asks that person to take me with him. I



want freedom from this but I am not getting it". Talkative Reporter asked, "Why don't you go to a shelter? You will be safer there". She replied, "My mother will become alone if I will leave her. That is why I do not anywhere".

BEGGING, THE ONLY OPTION FOR SURVIVAL



Balaknama Bureau

A 17 years old girl was seen begging at the red light with her mother and a small baby in her mother's lap. Balaknama reporters went to talk to them and got to know the reason behind their begging at red light. Blind girl said explaining her sad story, "I got married to a man at the age of 14 years

and when I got pregnant he started torturing me and stopped giving me any money for managing household chores. When my baby was born he started working in marriage parties. He met with an accident there and lost his hand due to felling of an electric wire. He stopped working and I lost all livelihood options. What work can a blind girl

do, thinking this me, my mother with my one year old baby resorted to begging at red light. Now I am able to take care of my child and my husband easily. I do household chores also after begging and my mother manages the cooking as I am unable to cook due to lack of eyes. I am able to do the cleaning part and can also take care of my baby". She added, "It is very difficult for me to beg at red light as fast running cars cross near red light. That is why I come with my mother who holds my hand and take me here and there. I can only listen to the voices of people as it is dark for me everywhere. I want that the Government should take cognizance of me and my child. Government should take care of children like us so that we don't have to beg for our livelihood".



MISUSE OF FREE INTERNET-ELDER CHILDREN SHOW PORNOGRAPHY TO YOUNGER KIDS

Balaknama Bureau

People have been enjoying full internet and calling service since Jio announced its free service from October 2016. On the other side it is having a bad impact on children staying at railway station. Children told, "Elders are enjoying this facility but our lives have become miserable as small children and girls also come to station to pick rags". 15 years old boy said, "There is an elder boy who uses Jio sim and watches pornography on his phone all the time. In the evening when we were going to pick up rags we saw four children with this man in the train near the cleaning lane. These children did not know about his habits that is why came in his trap. That man stopped his phone till the time we reached there. We asked those children sitting with him, "What are you doing here?" Those children replied, "Bhaiya

when we were going to pick rags, he called us and started showing us this porn video. When we refused to see the video he threatened us that he will not let us pick rags on this station. That is why we started watching this video out of compulsion". A 16 year old boy said, "I also became his prey once like these children. He called me to show a good video but later he started the porn video and tried touching my private parts. So I ran away". 16 year old girl said, "Earlier we did not have to face any problem. This has started since Jio sim has come. Boys are also not even safe now. These elder boys did not used to see porn videos as they had to pay for the internet services but now these are available free of cost so now whole day they watch porn videos. They also show these videos to small children and then sexually exploit them. Many children are getting exploited because of this".

RUN AWAY CHILDREN ARE EASY TARGET

Balaknama Bureau

Balaknama reporter conducted a support group meeting with children staying at railway station. Children shared their problems during the meeting. They said, "We do not get much bottles to pick up from railway station so we go to different places to pick up bottles. One day we went to Connaught place and we were shocked to see many children like us picking the bottles there as two days back there were no kids to be seen. 15 years old child tried talking to one of the child but he got scared and ran away. This same kid was seen picking up rags on the second day also so they again tried talking to him. He replied in a scary tone, "Why do you want to talk

to me?" We told him that we also pick bottles like you but you run away whenever you see us. 14 years old child said, "We do not do this work with our wish. We have an owner of us who make us do this work and he has asked us to not to talk to anyone and not to tell us about anything. That is why I was not talking to you". Then the child asked him, "Where have you all come from?" child replied, "We have come from different places. Some have come from Bihar, Nepal and Rajasthan. We are around 15 children of 14 to 17 years of age. We had come to Delhi due to bad family conditions but we did not know we had to suffer like this here. Our owner is an old man and he makes such children his prey that has run away from their

homes or is into dark world of drugs. He makes them work for his selfish interest". One child asked them, "How much money does he give you whom you work with?" Child said, "He does not give us money. He only provides us with food in morning and night. In afternoon we beg food from others. But whatever money we earn he drinks liquor from that".

