

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.

STREET CHILDREN SPEAKES OUT THEIR OWN STORIES

With pride we are happy to tell you that the program which we did last year was so hit and successful that we have to organize it again as 'Street Talk Round 2' on 14th April this year on the occasion of International Street Children's Day, 12th April. Below are the 8 children who have survived the worst conditions of their lives and now they have moved on towards their aim and goals, leaving all the past behind. They have changed their lives with a lot of hard work and now have come up with a hope. They have become the idol for thousands of children.

Talkative reporter Javed, Sarjeet, and Afsana and Reporter Shambhu and Jyoti



A 16 years old boy, Javed, used to live with his family at Sarai Kalekhaan. He used to work at railway station as rag picker and this is the only way of earning

in their house. He has survived the most difficult situations but never stopped studying. At present, he is studying in 8th class and has become an idol for all those children who are living on the railway stations. They can also survive the difficult situations like him and can study like him.



13 years old Afsana, lives in Noida Sector-18. She has her own tea shop where she works. Not only she has survived the difficult

days of her life but also spend many nights without eating anything. At present, she is studying for taking admission in school under the guidance of Chetna Organization.



18 years old Chandan, lives in Sarai Kalekhaan. He run away from his house and came to railways station. He started working as rag picker. Not only this, he started taking intoxicants too. But, with the help of an organization, he

made himself and idol person. Leaving his work and intoxicants, he did the course of house keeping for 45 days. He also learned driving and took admission in 10th class. This is an ideal message which is enough for all those children who are spoiling their lives by living at railway stations and taking intoxicants.



15 years old, Manisha has seen many ups and downs in her life, have proved that nothing is impossible all we need is some courage.

With the same courage and motivation, she is studying in 9th class at present and is a beautiful dancer too. At present, she trains 20 students for dancing at Jawahar Camp.



10 years old, Sarjeet, lives in Baraula, Noida sector 49 with his family. There are 2 brothers and 3 sisters in his family. His sisters used to work in Kothi

and he used to work at a cycle repairing shop. He used to get happy while looking at other children going to school but on the other side; he used to feel sad for himself too. He also wanted to study in school but due to poor economic conditions of his family, was unable to study. After few days, he met with the

members of CHETNA. They helped him in studying and even talked to his father. At present, he used to go to CHETNA centre for studying. He has left working at the cycle shop and will take admission in school in few days.



12 years old Sandeep, lives in Nehru camp with his family. We are proud to tell you that he has come up as a hero from the 13 children whose names

and stories were printed on the front page of the 'Times of India' for leaving the street life and starting studying on the day of International Street children, 12th April, 2018.



14 years old, Lakshmi, lives in Reshma Camp with her father. She used to work for her family's survival. She has struggled a lot in her life and has

seen many ups and downs in her life. She has worked at many places like pins factory, breaking the stems of chilies and at present she is working in Kothi. Even after doing all these works, she has managed to get proper education. She is in 6th class. She used to go to school in the morning and go for work after returning back from school. Her

dream is to become a teacher so that she can teach the children like her.



17 years old, Preeti, lives with her family at Sarai Kalekhaan. She took birth in such a family where she got the love of a mother but never loved by

her father. Her father used to discriminate between boys and girls. Her mother gave her a chance of studying and she started going to school. After some days, she met the members of CHETNA Organization. She took defense training from them for around 10 days. She got a certificate also. She secured the first position in 11th class. For this she is thankful to her mother, who gave her a chance of studying and to the members of CHETNA Organization, who gave her courage and motivation. Her aim is to become a police officer and give defense training to street and working children. She says, "I am proud to be a girl. Though I was never loved by my father but I got many chances in my life. I used them and continued my education. At last, I only want to say that children, whose families still discriminate between girls and boys, should not lose courage and get de-motivated. Just snatch each and every chance you get in your life at any time."

Municipal Corporation Terror: broken slums- children became homeless

Reporter Sangeeta, Lucknow

This story is of a slum present in secretariat colony, Lucknow. This slum has been removed, many people went homeless. The sad thing about this news is that that the houses which were broken were of economically poor people. They did not had enough amount of money to buy a house or to pay the rent in order to live at a better place that's why these poor people were living in this idle and open area. In order to survive they were used to wash used utensils in houses, work as rag pickers and some people used to beg also. Even after so many

compulsions and difficulties, they were happily living with their families, unaware of the fact that there bad days were coming soon. They didn't know that they will be homeless. Let us tell the whole story.

