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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.

NO RELIEF YET ON CHILD TRAFFICKING

Balaknama Bureau

During a survey in Delhi, our journalist found that every month 10 to 15 children are brought from

promises to give them education.

Delhi, the capital of India, is a city where roadside shops are very common. These shopkeepers only keep children at work. Do you have any idea that from where did these children come? Let us tell you the truth that how children are brought in Delhi from different cities at fake promises.

Dhaba, where 14 to 15 years old children were working. The reporter noticed that the child was working very diligently. He saw here and there but

and all other works the children has to do alone. When our reporter tried to interact with those two children, they got scared of him. After the owner went from there, a 15 years old boy Ajit (name changed) came to the reporter and said, “Sir, I was not talking to you as my boss was here. If he see me talking to anybody he will surely kill me or will not give me food to eat. He doesn't allow me to talk to anyone.” The journalist then asked that why he was working at Dhaba? Ajit



replied, “My family's condition is not good so my parents sent me with the owner of the Dhaba to work

parents that he will send me to school and will allow me to study and I will work after returning back from

not happen. When he bought me to Delhi, he made me work on this Dhaba.” Telling about the work he has to do, he then said, “At present, I have to take care of all the things like waking up at 5 A.M in the morning for cleaning the Dhaba, washing used utensils and cutting vegetables, etc.” The journalist himself saw



these children when they were cutting the onions. He noticed that they were so fast at cutting the onions as if they have machines in their hands. He asked them the reason of cutting onions so fast. Another 14 years old boy, Chandan (name changed) said, “Sir, we have been doing this work from past 4 to 5 years. We are so friendly to any work at the shop that our hands automatically start working in speed.” Expressing their feelings, he further added, “We also want to go to home and meet our parents but our boss don't allow your place then only we can leave from here.”

INNOCENT CHILDHOOD SURVIVING ON RISKY ROPE

Balaknama Bureau

People who are called by the name of ‘banjara’, does not have any proper place to live. Earning mode of these banjaras are empty places or roads also the sad part is that they plant their tents on such places to spend their nights. Many of us don't know about a rule of banjaras that is they deprive their children from education. As soon as a child is born in their home, instead of talking to them about studies and sharing knowledge about future they are been seen as a mode of earning more money. At the very early ages of 3 to 4, children are been send for learning different games and tricks by which they can earn money. One of our reporters interacted with such children to know



their struggle and pain. On interacting, a 10 years old boy Sameer (name changed) said, “When my parents made me to visit games centre for learning circus games, I have faced many problems because

the teachers were making us to walk on the ropes tied walk above the ropes. I was afraid of walking on these thin ropes. Many times I do

felt unconscious and fainted due to fear of falling down but no one cared. Even after all these things, our teachers don't allow us to rest and

forcefully make us do such things. If I request them to forbid, they run after me for beating me also they complaint *continued on pg. 7*



Members of Childline and Badte Kadam celebrating Independence Day

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

Greetings.

We feel pride and happy by handing over our 66th edition to all of you. All of our child-reporters are working hard for diversifying their news. Social media is also advertising our newspaper. Any accidents that happen in country have a huge effect on children also. Every new government in a state comes with the new hopes of solutions for all the problems for street and working children. Awareness about the problems and rights of street children is spreading through our newspaper 'Balaknama' by street children only. Balaknama has a positive effect on government machineries and help them to give respective decisions wherever needed. A very happy Independence day to all our child partners and we hope that we will get success in making our future better.

The Editorial Board

IN ABSENCE OF PLACE FOR BATHING, THESE GIRLS TAKE BATH UNDER THE FLYOVERS

Balaknama Bureau

Recently, one of our journalists organized a meeting with the children living under the bridges. Most of the girls took part in it. Sharing their problems and compulsions, most of the girls said that they belong to Jharkhand district of Bihar but due to their poor economic conditions they have to come to Delhi. Sharing more, a 13 years old girl, Simran (name changed) said, "I live under the bridge with my whole family. We work as rag-pickers and as beggars for our survival. We hardly get enough money survive." Keeping her point, she further said, "We all live under the bridge due to our compulsions. Not only we live, but we cook, eat, bath and drink water, here only." Expressing their pain, another 14 years old girl, Kajal (name changed) said, "We have to take bath in open areas only. We make a tent with our cloths and surround ourselves with clothes. Worst thing happens



when we bath is that whenever an auto or rickshaw passes or even normal public passes the bridge, they look at us with filthy eyes. Sometimes auto-drivers crosses all the limits, they stand under the bridge only and masturbate while looking at us." Telling more about their problems, another 15 years old girl, Kalpana (name changed) said, "As like every human being, we are also growing up. Some girls are turning 18-19 years. People talk filthy things by looking at them. Even at

nights, when we sleep and due to strong winds anyhow our body parts becomes visible, that time also people look at us with obscenity by stopping their cars and sitting inside it only. Due to all these reasons, we feel very scared and ashamed and that's why we have decided to go to public toilets for taking bath. But problem is that we don't have any public toilet near our area. We do have a public toilet on the metro station near us but whenever we go there, metro staff asks for a lot of money from us, especially from girls. The amount they ask is the amount for our one day survival." Expressing more about her fears, she further added, "Our parents are also worried due to this problem. They worry that someone will misbehave with us or something wrong will happen with us." Showing their pain, all the girls requested that, "We just want to escape from dirty eyes and dirty minds of people for which we need a toilet system under our bridges for our safety."