CHILDREN COMPELLED TO MAKE INJURIES ON THEIR BODIES FOR BEGGING

Balaknama Bureau

Some families staying under flyover make their children work. Reporter recently got to know that they send their children to beg in this scorching heat and if children refuse then they abuse them. Reporter met a child who was begging in the sun. On talking to him, child told, "Our parents send us to beg. They do not work at all and compel us to beg. This is our family ritual like I have 6 siblings in my family and my parents ask them also to beg. We do not any work except begging". Reporter asked children, "You beg whole day, do people give you money?" Children said,



"Most of the people do not give money. At times we get hit by vehicles too during begging which leads to injuries in our body parts. Our parents do not even

get them treated and rather increase them so that we can request people for money for its treatment". Reporter saw a child begging whose head and nose was hurt badly. He asked the child, "You are hurt so badly why you have not got it treated?" To this child replied, "If I get it treated then how will I get money. My parents also increase it every day so that it doesn't get ok and I keep getting money by showing my injury marks". Children said, "We give all the money which we earn to our parents and they buy liquor for themselves out of that money. They do not give food also when we are hungry. We have to beg food also from others".



YOUNG CHILDREN UNDER BAD INFLUENCE OF THE ELDER ONES

Balaknama Bureau

During the support group meeting conducted by the reporter, Children said, "Small children are getting into bad company of elder boys and girls. Elders who stay in our locality are getting involved in love. Boys roam around with girls openly in front of younger children and even do bad things with her. Some



of the children among us see this happening in front of us every day. Due to this younger children have also left their studies and have started moving towards love affairs". They added, "If ever a girl refuses to love a boy, he cuts his hand and starts writing her name on his hand with blade". Listening to this reporter met some of those girls who are getting entrapped

into it. 15 years old girl said, "If we refuse to love a boy then those boys says that he will kill himself if we would not love them. The reason would be us. They threaten us that they will tell our parents that we have relationship with you daughter. That is why we come into these boys' trap. They do bad things also with us so we want to get freedom from this as early as possible".



WHEN WILL THIS ORDEAL END?

Talkative Reporter Kajal, Reporter Chetan

Our Delhi Government has announced that anybody can use toilets in one rupee but they are not aware that today also there are places where people fight over using toilets. Golden slum of Rampura Ashoka Park has only one toilet and number of people using it is more than 2000. People start making line as soon as the morning starts and only five are able to use it. It becomes so dirty after that it feels like puking. That is why children keep roaming here and there. There is a big forest near Ashoka Park which is

used by some children to relieve them. Some girls go to Metro stations to use their toilets but people who work there charge them Rs.30 to use it. So girls stopped going there also and started going to forest to relieve them. Reporter got to know that those girls face various problems there. Girls said, "The forest is too thick and if somebody sees us relieving there they start harassing us. They start passing lewd comments. We want that the way government has announced this scheme; similarly please construct five toilets at a place for us so that we do not have to roam here and there".

CHILDREN TORTURED BY THEIR OWNER

Balaknama Bureau

Some people occupy Government's land and then give it on rent to the people who working nearby. These people make their slums over the land and pay rent to the owner but the saddest thing is that if ever the rent does not reach the owner on time at the end of month, the parents are given the warning to remove their belongings from there otherwise it will be thrown out by the owner. Recently four slums were destroyed in an area (The name of the place is not disclosed). Family staying in those slums used to sell

balloons. Every time rent used to reach on time but for one month it became late by 10 days only. So the owner threw away their belongings out of the slum and destroyed the slum too. That is why children have to go through these problems. That family has to stay in front of the destroyed slum now. They are not allowed to enter the slum unless and until they pay the remaining amount. On the other hand children said, "Our owner's torture has been increasing day by day. Earlier he used to take Rs.500 as rent, then increased to Rs.700 and presently he takes Rs.1000.

Our parents asked the owner, "What is the reason of increasing the rent?" To which Owner replied, "Stay if you want to otherwise go and live like people who stay under the flyovers. You will not have to give money there". 14 years old girl said to her parents, "Let us go to some other place where we will take a new slum on rent". But their parents say, "How we will manage our work if we will go from here. Here it is only Rs.1000 if it would be more at some other place, where we will go from there". Children had nothing to say listening to their parents.