On interacting with the people living in this area we got to know that they were unaware of the fact their homes will be broken, there was no such notice they got. They said, "Our homes were viciously broken without any notice. Our elder people (old age) requested them by joining both of their hands in front those people who came to broke our homes, in fact our innocent children also begged and cried in front of them but they did not

thought once that where will we poor people go if they broke our homes." Due to broken homes, all the warm cloths, quilts, blankets, grocery, television, fans, and all their household belongings are buried in the soil. Telling more about their sad story, they further added, "Males and females were beaten up y the policemen. Not only this, our pets like goats, dogs, hens, cows and buffaloes were also brutally killed. Due to this, now we people are living in the open area only. We have to spend our nights at the roadsides by putting tarpaulins under the open sky. We are now homeless, living on the streets. And that's how we are living due to Municipal Corporation."

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,
Greetings!!

**We are also here in the society.
We also have to right to live
respectfully.**

There are so many laws and rights in the constitution for children, by which parents and children are unaware. Each and every child has to right to get proper meal and health also right to live in a happy environment. Not only this, they also have the right to live safely. Many times, children are behind deprived of these rights. At times, even after knowing each and everything, they have to be quite.

12th April is celebrated as 'International Street Children's Day' for street and working children. On this occasion, children expressed their feelings and thoughts; they said, "Our poor economic conditions are forcing us to do any kind of work at any cost. As big as the difference we will have between poor and rich, we have to face that much difficulties and violence." That's why it's a big responsibility of our country to remove poverty. We should come up with more jobs for such people.

In this issue, we are bringing many stories that need attention and action. Many of you sends your wishes that we really happy about. But we request more helping hand to help the children whose stories are published by the news paper. You please help us getting connect from many people you know. We need more support to support children living on streets

Balaknama Team

PARENTS PUSHING INTO CHILD LABOR- INCREASING AGE IN AADHAR CARDS

Reporter Shambhu

One of our Balaknama's reporters has brought shocking news for all of you. Our reporter interacted with many children who go to buildings for work. During the conversation he asked some questions to them like "What is the need of working at such young age?" "You are so young? How can anyone allow you to work?" Children shared their problems, they said, "In order to earn more money, our parents have increased our age in our adhaar cards due to this the owners are also forced to allow us to work." Our reporter then asked, "Your parents increase your age in adhaar cards. What does that mean?" They further replied, "They go to any small shop and gives Rs 100- 200 and tell them to edit and increase



our age in our adhaar cards due to which we children have to do heavy and difficult works at such young age. At times, we also have to do many dangerous works." Reporter, himself checked the adhaar cards of these children. He found that children with the age of 13 are

having the identity card of age 15, so that they can work in any hotel or shop. Putting their problems and reasons forward, children further added, "From the day, government has passed the rule that children can help in households from the age of 14, we are facing such problems. We children are not against of this rule. Government should think seriously on this topic because we children are forced to do work. We want that no one should have the right to edit our adhaar cards. Even if someone is editing the age on adhaar cards, they should first ask the birth certificate of the children to edit. If still, any shopkeeper is not following the rules, strict actions should be taken against him so that we children don't have to do child laboring and can live peacefully and safely.

UNSAFE DRINKING WATER IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, STUDENTS GETTING ILL

Talkative Reporter Raina
and reporter Chetan

This news is about Golden Basti, where our journalists met some children. They talked about their problems. During the conversation, we got to know that children are suffering from lacking of drinking water. Expressing about their problems, children said, "In schools, there is no proper facility of drinking water. The water which we use for drinking is hard water which is dirty too. We children are getting ill due to dirty and hard water. We are suffering from many problems like stomach ache, diarrhea etc." While sharing the solution they found, they further added, "In order to get

rid of this problem, we children started to take drinking water with us from home to school. In case, we forget to bring drinking water from home, we have to be thirsty after lunch in the school. At times, we even have to drink hard water from the school and that is the time, we children gets ill." After listening to them, our reporter met the parents of students and asked, "Did you ever talked or filed a complaint for drinking water to the principal of the school?" The family members replied, "Whenever we have filed a complaint for this issue, no one cared or took action for this." Our reporter then said, "If there is no action for your complaint, then why don't you change the school of your

children?" The parents then replied, "We do want to change the school but this is the school we have in our nearby areas. We can look after our children at anytime. Other schools are far away from our basti. It's not safe for our children to go there alone. We all are so busy in our work that we don't even have enough time to take or go with our children to their schools." After listening to everybody, we can say that the school administration does not care for their students. Rather they are playing with their health. The slogan of our Water Department is "Jal hi jeevan hai" but here students are getting ill by drinking hard and dirty water. They are forced to drink it.