FATHERS PUSHED THEIR CHILDREN'S FUTURE INTO THE CHIMNEYS

Balaknama Bureau

This news is about 25 children of 14 to 16 years, who were travelling with their fathers to some other city. As soon as our reporter saw these children, he went to them and asked that where were they going? A 13 years old boy Arjun (name changed) replied, "We are going to Rajasthan to learn the process of making bricks at chimneys." Shockingly journalist asked them that why were they going to chimneys and what is the need of learning making bricks? Replying, a 14 years old boy, Sanjay (name changed) said, "Our parents don't teach us anything except making bricks and working at chimneys." Telling more about how their parents work, he further added, "My father first digs in the soil with a spade and then he fills water in it. He then leaves it for at least 2-3 days so that the soil can become fully wet. After that, my father again digs the same soil with his legs and then mixes the soil with his hands. After mixing well, he makes a brick with a clay slab." Sharing the need of working at chimneys, he then said, "When our parent's boss see us empty doing nothing and staring at our parents, he gets very angry and that's why due to



his fear we children also starts working and helping our parents. At present, we are being taught how cooked bricks are taken out of the chimneys. He also orders us to go inside the furnace." Sharing about the safety measures, he further added, "To prevent us from smoke and pollution, a cloth is given to us to cover our nose and heads while entering inside the furnace, but it is not at all effective." Sharing their problems he said, "If we working inside the chimneys for 2 hours, we get rashes on our body due to dust and pollution. Sometimes, even we feel suffocated because of the pollution. As a lot of dust blows out of the furnace when we take out the cooked bricks, we also have problem in seeing around us. Getting irritated, we children start throwing bricks here and there due to which some bricks get broken down. In exchange for this, our boss cut some amount of money from our parent's salary. In spite of all these problems, our parent wants us to work at chimneys only. They think that there is a lot of money in this field. They think that if we children will learn the whole process of making bricks, then our future will get secured as every type of work can be stopped but making of bricks will be never stopped as people will always need bricks to make their homes."

PARENT'S GREED TURNING INTO DARK FUTURE OF CHILDREN

Balaknama Bureau

As we all know that the Delhi government has built a battery rickshaw for the convenience of general public. Since the launch of battery rickshaw, the earning of rickshaw drivers has become double. In the past, people used to pull rickshaws and due to which they had many health related issues and they used to suffer from heavy body aches. For this reason, government had made battery rickshaws, due to which there is a huge relief for rickshaw drivers. Government made this decision for relief and taking care of rickshaw pullers but some people have made this work a way of earning and people feel that there is a lot

of earning in this work. In West Delhi, the greed of earning is so high that some parents have forced their children in this work. Even they are taking back their children's names from the schools as they want them to pull rickshaw and gave them a battery rickshaw which they buys on their own names. If these children deny driving battery rickshaws then their parents beat them and sometimes don't even give them food to eat. Due to fear of getting beatings, children agree to drive battery rickshaws. Telling more about themselves, children said, "We used to think that our future will get better if we go to school, but it did not happened." The journalist asked that how did their parents come into such greed? A 16



years old o, Gulshan (name changed) replied, "There is an

uncle in our slum, who owns 6 to 7 battery rickshaws. His 3 sons used to pull rickshaw only. When our parents met him and asked that how much they earned from this work, he replied that around 12 to 13 hundred in a day. After listening to him, our parents also brought battery rickshaw on rent and forced us to indulge in this work. We children wake up at 6 A.M in the morning and drive battery rickshaw till 11 P.M. in the night. We do have many difficulties in driving on the roads as the road on which we drive is quite crowded. One day when we children were going to Kirti Nagar with battery rickshaw, accidentally when we were taking round, we hit a car. The owner of the car called the police. The

policeman started beating me. He gave me 2-3 slaps and scolded me a lot. He also said that why we children don't know how to properly run rickshaw then why do we do so? He then took Rs 150 from us and left us." Bad thing we got to know is that even when these children tell their parents about such situations, their parents still doesn't feel bad for them. Expressing his pain, Gulshan further added, "Even after facing all these problems, our parents still thinks that there is a good future in this work and don't allow us to go to school. We children just want to go back to school and study so that we can have a secure and a better future."

POOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FORCED CHILDREN FOR CHILD LABOR IN HOTELS

Balaknama Bureau

Rate of people working at the chimneys or furnace is very high. We can see hotels almost each and everywhere, and mostly the children works at these hotels. Different types of work is being given to each and every child which they have to perform for 8 to 0 hours like giving plates to peoples sitting at the restaurants, cleaning the hotel, etc. The heaviest work they have to do is to carry a 50 kg tank full of water

for 5 km by rickshaw. Despite any weather, these children have to work under any condition due to their compulsions. When an empty drum is to be carried then there is no problem, but if water drum is to carry then it is very difficult for a single child to reach its target. So the child calls someone to help him to pull the rickshaw. Even after reaching the hotel, the child is not given any time to take rest. He has to go again as at that hotel; work of filling water is given to the



single child only. If the child is late then each and every work in the hotel stops like cooking, washing, cleaning, etc. He only gets only 20 minutes to take food and rest during the lunch time. After that, he gets an one hour break at 7 P.M in the evening. Even when the hotel gets closed, in the night at 11 P.M., the child has to wash used plates and big utensils. Due to all these things, the child has to indulge in the hotel work till 1 to 2 A.M. The child said, "Even after doing all

these things, if sometimes I don't wash the plates, my owner don't give me food to eat and even beats me."

The reporter then asked the child that why does he work there? The child said, "I belong to Bareilly, UP. I used to live in the village. My parents are farmers. So they sent me to Delhi with my uncle who also works here. Whatever amount of money I get every month, I send it to my parents and they use it for their survival and for farming."

BY MAKING FALSE PROMISES, HE BRING THEM CHILD LABORS



Balaknama Bureau

During a survey in Delhi, our journalist found that every month 10 to 15 children are brought from UP, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Nepal by making false promises to give them education.

Delhi, the capital of India, is a city where roadside shops are very common. These shopkeepers only keep children at work. Do you have any idea that from where did these children come? Let us tell you the truth that how children are brought in Delhi from different cities at fake promises.

To find out the truth, our reporter went to roadside Dhaba, where 14 to 15 years old children were working. The reporter noticed that the child was working very diligently. He saw here and there but only find a single man who was there to cook the food and all other works the children has

to do alone. When our reporter tried to interact with those two children, they got scared of him. After the owner went from there, a 15 years old boy Ajit (name changed) came to the reporter and said, "Sir, I was not talking to you as my boss was here. If he see me talking to anybody he will surely kill me or will not give me food to eat. He doesn't allow me to talk to anyone." The journalist then asked that why he was working at Dhaba? Ajit replied, "My family's condition is not good so my parents sent me with the owner of the Dhaba to work here. But sadly, the owner mad fake promise to my parents that he will send me to school

and will allow me to study and I will work after returning back from school and will do whatever work is left. But it did not happen. When he bought me to Delhi, he made me work on this Dhaba." Telling about the work he has to do, he then said, "At present, I have to take care of all the things like waking up at 5 A.M in the morning for cleaning the Dhaba, washing used utensils and cutting vegetables, etc." The journalist himself saw these children when they were cutting the onions. He noticed that they were so fast at cutting the onions as if they have machines in their hands. He asked them the reason of cutting onions so fast. Another 14 years old boy, Chandan (name changed) said, "Sir, we have been doing this work from past 4 to 5 years. We are so friendly to any work at the shop that our hands automatically start working in speed." Expressing their feelings, he further added, "We also want to go to home and meet our parents but our boss don't allow us to go. He says that first put some other child on your place then only we can leave from here."