MOTHER'S DEATH INCREASED SALMAN'S DIFFICULTIES

Talkative Reporter Salman, Reporter Deepak

7 years old Salman was living happily with his family without aware of his future bad days. Salman lost his mother at a very young age and his father married to someone else leaving



him alone. Salman started living with his grandmother. After some days Salman's grandmother has to go somewhere in the village so she left Salman with their neighbour in Delhi. The place where Salman is staying is near to the railway station where trains keep coming and going. Children keep playing near railway station. One day Salman was also playing with the kids and their ball reached the railway tracks while playing. Salman went to tracks where a train was there on the tracks but was not moving so Salman tried taking out ball from the tracks with his

hand but was not able to do so he tried taking out ball with his leg and suddenly the train started moving which resulted in cutting of his one foot. Nearby people took him to Safdarjung Hospital where he was treated for 15 days. Doctors advised that since Salman's foot has been cut by iron so there is a risk of infection so it needs to be cut more. Salman's grandmother came running back from village the moment she heard this news but his father did not come to see him despite knowing about it. Salman has not been able to walk since this incident. His grandmother is running pillar to post in hospitals and government offices to get a wheelchair so that it becomes easy for Salman to move but it has not been possible. If he wants to go to washroom or any other place his grandmother carries him in his lap. Salman wants that he gets the wheelchair as soon as possible so that he is able to walk on his own with the help of the chair.

CHILDREN COMPELLED TO TAKE DRUGS IN SCHOOL

Balaknama Bureau

Reporter conducted support group meeting with children studying in Government Schools. Children shared their problems during the meeting. They said, "Our school environment is very bad. Recently an incident happened. 10 year old girl was compelled to consume drugs. Due to which her health was getting deteriorated. We also saw that she was becoming frailer day by day. We even tried talking to her but she was not able to speak properly. She remained sad always. Her parents also asked her if she has any problem but she didn't reply. One day she

got very ill and had to be admitted in hospital where doctor told that she had been taking drugs which has affected her health. She died after two days in hospital". Some children informed that drugs are sneaked into school in some hidden way and children are compelled to have drugs. Reporter asked children, "What do you want?" 12 years old girl said, "We want a security guard in our school so that every child who enters in school should be searched properly. Our teachers should also be alert so that nothing bad happens in our school and children do not get into bad habit. No children will go to school to study if these things keep happening here".

Children burning clothes to save them from Mosquitoes

Talkative Reporter
Rustam, Reporter Jyoti

During the survey in Delhi, Reporter found that street and working children are suffering from mosquito bites a lot. Keeping this objective in mind, reporter spoke to different children. 15 years old Rahul said, "We sleep under flyovers or under the open sky. Mosquitoes start biting us as the evening

arrives". 14 years old Priyanka said, "We do not have enough money to buy a room of our own. The place where we stay is surrounded by filth from everywhere. Recently, Delhi Government got sprayed Mosquito repellents all over Delhi which helped in reducing the mosquitoes but now with increasing temperature, mosquitoes' population is also increasing". Children

said, "Mosquitoes are of red colour. Their bite results in itching and swelling". 15 years old Sapna said, "Whatever torned clothes we get while picking rags from the garbage, we burn them at night. Mosquitoes do not bite till the time the clothe burns but its smells like hell and that smell causes pain in our nose and at times results in vomiting too". 16 years old Rakesh said, "Delhi



Government should get the mosquitoes repellent sprayed again like they did earlier

so that we are safe from mosquitoes and the diseases spread through them".

CAN YOU NOT SPEND EVEN ONE RUPEE?

Balaknama Bureau

Reporter discussed the problems faced by street and working children in Lajpat Nagar. Children said, "We pick rags near the car parking area in this market. When all the rags are collected we sit there and separate bottles from it. At times we eat our food there itself". 15 years old boy said, "The place where we eat our food stinks very badly due to which we feel like vomiting". Children told, "People who roam in the market, piss outside that is why that place stinks so badly". Listening to this Reporter said, "Why are people not using the toilets provided in the Lajpat Nagar market? Toilets are made everywhere for this only so that people do not spoil the nearby places". 15 years old Girl said, "There is a toilet nearby but people has to pay some money to use it. So to save their money people do not use it and pee outside. And when we stop them from doing this, they turn towards our side and pee. Even the guards and car drivers who work in this market also pee here. We children face many problem while working here. We have to smell that stingy smell while we eat our food there. Sometimes we do not eat there but everytime we cannot change the place.



We have to come back to the place where we work. We just want to appeal to all people to not to pee outside and use toilets provided.

When Delhi Government has even announced that you can use any toilet in one Rupee still people want to pee out on the roads.