CHILD TRAFFICKING TRACES IN WEST DELHI

Balaknama Bureau

This story is about the place which mostly comes in our newspaper for discussions about children, known as West Delhi. Our Balaknama reporters got to know that in some areas of West Delhi, children trafficking are still going on. Parents of this area often leave their children alone for their

work to earn for their survival. When children are home alone, unknown people and neighbors used to take advantage of that moment. During the survey, we got to know about a recent incident. Recently, children were kidnapped from the house when their parents were not at home. Luckily, kidnappers were caught by the police as the whole incident was recorded in

the CCTV cameras of this area. When policemen asked the reason behind the kidnapping, they said, "We don't kidnap them for child laboring instead we sell them to those couples who don't have their own child. For this, we get a large amount of money." It's true or false, we don't know but the truth is there are many children who are missing from this area and

still there is no information about them. It's not only with some parents but there are a huge number of people whose children have been kidnapped. Children are not at all safe in this area because their parents have to leave them alone for work else they will hardly survive and if children are alone at home then there are many chances of them being

kidnapped. Through all the above information we can conclude that either the parents are ignoring this thing or they are still not aware regarding the safety of their children. It's parent's responsibility to get aware, and give a happy and safe life to their children. It's their responsibility to make sure that their children are safe and happy or not.

BALAKNAMA GOT NEW REPORTERS

In a training held in March, new reporters have joined Balaknama team. We welcome them. The name as follows:

Anisha (12) of Vinayakpuram Lucknow, Shiva (14) of Madyau Lucknow, Sangita (14) of Vinayakpuram Lucknow, Aanchal (14) of Vinayakpuram Lucknow, Vipin (14) of Madyau Lucknow, Mamta (14) of Vinayakpuram Lucknow,



Vishal (12) of Vinayakpuram Lucknow, Pooja (13) of Vinayakpuram Lucknow, Kuldeep (14) of Kotla Flyover Delhi, Nahidun (12) of Bahlaulpur Delhi, Mangal (14) of Sasi Camp Delhi, Rahul (15) of Sasi Camp Badarpur Delhi, Sameer (15) of Kotla Flyover Delhi, Shubham (12) of Kotla Flyover Delhi.

Reporter Shambhu - Deepak

FAMILIES WORKING HARD TO EARN 'DOWRY'

Talkative reporter Raju and Shambhu, Bihar

It is sad that even today, in Bihar's small villages and towns' dowry is still celebrated as an important ceremony. During the survey, a lady, Phoolan Devi, living in Bihar said, "Yes, the chief minister of Bihar, Mr. Nitish Kumar has banned the dowry system. Now, no groom asks for dowry in any form from the bride's family. If anyone caught while taking dowry from the bride, he and his family would be punished and

have to go to jail. But the sad thing is that groom's families are still taking dowry, only the difference is that after the ban they are taking it secretly. Due to this, girl's families are much tensed. They work really hard for the marriage of their daughter, nieces, and other girls of the family still when the time of marriage comes they have to face many problems." Our reporter have seen by their own eyes that there are posters and banners of stopping dowry but still people are giving and taking it secretly. Due to this



problem, villagers are much tensed because it does not take anything of the elder's just

money but at times it costs the lives of young children. Because of dowry, parents take

their children for child laboring to the big cities like Delhi and Punjab, at a very young age only. At the age of holding books, pencils, and toys children have to hold heavy instruments for child laboring so that they can earn and collect money for their elder sister's marriage. Bihar's government has announced that giving and taking dowry, both are banned. Children living in Bihar want government to take a legal action on this act so that they can get rid of the child laboring and can safely go to school for studying.

FACTORY OWNER TORTURES CHILD, HOW TO SAVE?

Talkative Reporter Rahul Kumar and Reporter Shambhu, Bihar

There is a place in Bihar, whose name has been kept secret, has a huge market area in it. A lot of different type works are done here for example: making wooden chairs and tables, working on paan shops, working as mechanics and on grocery shops. During a survey we got to know that parents here send their children, who used to study in villages, for learning mechanic's work by forcing them. According to the parents, if children living here will go to the school they will learn nothing just wasting their lives



and if they learn mechanic's work, it will make their future bright. Our reporter met such a

child who is indulged in these types of works. Expressing their compulsions, he said,

"We children seriously love studying but our parents are forcing us to go for learning mechanic's work. We just don't have any interest in these types of work." Telling the reason behind no interest, he further added, "Our owner tortures us a lot. He even orders us to clean the shops and asks us to do clerk's work. At times, he send to go for bringing drinking water and sometimes he even send us o his home for bringing food for him. Not only this, he even orders us to clean his shoes. He even asks us to do many such works. That's why we children just hate going there." Telling about one

more reason, he said, "This is nothing. Not only the owner, but our tutor who teaches us the mechanic's work, also tortures us. He asks us to wash his used cloths. If we children deny doing so, he denies teaching us the mechanical work." Expressing about his pain, he further added, "We children have to go through a lot of problems while learning mechanic's work. When we tell about this to our parents, they just ignore us. We children just want that our owner and tutor should not behave like this with us. Then only, we will be able to learn about this technique easily."