NEWS SHOCKING WORKING GIRLS DISAPPEARING FROM WORK

Balaknama Bureau

Due to the high poverty and unemployment in Bengal, the people of the region have come in the fields of Noida and are engaged in various types of work; like working in garbage pickers, fruit-vegetable seller, etc. Similarly, many people in this area do junk works. Instead of sending young girls for garbage collection, people send them to bungalows to work as a home helper like washing dishes, cloths, cleaning the houses and making food. Similarly, there was a 16 years old girl Rekha (name changed), who used to go to bungalows (kothi) daily for work. There were some bad boys, who used to misbehave with her along the way from home to bungalow and vice versa. When she complained about it to her parents, they helplessly replied that what poor parents can do? Instead of helping her, they did not paid attention to her problem. Due to her parent's ignorance, one day she went missing. She did not come back to home from work. Her parents tried to find her each and every place they can but they were failed in finding their daughter. Losing all the hopes, they went to police station and filed a missing complained for her daughter. It's been one month, but still no one knows where Rekha is. Because of this incident, other girls are also afraid of going to bungalows for work. At present, all the parents go to bungalows with their daughters and even go to pick them from work also for their safety.

**CHILDREN'S HELP
LINE NUMBERS**

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

Child line Number

1098

Police Helpline Number

100

GIRLS ARE BEING EXPLOITED DUE TO COMPULSIONS

Balaknama Bureau

One of our journalists met 6 girls on a station who are taking wrong steps for their survival. The reporter asked them shockingly that why are they taking wrong steps? A 15 years old girl, Sapna (name changed) said, "We belong to very poor families. We came at the station due to poor conditions of our family. Surprising thing is that even here also we girls have to wander here and there in search of food. Till date we did not found a single person who will help us. We started to collect garbage at the station

area only but some boys did not allowed us to do so. At times, when we used to board the trains to collect trash, boys used to beat us and snatch all the trash from us and sell it. They used to keep the entire amount they get from the trash we collected. We girls used to face these problems daily but these problems were not ending. When we used to sleep at night, elder boys used to call us and give us intoxicants. They say that if take intoxicants then they will give us food to eat. We girls used to take intoxicants in greed of food. When we girls get overwhelmed with



the drugs, then those boys used to misbehave with us. It has been running from many days. Recently, we girls met a girl who was indulged in wrong activities. She shared her story and said that she also left her home due to poor conditions and those boys also used to obscene her. But taking advantage of this, she started taking money from boys for getting physical. After listening to her, we girls also thought that it is difficult for us to survive on station and boys anyhow obscene with us so we should also take money for getting physical."

YOUNGER'S PAYING COST FOR PEER'S FAULT

Balaknama Bureau

Children living at the station when met the journalist, shared their problems and compulsions with him. Sharing their problems they said that they hardly get to collect some bottles in trash because these days police disturbs us a lot at the stations. We children don't do anything wrong, but still they always threaten us and scolds us. The journalist met a 16 years old boy, Rajesh (name changed) who was beaten by the police only because he was wandering on the station at the night. There was a lot of swelling on his body. The journalist was shocked to see him. Complaining more about the torture of police, children said, "Torture of police is increasing day-by-day. When we sleep at night, they kick us." Sharing other problems, they said, "Another problem we are facing is that from past some days, some big boys come at the stations and they collect the trash from the trains. They have taken all the coaches and don't allow us to collect the garbage. If we go inside the train to collect the garbage, these boys pushes us out of the coach



and even beat us. When tried to talk to them regarding this problem they started abusing us and said that our father has not made this station. They also have the right to collect trash at this station not only us. When we told them that we are living here from many years and we survive on this trash only, they replied that now that time has gone and it's our time to rule on this station. They also threatens us saying that if someone from us tries to stop them then it will be very bad for him. Sharing some incidents, a 17 years old boy, Lokesh (name changed) said, "One day when I tried to

board the train just to find out what these big boys will do, they stolen a passenger's bag and blamed that I have stolen the bag and told the passengers that this child was collecting trash in this coach only. As he said that this child has stolen your bag, the passenger came towards me to kill me. That's why only, we children started waking up in the nights and are collecting the garbage during night time." Requesting for their survival, children said, "We just request that some actions should be taken against such big boys so that we can also live peacefully."



CHILDREN ARE WANDERING WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Talkative Reporters: Sonia and Shambhu

As we all know that there is a lot poverty and unemployment in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh. Due to poor conditions of Badayun, many people come to Noida and take Farming contract to take care of farms in order to earn some money for their survival. These people pay an amount to the owner of the farm for one year and grow near about 3 to 4 crops. Owner of the farms does not worry after taking the money from these people. But these people have to work hard with all of their diligently and passion such as sowing of fields, protection of crops, and monitoring of crops according to the weather and food and insect pesticides at the right time. Sad thing about their

lifestyle is that even the small children also have to work and wander here and there with their families for their survival. These children help their families in each and every aspect they can. Due to working in fields, they are constantly being deprived of their rights. Other children go to school as soon as the school opens in the month of July. During February, March and April they are busy with their examinations. In May – June, children enjoy their summer vacations and again a new session starts as soon as they get their results. Unlike others, these children have to work whole year in the fields only. These children have to be engaged in sowing, crop protection and harvesting in the fields continuously for all the 12 months.