FALSE PROMISES LED TO HOMELESS CHILDREN

Balaknama Bureau

With immense pain we want to tell you that the place which you call Karol Bagh market was once home to several children. There were thousands of slums where small children stayed with their families and used to study also. But as the time progressed rich people started buying out their

slums and slowly all slums were sold. People who came to buy these slums promised to children's parents that they will be given a separate land but nothing like this happened. Children who were living happily with their parents have now come on roads. These children now roam in this market only through which their family runs. Earlier these children used to study but now they do not even study. These children do not know what studies are. They hate educated people as the ones who came to their parents and made false promises were also educated. These people promised their parents that these children will be admitted in school and will get proper home to live. These children do not want to speak to anybody. Reporter got to talk to these children after much effort. Then they shared their problems with the reporter. Children said, "Those people harass us till now also. They send goons to threaten us so that we leave this market and go somewhere else. But we do not want to go anywhere from this place as we have been here since our childhood".

Who will fulfill Pradeep's dream? (Will You?)

Talkative Reporter
Pradeep, Reporter Deepak

9 years old Pradeep still has the zeal to study. Two years back his mother used to drop him to school but the sad thing is that his mother succumbed to a disease and pradeep had to stay at home for some time. Then later for few months his grandmother dropped him to the school but she also died due to her age. Pradeep is now working at a chowmein shop where he gets Rs.1000. Reporter asked Pradeep, "Why do you not go to school alone?" Pradeep said, "Bhaiya, I stay in Mahatma Gandhi Punjabi Bagh and my school is about



3kms away from my home. I have to cross ring road while going to school which is very difficult as cars run very fast on this road and there is no red light also. That is why I

used to go with my mother".

He added, "There is nobody with whom I could go to school after my mother and grandmother's death. Father is there at home but he is all the time drunk. He is not bothered about us. All house responsibilities have come on me after my mother's death. But I do not want this and I do not want my siblings also to work on a shop like I have to do. That is why I drop my siblings to school. I still want to study. I had a childhood dream of studying in a school and later in stage wanted to join a company also but I think my dream will never be fulfilled".

WORKING CHILDREN ALSO WANTS TO STUDY

Talkative Reporter
Fareen, Reporter Poonam

During the survey Reporter got to know that children are involved in various kinds of work. One side 12 to 14 girls were seen making designson anklets the whole day and other side children are seen making design on the shoes by thread. Reporter asked these children, "Why do you do

this work?" 15 years old girl said, "Everyone in our family does this work. Our family's expenses will not be met if we will not do this work. We are able to make Rs.50 after making designs on 12 anklets so our parents also help with us so that more and more designs are made". Other girls said, "Our hands pain when we make designs on shoes by thread and working through



minute needle and thread continuously for 6 to 7 hours results in pain in our eyes too. We want to study too". 15 years old girl said, "I am not satisfied with this work. I want to go to school like other children. But because of my family condition I am not able to go to school. We all children just wish that our parents get job somewhere so that we can also go to school".

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND TURNED INTO A CEMETERY

Balaknama Bureau

Children of Sansi camp shared their problems during the support group meeting held by the reporter. Children said, "Bhaiya we do not have any place for playing near our slum. One side there is a cemetery where people are buried and on the other side railway tracks lie where fast trains run".

"We are always worried of something bad or a mishap happening to us", children



added. 15 years old boy said, "Two years ago we had a very nice park for us but it was converted into a cremation ground. There is a small space left near the cremation ground but our parents don't allow us to go to that area. And if ever some children goes to play there hiding from others he/she get nightmares at night."

16 years old boy said, "We are living in fear all the time. We go inside our slums as the evening starts. We are aware

that playing is our right. How will our body develop if we will not play? This is exploitation of our rights".

Talking about a different park, Children said, "There is a park 5kms away in our slum. When we go to play in that park then the guard which takes care of that park beat us and tells us that this park is not for you. Only elder persons come here. So we want a park in our slum like we used to have so that we can play there safely".