NO PLACE TO PLAY, CHILDREN PLAYING NEAR RAILWAY TRACKS

Reporter Jyoti

This news is about a Basti in Bardarpur, where there is no place for children to play and that's why children are seen wandering around the railway tracks. The sad thing about this basti is that, there are railways tracks on which trains passes by in very high speeds due to



which children have to face problems while playing. They play without their parents near the railways tracks as parents of the children are out of their house for the whole day for their work. When our reporter interacted with these children, they shared their fears and thoughts. They said, "We children are afraid

of playing in this area. When we tell our siblings not to go near the railway tracks, they just don't listen to us. We go there for playing as we have very small backyards in our house and we have problems in playing there." Then our reporter went to talk to their parents. Parents said, "We belong to very poor families. If we won't go outside for work then who will earn for our survival." Parents and children, expressing their feelings and thoughts, said, "We want that some facilities should be done so that we can play in our basti. Walls should be made near our basti for safety of children. We children our seriously living in fear of getting hurt. Our houses are made up of tarpaulin. Whenever a train passes by, our tarpaulins just flew away."



WE HAVE OUR NAMES, DON'T CALL US 'CHOTU' PLEASE

Talkative Reporter Varun and Deepak

Our society looks with hatred to street and working children. People call them with many different names like Kabaadi vala, kabaada bechne vala chotu or Fool bechne vaala or gaadi saaf karne vaala, etc. The behavior of our society towards street and working children is not at all good. These children are so good and kind hearted that if anyone talks to them with love, they are ready to give their lives for them. All children are hungry for love because there are so many children whose parents don't love them. Due to this, these children become alone and depressed. Requesting for some love and kind behavior towards them, some children said, "We children just request that this hatred behavior should not be done with us. If you see someone like us selling balloons or begging, please don't misbehave with them. Instead, go and help them. Talk to them with love. We have our own names, don't call us chotu please. Often, when reporters meet street and working children living on railway stations, they usually share these problems. Raising a question, they said, "Does children like us, don't have the right to live a normal life? Are we children not allowed to go to schools like other children?" Telling the harsh truth, they further added, "The only difference between those children and us is that they live with their families in a house and we, street and working children, live under the open sky. May be that's why we are being hatred by everyone and have to face such rude and harsh behavior."

IS THERE A PLACE FOR US ON EARTH? WHERE SHOULD WE GO?

Reporter Jyoti

Name of the place mentioned in this news is kept confidential. At present no child as well as their parents are staying happily and satisfied at this place. Because of some people who don't want them to live there. People who believe that they who are working as a rag pickers to get a survival for their families are spreading scum at this place. For this cause they want to throw

away these rag pickers. During a conversation it came out that they were used to create their slums near Nizamuddin Dargah, but one day an accident drove whole slum into ash. Now forcefully getting out of that place they are at present fighting for a life every next day living in a car parking, making their slum. These people, that is the shopkeepers are making their life harder by putting allegations on them. They are worsening

situation by blaming them for stealing goods from there shop. They clearly say that "since the day you entered this place our goods are being stolen". As per children they have no relation with the stolen stuffs. They say "We don't even go near their shops, they just want to throw us out of this place hence putting these allegations for no reason. They expect some understanding as this is the only safe place left for them."



WILL GIRL'S WISHES EVER TOUCH THE SKY?

Reporter Shambhu

Our newspapers 'Balaknama' organized a support group meeting in Noida, in which children participated in a very large number. Children shared many problems they are facing while living in Noida. They said, "Our mothers have to work in other's houses then we are able to survive. Our fathers waste our mother's income in alcohol and at time, even beat our mothers." Telling more about their families, a 12 years old girl, Sapna said, "My father asks for money to my mother for drinking alcohol. If she denies giving him the amount he asks for, he starts beating her and

forcefully takes money from her. Not only this, if we, girls, tell him that this is not right, he gets angry on us too." Sharing more about their fathers, some girls further added, "The most sad and worst thing is that when our father is over drunk, he tries to touch our private body parts. If we try to tell about it to our mother, our father scolds and beat us. We are shocked to feel that how can a father do such a bad thing with his daughter. We feel ashamed about it." Requesting for their safety, they said, "We want that as like Alcohol is banned in Bihar, it should be banned in cities too so that we can live safely."