DRUGS BEING SUPPLIED THROUGH GROUP OF CHILDREN

Balaknama Bureau

Now-a-days, railway stations and red lights are becoming a hub for supplying drugs for street and working children. One of our reporters, recently found that 4-5 men makes a group of children (one group each men) and use them for supplying intoxicants of hidden codes. Our journalist was shocked to see that small children are supplying stolen drugs. According to our survey, nowadays, children have started selling narcotics on red lights.

Children selling these narcotics are very scared. Our reporter tried to talk to those children but as soon as they see any journalist, they start running and hiding. No one wants to talk about this topic or get caught by anyone. Our journalists tried to convince them and talk to them that they will not harm them and they also work for children like them. All over, they tried to make them feel secure. After listening to the journalists, children came to him and shared their feeling, problems and fears. The first question

our journalist asked was that who gives them narcotics? Who force them to do so? A 15 years old boy Sujit (name changed), informed us that "There is a owner who has created a group of some children and brings narcotics from the markets. We children go to different places, like markets, red lights, stations and crowded areas to sell intoxicants. We children are especially ordered to go to toddlers, rag-pickers or beggars to sell drugs as they usually take intoxicants. These types of children usually wander here

and there in search of some drugs. If we go to them, they will definitely buy our drugs. No matter how much we ask, they will surely buy." Next thing our journalist asked to them was don't they feel unsecure while selling these drugs? Shocking answer the children gave was that they are being trained in order to save themselves from police. They are being taught to use any pointed thing or knives to hurt anyone and run. Even if after trying hard, these children get caught by the police, their owner does not

support them. Next question our reporter asked was that how much money they get for this work? A 15 years old boy, Rakesh (name changed) told us that, "We hardly get 100 Rs for a day with 2 free boxes of drugs so that we children don't have to wander her and there in search of drugs. Expressing their pain, another 15 years old boy, Ranjit (name changed) said, "We don't want to sell drugs, neither openly nor by hiding as by this our future is being spoiled. Our future is being taken into darkness."

INNOCENT CHILDHOOD, INDULGED IN DRUGS

Balaknama Bureau

This news is about some 8 to 16 years old children who are getting addicted to drugs in the age innocent age of playing and studying. They are taking many different types of drugs. One of such place, whose name has been kept hidden, is discussed here. On this secret place, children are openly taking injurious intoxicants like Gutkha, tobacco, smacks and Ganja too. Bad thing about the shopkeeper who sells these drugs is that, like others he also sells these drugs to children too. He never refuses and

fears to give Gutkha, tobacco, smacks and Ganja to small children. At present, even the children who take these drugs don't have any kind of fear from anything. When we tried to gather more information, we got to know that parent's of these children leaves early in the morning for work. At that time, they gather in one of the empty house and take intoxicants there. Sad and the shocking thing is that their parents don't even know



what their children do all day. They just left their homes early in the morning and come back at 8 P.M. at the night. Because of such busy schedule,

parents can't take proper care of their children. They can't look after them for whole day. Another reason of no fear is that, there is a police station near their area but the policemen never come to take a round and see what is going in their areas. The journalist tried to interact with one such child who takes intoxicants. He informed, "We children were not addicted to take drugs in past. There are some elder children who live in our

neighborhood in our society only and are badly addicted to drugs. They always call us for playing in the parks. We don't want to go to them but anyhow by giving some greed they call us and when we go to them, they offers drugs to us and tell us to buy them. If we children denies then they threaten us to kill." Expressing more, another 15 years old boy, Gopal (name changed) said, "We children want that government should take some actions against them so that in future, other innocent children like us don't have to indulge in drugs because of them."

DIRTY DEEP DRAIN IS THE REASON OF CHILDREN'S FEAR AND PAIN

Balaknama Bureau

This news is about an area in West Delhi, whose name has been kept hidden. There are about 1500 slums in that area. Between these slums there is a very deep dirty drain in which accidents occurs on a regular basis. According to the survey, our journalist found that parents living in these slums go to work for earning and leave their children with elder ones in their homes. Sad thing is that, even the elder people can't look after their grand children for whole day as they are also busy in their households. Sharing their feelings and telling more about their fears,

a 15 years old boy, Krishna said, "Brother, whenever our parents leaves us alone and go for their work we get very scared that anyhow we don't be the next victim of this dirty drain. There are many people and children too who have lost their lives after falling into this deep drain." The reporter then interacted with the parents of these children and asked about the compulsions and need of staying at such dangerous place and leaving their children alone. Replying, a 35 years old lady, Mrs. Kamla Devi, who belongs to Madhyapura district of Bihar said, "We don't leave our children with our will. We are forced to do so due to our



compulsions. If we take them with us then the owner of the house where we work, taunts us by saying are we going there to play with our children or for doing their household works?

And if we will not go then it will be very difficult for us to survive as this is the only way of income in our homes. That's why only we have to leave our children on God's trust." Sharing her feeling

and telling ore about their fear, she further added, "As long as we are away from our children, at work, we worry for them that how are they living alone at home? Are they safe or not? We don't feel light till we don't see our children after coming back to from work. After looking at them we feel safe and secure." She further told the reason for staying there, she said, "We can't leave this place as we don't have much money and if we will leave this slum then we have to stay on roads only. We have complaint about this dirty drain to the MLA of our area but he says that it's a huge government work and I can't do anything for this."

SLUM DEMOLITION PUSHING CHILDREN TO WORK

Balaknama Bureau

This news is about a slum area in South Delhi, whose name has been kept secret. In past, around three hundred to four hundred children were used to live in the slums but at present, those slums have been broken down by the government and made a big junk warehouse at that area. As the families, living there were not homeless, they went back to their villages. Approximately two years ago, the children living in this area were living happily in their slums. They used to collect trash and work as rag-pickers. They also used to go to schools and study. But sadly, as now their slums have been collapsed for making junk warehouse, they become homeless. There was no place for them to live and stay. When our journalist met the families living at this place, some children told us that even after getting homeless their parents still tried to find some work and stay in the city only. They used to wander her and there for about two to three



months. But sadly, did not found any place to work also where we can live safely and that's why they have decided to go back to villages. After going to village, these children are now living a threatening life full of problems, sacrifices, compromises and compulsions as no facilities are available in the villages, at least not like cities. Our journalist met a 15 years old boy, Rahul, who come back to city in search of some work. Telling about the critical condition of his village he said, "Condition of the children who used to live in

Delhi and work as rag pickers has become very bad now. Now forced to work with their parents in the fields to earn money and survive. Before, they also used to study and go to schools but after going to villages they are far away from studies as they are always busy in their village and farm works. Expressing their feelings and fears, another 15 years old boy, Babu said, "Our house in made on the government property. Because of this reason we always fear that one day government will break our house and we will also have

to wander here and there like other families in search of work and safe place to live." Keeping their safety first, another 16 years old Ganesh gave an idea.