Boys break lights of underpass to harass girls

Balaknama Bureau

There is an underpass between the Barah Pulla and the Sarai Kale Khan where thousands of people and children pass through this underpass as there is a market on its one side and on the other side people live. If anybody wants to go to market or for any other thing he has to cross this underpass but at night passing through this underpass is terrible. This underpass does not have a light. When reporter investigated for this, he got to know that whenever MCD workers fix light here, some boys later break them. 15



years old girl said, "These boys break these lights so that they can harass us. Some girls pass through this underpass after picking rags and some girls go to market to buy vegetables after work. It is very dark during

the night in this tunnel and in this darkness only the boys hide and harass the girls". 16 years old girl said, "My mother

goes to work in a bungalow and returns around 10 at night. One night I was returning home with my mother then a boy held my hand and started touching me at wrong places. We ran from there". Working girls here say, "Underpass should have a security guard to ensure that nobody is able to break lights of this underpass then only we can stay safely".

RABINA'S SIBLINGS IN HOPE OF GOING TO SCHOOL

Talkative Reporter
Rabina, Reporter Deepak

8 years old Rabina stay with her family in Shakurbasti. She has 6 siblings, her father is a labourer and mother is a home maker. All of her siblings are involved in work; none of them go to school. Rabina expressing her problems in front of the reporter said, "We are fed up of our father because he is always drunk when he returns from his work and start abusing us. Sometimes he even hits our mother. We

want that our father stops drinking and stay happily in the family but that does not happen. My father used to be very nice earlier but the people with whom he goes to work drinks and have got my father also addicted to this bad habit. Earlier he used to talk politely with me and my siblings and used to listen to our problems".

She added, "We still want to study despite these problems. We also wish to go to school like other children but I think our dream will never fulfil due to bad family circumstances".



RIDICULE FACED BY BABU OPENED HIS DOORS FOR SCHOOL

Talkative Reporter Babu,
Reporter Chetan

This story is about 10 years old Babu who started working at a Chowmein and Momos shop in near Narayana village railway station due to the bad financial conditions of his family. Reporter got to know that his father is disabled and his mother also has some problem in her legs so nobody works in his family. There are two elder brothers in the family but they are not bothered about their parents, they just roam around here and there. That is why Babu started working. Babu said, "When I used to wash utensils in the morning near railway station, my friends used to make fun of me while going to school. And then I decided that I will also go to school like them. After 15 days I took admission in a coaching centre by earning on my own". Seeing Babu's dedication towards studies his coaching centre's teacher advised him to take admission in a government school for which you will get the certificate too. On the

advice of his teacher Babu went to a government school with his mother and got admission in third standard. Presently Babu work along with his studies. One day babu's friends came and said, "We are sorry. We always used to make fun of you". Babu smilingly said, "Why are you being sorry? If you people would not have made fun of me for my work then I would have never thought of going to school. I am thankful to you all because of whom I got a new life".

SAMANTH'S FLIGHT TOWARDS STUDIES

Talkative Reporter Samanth,
Reporter Shambhu

This news is about 15 years old Samanth who stays with his parents in Peti market. His mother works in others' homes and father does the work of putting zip in bags and trousers. Samanth has seen his parents working like this since childhood. His



parents have never studied so they never thought of getting samanth educated. His parents think that children

of poor people study but they do not get successful in their lives. Thus whatever his father do, he also does the same thing. Presently he also goes to different colonies to put chains in bags. At times he gets into trains at railway station to put chains. Samanth saw that some workers of an organization comes at station and teach children staying at railway station. Samanth also joined them and decided to show his parents that he can also study. Since last two months he is coming to the classes by lying to his parents. Samanth says, "I want to become a nice child after studying so that my father gets to know that child of a poor man can also become successful. I want to send this message to all working children that all those children should raise their voice whose parents do not allow them to study. Otherwise you will never be able to study".

CHILDREN BEING TORTURED DUE TO SURROUNDINGS

Talkative Reporter Aftab,
Reporter Chetan

A family was living happily but the sad thing was that there was no child in the family. Due to which family remained sad all the time. Some years later, when they were going out, they saw a three years old baby on the way who was crying and there was nobody seen around him. The family took the child thinking that may

be God sent this child for them as they did not have any child in their family. So they took him from there with them. Child grew up with time. When he was five year old he was admitted in third standard. This child used to study hard. When he was about to enter in standard five, problems came on him. Child said, "My family lives in Kamla Nehru camp and people living here send their children to pick rags so my

parents also got my name cut from school and started sending me for picking rags. If I refuse to pick rags they beat me and say we raised you since childhood, who will pay for that. Earlier they used to make me eat with them only but now they give me food in the courtyard itself". Currently this child has run away from his home because of his parents' torture and child helpline's worker is taking care of this case.