He said, "If government wants to break our home then they should give us another room or house to live so that we don't have to live on the roads."

ELDERS ARE FORCIBLY TAKING CHILDREN TOWARDS DRUG ADDICTION

Balaknama Bureau

There is a special slum in South Delhi where each and every elder person takes intoxicants and is indulge in gambling. Also there is a huge forest in that area where people go to take drugs by hiding themselves from their families. Some working children go to this forest just for playing with their friends. People who take intoxicants are so much afraid of their families that if their family members got to know about their addiction, they be thrown out of the houses. In order to prevent themselves from getting caught by their families, they use kids as their key to take intoxicants. They go to forests with them in order to play with them but after going



to forests they take drugs and even force small children also to do the same thing only. If a child refuses to take intoxicants he threatens him/her to death. Due to fear of death, child takes the drugs. Like this, children are becoming their victims. Elder people order them to go to the shops and buy liquor and drugs for them. Due to the fear of death they agree to do so. But the sad thing is that even the shopkeeper doesn't feel sorry or bad about these children. In fact he gives them everything they ask for. When these children give drugs and liquor bottles to those elder ones, they offer them to take intoxicants as a gift. When these small children refuse to take intoxicants, they forcibly make them drink alcohol. It's been only 7 months that the situation of this area has badly changed. Before, these people have to go out and wander here and there as they used to work as rag-pickers. They used to take drugs at their work place only. But now as these people have started pulling rickshaw, they just go to the forests and take drugs there. These children also informed about this to their parents, in place of helping them they also scolded them by saying that what is the need of going to forest area to play. The children innocently replied that there we feel good due to the greenery, cold breeze and cuckoo bird.

CHILDREN ARE FORCED TO FILL WATER

Talkative Reporter Sapna and Shambhu

During a visit in Sansi Camp at Badarpur Border, our journalist noticed that some children living at Sansi Camp were going on the other side of the Badarpur Border just to fill water. They were crossing a place where the roads are always full of traffic, carrying 15-20 liters of water on their heads with barefoot from Badarpur Border to a slum in Sansi Camp. Looking at them, the reporter tried to interact with them. When the reporter asked them that why they go so far to fill water? Telling about their problems, a 15 years old girl, Sapna said, "There is no facility of water pipelines in Sansi Camp. As we don't get water there, we have to go to Badarpur Border to fill water.

That's why only we children have to wander here and there in search of water." Raising questions on government, another 15 years old girl, Muskan said, "When the government needs us they come to us just for getting votes, they never try to know our problems and situations. Not only elder children of 17 years but children



of 10 years also have to go to Badarpur Border to fill water. We children have to cross the roads at least 3 times, with a load of 20 liters on our head. Public does look at us with sympathy but nobody come to help us. Nobody knows how much hard work we children have to do

just to get water. We children don't even have the facility of drinking water so we have to go there to fill water. Worst part is that even after coming so far after so many problems, sometimes we don't even get water to fill. Those days we children have to stay thirsty

for whole day or have to drink dirty drains water only because of which we children fall ill." the journalist then asked shockingly that is there no water tanker facility in there slum area? Some children informed that water tanker never comes in our slums. They have tried a lot for this but it never comes. It hardly comes once in a month which is not at all sufficient for them to fill water. Sharing their thoughts, children said, "If tanker starts coming in our slum daily then we children don't have to go to Badarpur Border just to fill water. It will result in our good future as then we will have enough time to go to schools and play."



PARENTS SACRIFICES THEIR SLEEP FOR THEIR DAUGHTER'S SAFETY

Balaknama Bureau

Our team organized a meeting with the girls living under the bridge. During the meeting many questions were raised. One of such question which was asked by the reporter is that what different problems do these girls have to face while living under the bridge? On this topic only, Balaknama's reporters took a survey with many girls. During the interaction, a 15 years old girl, Radha (name changed) said, "Accidents and different incidents occur under the bridge on a regular basis. Like some boys who are involved in wrong activities and are indulged in drugs also live with us under the bridge. Their job is to only trouble public. They do pick-pockets work in the trains and disturb small children. Not only this, when we girls are sleeping at night they try to lure us for sex at mid night. We girls have raised our voice against them, but nothing happened. They threaten our parents that if they speak more then it will be not good for their daughters. Under this fear, our parents also don't raise their voice against them." Telling about an incident, she further added, "Just 2 months back, a drunken man came and slept with a young girl's mother.

When he tried to lure her for sex, she screamed and everyone woke up. After that everyone beaten him a lot. Not only this, but whenever a girl wears any new dress, people look at her with filthy eyes and talk abusive things for her." Telling about their safety and security, some girls said that their parents have to wake up for full night just for their daughter's safety.

NO PLACE TO LIVE FOR WORKING AND STREET CHILDREN DURING RAINY SEASON

Talkative reporter Bholu and Shambhu

Our Balaknama team took a survey on working and street children living under the bridges. During the survey some children said that they feel a lot of trouble in rainy seasons as their luggage gets wet because of rain water. Sharing their problems, they said, "When it rains, we have to face a lot of trouble. Trouble for food as all our food gets soiled due to rain water because of which we have to stay hungry for long. Trouble in sleeping at nights, as if it rains whole day or night we don't have any dry place to sleep. We have to sleep on wet roads only. Due to which we fall sick. Trouble of getting money and medicines as after getting ill we need money for our checkup and medicines but due to heavy



rains we can't go for begging also can't go out for working as rag-pickers." Giving more information, 15 years old boy, Raja (name changed) said, "After heavy rains, small holes and digs on the roads get filled with rain water or dirty water. Whenever a motorbike or a car passes by the road,

dirty water gets sprinkled on us. Because of which the left dry area also gets wet." Expressing more, he further added, "We children just want to live safely. We want that government should make a safe house for us where we can safely live in any situation under any conditions."

A SALUTE TO FRIENDSHIP AND DEDICATION

Talkative reporter Salman and Shambhu

This news is about 2 friends. Both of them come to the stations due to poor conditions of their families. At present, they are living at Old Delhi railway station, where they are always ready for helping other children living there. Also they both are talkative reporters of Balaknama. The best thing about their bond is that they always stay together and helps each and every child whom they find in trouble. They both work as rag pickers on the same railway station only to fulfill their stomach in order to survive. Recently, there were 3 children who came to Delhi in order to visit Red Fort. But due to too much crowd they get separated from their parents and anyhow reached the railway track, where trains coaches are being washed. When the 2 friends saw these 3 children, they went towards them. They asked them that why were they crying and where did they



belong to? A 10 years old boy, Gopal from one of the three children said, "We came here to see red fort with our parents but due to too much crowd we got separated from them. We children tried to find out our parents near the Red Fort but were unable to find them." Listening to them, both of the friends came to Red Fort with all of them in order to find their parents. They both searched many places and found their parents sitting and crying outside the red Fort. One of the 2 friends, Salman told them, "You should be very careful about your children. When you are coming to visit such crowded place

you should take care of them properly." With love and greetings, the parents thanked these 2 friends and offered them some money as a gift but they denied to take that amount and said that because of their helping and searching nature only both of them are known as 'searcher journalists.' Likewise, they both told about their work and Balaknama newspaper to the parents too.

WILL YOU PAY FOR SAHEEN'S FAMILY'S EXPENSES?

Talkative reporter Saheen and Deepak

This news is of Saheen, a 10 years old little girl, who lives in Shakurbasti with her family. There are 10 members in her family: 8 brothers-sisters and father mother. One of her eldest brother got married and he did not stay with them. He stays at another place with his wife. He did not even contact his parents and brothers and sisters. Saheen's father pulls rickshaw and is indulged in drinking too. She told the reporter that whatever money her father gets to earn, he use it for our studies purpose and most of it goes in his alcohol only. From her siblings, 4 go to school to study and rest 4 helps in households and other works. During the past, Saheen also used to go to school and study in 3rd class but due to weak economic conditions she left her study and got involved in other works. After leaving her school, Saheen started selling cement and coal. Shakurbasti railway station is the name of the place from where she used to bring coal and cement. As most of the coal and cement trains passes through this station, she goes there to collect the leftover. Some coal falls down as the coaches are overloaded, after the train passes Saheen collect the fallen coal pieces and sell them in Dhabas and hotel in 20 Rs per kg. Even after doing this work, she did not get enough money for her family's survival as how can ten members can survive only in 50-60 Rs, so she also went to bungalows (Kothis) in search of some work in order to earn more money but sadly, she is so young that no one gives her work in their bungalow. Sharing her felings, Saheen said, "If someone starts taking care for my family's expenses then I can again start my studies."

GIRLS UNSAFE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

Balaknama Bureau

This news is about a place in Agra, where in past girls were safe. Girls used to travel alone, go to schools. There were no restrictions on them at all. Even after returning back from school, they were free to roam around without any fear. At present, situation is been totally changed in that area. Now, girls are not allowed to go to schools, even they are forbidden to come out of their homes. The reason for such bad situation is that, 2 months back a 15 years old young girl was raped and was left die. She also used to go to school daily. There were some boys in her way to home from school and vice versa, which used to harass girls and women travelling from that route. No one raised their voice against them. One day



when this 15 years old girl was coming back from school, one of the boys tried to harass her and started touching her. She slapped her and came back to home. From that day only that boy was keeping eyes on her for taking revenge of her slap. After few days, when she was coming back to home from school, he took advantage of lonely roads and secluded place and raped her brutally. The girl was badly injured and died after some time. This incident

has created fears in the minds of parents. That's why only they don't allow their daughters to go out the house. In fact, some parents have taken back their daughters name

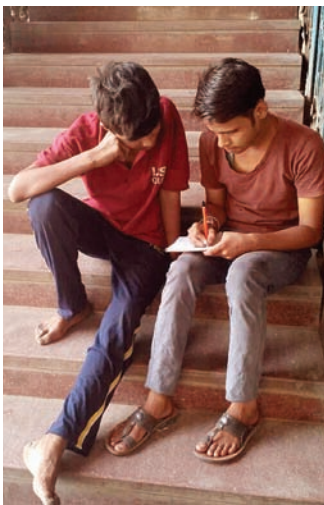
from the schools also. They fear that those boys will harass their daughters also. Girls are worried about their future. They worry that now because of this incident they have to stop their study and kill their dreams. People living there informed that such incidents are becoming normal these days. Girls and women are unsafe at this place in Agra. People want to raise their voice against them but they don't find anyone who can help them and punish those boys.

RANJIT'S WISH: CAN SOMEONE CHANGE MY FATHER'S BEHAVIOR

Talkative reporter Ranjit and Deepak

This story is about a 16 years old boy, Ranjit. 10 years ago, he used to live in Ghaziabad with his family. There are 3 siblings of him in his family who study in a private school. Looking at them, he also desired to go to school. When he shared his thought of studying like his siblings, his father replied that he is unable to pay his siblings fees how can he pay his school fees also? That time his father did not said anything to him. Ranjit said, "I used to be quite and alone after my father's reaction for my study. Looking at me, anyhow he admitted in the school. But sadly, don't

know for what reason he was fired from his job. At that time my father got angry and scolded me a lot. He even said that I am his biggest trouble. As soon as you started going to school, I was fired from my job and then he started crying in front of me only. Due to this reason, he took my name back from the school and for my family's survival and my siblings fees, I was sent to a welding shop to work." Telling more about the difficulties he as to face at the shop, he further added, "It was a very difficult work for me. As this work was new for me. While welding I got burns because of the sparks and flames coming out of iron. When I did not work properly due to the sparks and burns, my



boss used to scold me. Still I had so much courage that I did not stop working. I continued to work for few months but when

the owner started crossing his limits, I decided that I will not work anymore at this shop. I wanted to share all these things to my father but was afraid of him. Anyhow, showing some courage I told him everything. Happily, he also understood my problems and allowed me to leave this work." After that, his father put him on a noodles shop. Sharing his experience, he said, "This time owner was more dangerous than the welding shop's owner. Unlike him, he used to scold me very badly at small things only. One day when I was a little late for my work, he started beating me without asking me anything. Due to this behavior, I left this job also." Telling about the

consequences of leaving his next job too, he said, "When I went back to my home and told about my decision to my father, he got very angry. Seeing this behavior of my father, I left my family and now I stay at railway station only." At present, Ranjit used to work as a rag-picker for his survival. Expressing his love for his siblings, he said, "I love my siblings a lot. I still meet them secretly. But I don't meet my father because he still abuses me and hates me. My father loves my siblings a lot. I just want that my father should also be polite to me like he is with my siblings and should allow me to study like my siblings then only I will go back to home."