BALAKNAMA TEAM PRESENTED STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN'S THOUGHTS

Reporter Shambhu

Balaknama team was specially honored at a program named "Role of media in changing India". Editors of different newspapers like Mr. Vinod Dua, Siddharth Sharma, Vinod Sharma, and Jai Shankar Gupta also participated in the program. Shanno, Balaknama Advisor informed all the members and students present there about the newspaper. She explained about the situation of street and working children, how public behaves with them. She said, "Public see street and working



children with wrong intentions and do not consider them part of our society. I just want that they should not be considered like this and should be helped in moving forward so that a day comes when no children is seen on the street. We publish children's

news in Balaknama, if no child will be seen on streets then there would be no need of Balaknama". Shambhu, Balaknama's editor giving information about the newspaper said, "Balaknama newspaper was first published in year 2003. And since then

63 editions have been published. In year 2014, the English translation of this newspaper started. Balaknama newspaper is published according to the following steps:

meetings are organized with the children in the

provides us the news.

meeting is done.

This way newspaper comes out

publication is given

to children so that they feel that there is someone who listens to their problems and is conveying same to the people". Telling about her Jyoti, National Secretary of Badhte Kadam said, "Few years back I used to pick rags on railway station and was addicted to drugs. But now I have left all this and I am now working for 10,000 street and

working children. I put forward their issues in front of governmental and non-governmental organizations. My dream is to share my thoughts with Mr Narendra Modi on a cup of tea with him". All editors congratulated balaknama team and appreciated them on doing this good work. They said, "We have learnt a good thing from all of you".

A GIRL REACHED SHELTER HOME WITH SHABANA'S HELP

Talkative Reporter Shabana, Reporter Jyoti

15 years old Shabana used to pick rags at railway station and lived under a staying in a night shelter and is the student of basic education with the help of an organization. Along with this she is also talkative reporter of Balaknama. She helps every child who is in distress. Recently a girl ran away from Jhansi and came to Nizamuddin railway

station and the reason behind her running away from home was that her father used to beat her badly and did not give her food on time. Shabana saw this girl crying while she was crossing the area when she was going to study at GRP police station. When Shabana tried talking to this girl, the girl replied in a scary voice, "I am hungry and thirsty". Then Shabana took her to GRP Police station and gave her water to drink and asked her to rest

go back to her home.

But the girl said, "I do not want to go back to my home. Everyone beats me at my home". Then Shabana shared the information about the child helpline number and said, "I will send you to a shelter home with the help of them. You can stay there safely". And by the evening Shabana called the child helpline number and with the help of their worker the girl was sent to a shelter home. Now that girl is safe in the shelter home.

HATS OFF TO SHALU'S COURAGE

Talkative Reporter Shalu, Reporter Chetan

15 years old Shalu lived in furniture block with her family. She has three siblings. Her mother cannot walk and father is a drunkard. Because of this Shalu's siblings remain fed up and hungry. Her parents also do not think to get their children educated. Father is badly addicted to liquor. He is not bothered about family members. He keeps sitting with the person who provides him liquor and mother cannot do anything. Thus Shalu has herself taken the responsibility to take care of her siblings. Shalu said, "The way other children go to pick rags, I do not want my siblings to do the same so I have started working in somebody's home. I go in the



morning and after returning home I do my household chores like cooking, washing siblings' clothes and taking care of my parents". Shalu takes care of her father despite of his drinking habit. She gets him home from the place where he keeps lying after getting drunk. At present, Shalu is taking well care of her family.

BALAKNAMA AND BADHTE KADAM IN NEWS

WE ARE SHARING SOME PICTURES OF THESE MOMENTS WITH YOU....



1. ITM University, Gwalior invited Balaknama team in their editor conclave. Eminent reporters participated in this conclave.



2. Balaknama Reporters putting forward their views on Radio FM



3. Balaknama Reporter Shambhu reporting to TV channel



4. CNN published this picture in relation to Balaknama

Balaknama acknowledge part support from Sardar Nagina Singh and Family

This edition is for limited distribution. All pictures are published in this edition after children's their approval.



5. Balaknama Reporter Chetan asking question in one of the editor conclave



6. Invitation letter sent to Balaknama by ITM University

Balaknama is written originally in Hindi by children reporters. This is translated version of Hindi and translation assistance is taken from adults ensuring the original feel intact. Translated by Richa Somvanshi.