CHILDHOOD CRAVING FOR DRUGS

Balaknama Bureau

One of our journalists went to Agra and surveyed some areas. During the survey and interview, our journalist observed that many people and children use bull print tooth paste for cleaning their teeth. Their parents are being using this powder from many years. Due to which their teeth have become black in color and even whenever a child try to eat something little hard, they feel pain in their teeth. In place of going to doctor for their treatment, their parents told them to use this bull print tooth powder. Parents think that it will cure their child's pain and will strengthen their teeth muscles. But that did not happen. Children who are using this powder are slowly becoming



addicted to it as the components used for making this powder are some drugs and are very injurious for health. This tooth cleanser is not an ordinary cleaning powder. Telling about the symptoms, a 15 years old girl, Monica (name changed) said, "After using this bull

print powder, we feel dizziness and sometimes vomiting too. Our parents think that this is the way of curing our pain and strengthening our teeth of this powder but they don't know that it is harmful for us. At present, situation of teeth of children has been badly affected. Right now, more than two hundred children are using this powder on a regular basis. At first, children used to use it for cleaning teeth but now children are taking this powder as a drug. Now they need it in their mouths does not matter what type of work they are doing." Due to this powder, children have many barks in their mouths. Today's condition is such that, that if food is not given to these children it will be fine but they can't live without this bull print powder.

WILL YOU FULFILL OUR INCOMPLETE DREAMS?



Talkative reporter Guddi and Deepak

Street and working children also have dreams in their eyes. Street

and working children also wants a platform to show their talent like other artists. Their dreams never come true. They just enjoy by singing and dancing when they go for collecting garbage. Nobody wants to see their talent. If street and working children try to show their talent at public level, they just ignore them by saying that it is their daily routine for earning money. The journalist met some of the kids who have a lot of interest in learning dance. These children have not yet got any such partner who can take them forward. There are some children from street and working children those are specialized in dance but they did not get a chance to show their talent. If anytime they get a chance or opportunity to show their talent then surely they will set the stage on fire. People who hate street and working children will ever accept them and help them to move forward? Till date, nobody has spoken politely to them; so how will they get a dance teacher? Raising these questions, children said, "If some brother or sister agrees to give us their time to train us in dance then we children can also show that we are not different than others and we can also beat them. All we need is just a single chance to show our talent. So that we can also gain some respect in other's eyes. For this we need your help. Will you people help us in fulfilling our incomplete dreams?"

INNOCENT CHILDHOOD SURVIVING ON RISKY ROPE

from page 1

my parents." Worst thing we got to know is that after listening to their complaints from teachers, when they go back to home, their parents don't even give them food to eat rather they beat them badly and force them to learn games. Expressing his fear, Sameer further added, "Due to the fear of getting beaten, we children work very hard so that we can learn games. At present, there are children who have learnt everything and have started to show games on roads and empty places to earn money." Another 11 years old boy, Raju (name changed) said, "When I was just three years old I started learning different games. After eight years of learning, I started performing games in front of people as I had totally learnt the tricks of games.

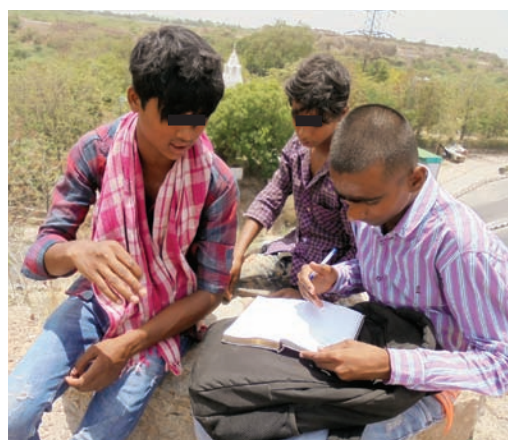
At present, I and my parents always search for crowded places to perform our games like temples, markets and fares. First my parents fit the bamboo sticks on the roads then they ties the rope from one bamboo stick to the

another stick. After they finish tying up the rope, I sand on the rope with a bamboo stick (which we use for balancing ourselves and to prevent us from falling down). At the time, when I walk on the rope, my parents start playing drums as loud as they can in order to collect more people." Some children informed that through this game they earn a good amount of money but it is very dangerous for them to walk on the ropes. Telling about their fears, children said that if anyhow ropes get broken and they fall, they will be badly hurt also people will make fun of them and will not give them a single penny. Another, 12 years old girl Anjali (name changed) said "We children also want to go to school like all other children, but whenever our parents hear us talking about studies, rather than supporting us they scold us. They say that children of our category (caste) cannot achieve success and money through education. We have to survive on these games, as if we got to school, we will be diverted and spoiled."

INNOCENT KIDS FEARING GHOSTS

Balaknama Bureau

This news is about 250 slums near Badarpur Borer, where everyone, parents as well as children, go out for work. All children and parents go to distant places in search of some trash and to collect garbage. These children have to live this kind of life. Through some people, the journalist got to know that there is a huge ruined building near these slums. People know this building by the name of the forest. According to the people living there, thousands of years ago, there was a king. When he died, people started living here by making slum in this area. True reason of fear of these people is that dead bodies of humans and animals are being buried at this place only. Sharing their fears, a 5 years old boy,



WITH THE HELP OF A JOURNALIST, AN 8 YEARS OLD CHILD REACHES HOME SAFELY

Reporter Jyoti

During a visit at Tughlakabad Railway station, one of our journalists saw a boy crying and running on the railway tracks. The journalist ran towards the child as fast as she can and pulled him from the track as the train was coming in full speed on the same track. Our reporter relaxed the child, and gave some water to drink. The child was so shattered and afraid that he could not even tell his name. Our reporter

works for children like him. Listening to her, he also started feeling safe with her. Then he told about himself. Sharing his story, he said, "I came here with my friends to buy juice to drink but my friends left me and ran away because of which I forgot the route to go back to my home." The journalist asked him that if he could remember some things which he saw

a long conversation, the boy was unable to tell the route for his home. Our journalist then took the child with her and went to all the possible slums



of Tughlakabad she can and inquired about this child but no one knew him. The journalist was wandering here and there suddenly the child recognized his school and said that he

knows this school. He goes there to study. He said that he knew his home's route from that place and started running towards his home. Journalist did not leave him and went to his home with him. She was shocked to see that all of his friends were sitting in his house and was drinking juice and his parents were not worried at all for their son. They were sleeping inside their house without any worries. The journalist then talked to his parents and shared the incident, should send him alone at least

not with his friends. If today I have not reached on time, your child would have lost his life due to a train accident." After listening to her, the child's parents were shocked. They promised the reporter that now they will not send him alone anywhere, out of the house." Explaining the child, she further added, "You should not go out anywhere without your parent's permission. Even if someone from your friends or known ones forces you to go out with them, you should always tell your parents about it and follow what they say."

WHEN WILL SYSTEM AND SOCIETY FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES?

बालकनामा ब्यूरो

Often, school children from school are getting information that the behavior of school teachers is not good. They only do what they want to do. They come to school on time but rather than going to classes they start talking to one another. They did not put attention towards the studies of children. Whenever a

visit the school and asks them that why students don't have any knowledge? They blame it on children only that they don't study well and they are always involved in playing games.



Telling about more problems, children said, "Except this, we have many other problems like we did not get suitable food to eat. Sometimes it's just water and spices. Weird thing is that sometimes even we found small insects in our

food. That's why we bring money from our homes to buy and eat something. Shocking thing is that if anyhow our teachers get to know that we are having money than they take it from us and we children have to stay hungry for the whole day. Another thing is that when our parents come to meet our teachers in the school just to know how we are in studies, our teachers tell lie to them that we children did not study anything at all rather we are busy in talking with one another."

Expressing their anger out, they further added, "We children don't do anything like this, in fact teachers only don't want teach us. They are busy in their talks. They lie to our parents

as like everywhere, here also

due to their words. Due to all these things we have to face a lot of loss in our education. We are becoming weak day by day

in studies." Giving some ideas on how their teachers will teach them, they said, "We children

should surprisingly come and take a visit in our school. They

documents so as to know the truth. All over we just want that government should take some strict actions for our education so that we can also study well and can have a bright future."

CHILDREN ARE LYING TO THEIR PARENTS TO FULFILL THEIR NEEDS

Balaknama Bureau

There are some children who work as rag pickers by lying

needs. They lie to them in the name of coaching centre to study and work as rag pickers to earn some money so that

got to know about this, he tried to interact with them. During the conversation, he found that these children need

like something new and tasty to eat or new cloths for which

streets and jungle areas. He also got to know that these

in their school bags only by hiding it from their families. When they reach half of the

bags and hide their school bags in the jungle areas only. When these children were collecting trash, journalist went to them

and asked that why they lie to their parents and tell them that they are going to coaching? Telling the need of lying, a 11 years old boy, Golu (name

parents don't give us money to buy new cloths and to eat something for this reason only we children collect trash.

a day, which is enough for us

amount our parents give us, it all gets spend in buying new copies for school only. We don't have money to buy new cloths for us." after listening to them, journalist talked to their parents also. He found that, their parents did not get

children's needs. And for this reason these children work as rag pickers and lie their parents

they don't know that in order being diverted from studies.

WILL SOMEBODY HELP PRADEEP?

Talkative reporter Bhawna and Jyoti

years old boy, Pradeep, who goes alone at different railway

Old Delhi and Anand Vihar. Sadly, Pradeep is physically disabled since childhood. Even in his family, no one go to work so he has to go out for begging for their survival. Pradeep have 2 younger brothers who studies in a government school. When he was just 2 years old, his father died. After his father's death, Pradeep's mother started earning for their survival. Sadly, when he was 15 years old, his mother fall ill because of tuberculosis (tb) due to which Pradeep was forced to beg for their survival. Pradeep is physically disabled due to



which his mother did not want to stay away from her child. Pradeep stopped begging for past 2 months. He went to a shop in search of some work so that he can earn some money for his family's survival. Telling his story, Pradeep said, "When I went to the shop, the shopkeeper made fun of me and said hat how a disable person like you can work on my shop? After that incident only, from

the very next day I again started begging at different places and stations. I even take out my clothes for begging in the train, but still I am unable to collect the amount of money needed for my mother's checkup. That's the reason for why I stay at the stations for at least 2 to 3 days. As soon as I collect 200 Rs, I go to back to home. From these 200 Rs only, we have to buy raw material for food, and also have to look after my brother's studies." Requesting the government, he further added, "I just want that my mother's treatment should be done as soon as possible. And the government should also give me the amount of pension given to disable persons. With that money and the amount I get after begging, I will look after my family and home."

BALAKNAMA AND BADHTE KADAM IN NEWS

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



On 9th July, the 15th establishment day of Badhte Kadam, workers of Balaknama, Chetna and Badhte Kadam celebrating in Delhi and Lucknow.



Balaknama and Badhte Kadam's worker celebrating Independence day with other street children.



highlighted the important work of Chetna, Street to Children.



Glimpse of a program organized by Chetna in which Minister of Women and Child Welfare in the government of UP, Mrs. Swati Singh was also present.

Balaknama thanks to the Diamond Sponsor, Sardar Nagina Singh Ji, for helping us in publishing our newspaper. You can also help us for publishing.

This newspaper is for limited delivery only. All the pictures are printed by the approval of the children.

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 Vibha Shakya.