WHO CAN HELP KAJAL?



Talkative reporter Pinki and reporter Shambhu

This painful news is of 12 years old girl, Kajal (changed name). Kajal used to live in a small village in Bihar with her family. But due to bad condition of her house now she is living in Noida with her family. There are 7 members in her family five brothers & sisters, her father and her mother. But sad part is that no one works in Kajal's family. Only kajal and her mother works, this is how their family is able to survive. Her brothers and sisters are too young. Kajal is the eldest among her brothers and sisters. Kajal's father doesn't work. He is always drunk and torture kajal. Telling more about her family, she said, "When my mother goes out for work then my father orders me to cook food, if I am not able to cook the food properly then he beats me with a stick. Not only this, there are institutions that come to teach children in Noida, even there he don't permit me to go. If I somehow manage to go there then I get beaten up when I return back to home. I have a lot of passion for study but due to the torture of my father I am not able to pursue my passion. I don't want to be treated like this anymore. Asking for help, she said, "I request you to come up and help me so that I can get rid of this problem and can study daily."

MY FAMILY CONSTRUCTED THE HOUSES, AND WE BEEN MADE HOMELESS

Talkative reporter Nobiyoon and reporter shambhu

Our reporter visited Sarfabad in Noida. During the visit, a strange thing came in our knowledge. Children living with their families from last 5 to 6 years are now forced to leave the place. Let us tell about it in deep. Children living here have come with contractor from some other village for work. These children work here as rag pickers and help in households for their survival. At present, each and every person of this area is so tensed about the fact that if they are forced to move from there then where will they go? Not only he children, but the parents too are crying because the problem due to which they left their villages is not getting over. Expressing their feelings, parents said, "We have daughters in our houses. They are ready for marriage. If we are forced to leave this place then we have to find a new area



to live at. We are earning well in this area." Telling about the problem, they further added, "We have often seen that the area where we decide to live at, government orders to remove that area only. Some month's pasts, same thing happened with us. Now, again we are facing this situation again." Raising many questions, they said, "Now, where will

go? Which work will we do? How will we manage for our survival? Many questions are coming in our mind. But till now, we have not got the answer for any of our question. Why they behave rudely with us? Don't we have the right to live peacefully and happily, My family constructed the houses, and we been made homeless?"

IRRESPONSIBLE TEACHERS: PLAYING WITH CHILDREN'S FUTURE

Reporter Deepak

One of our reporter visited government schools of West Delhi. During the visit, children came up with many problems they are facing. Sharing their problems, children said, "Teacher's behavior is not at all good towards us. They are not teaching us properly due to which our lives are being spoiled.

Whenever our teachers come to school, they just gossip with each other. Telling about his story, a 12 years old boy, Karan (changed name) said, "I belong to a very poor family. My parents have to work very hard so that they can get our admission. But our teachers don't think about it. They just don't know that if they will not teach us properly, our lives will be spoiled. When we told about it to our parents, they were very concerned and decided to meet out teachers.



When our parents came to meet them, instead of listening to our parents, they got angry on them and said that our parents are no one to teach them how to teach their students. They said that if our parents have any problems with our teachers, then they should get back our names and change our schools but they are not

allowed to say anything to our teachers." Asking for an innocent thing, they said, "We children just want that teachers should not behave like this with us. We want to study properly so that in future we can improve our family's economic conditions and can do something for our country."

GIRLS BEING FORCED AND TORTURED FOR WORK

Reporter Chetan

This news is about a place in West Delhi which is surrounded by jungle, bushes and railway tracks. The slums are made up of tins and tarpaulin. During the winter, or rainy season, families living there have to face many problems. They have to find places for hiding themselves. Not only the elders, but innocent children are also getting in it. One of our reporters saw some children and people of this basti collecting garbage near the railway tracks. He saw some children and girls too, who were getting harassed. When he interacted with these girls and innocent children he got to know a strange thing. The girls said,

"When we girls go for collecting garbage on railway tracks, boys and elder men do vulgar acts while looking at us. They show us vulgar images and videos in their mobiles. They try to touch our private parts and harass us by giving us greed of eatables. The sad thing is that when we share about these incidents with our parents, they don't trust us. Rather they think that we are lying to them because we don't want to work. We think that we can't do anything because our parents don't trust us. We are being harassed like this daily, but no one is there to help us. We have to do this for our family as we have to be quite at times for our survival."

CHILDREN SELLING RAW LIQUOR

Balaknama Bureau

During a visit in West Delhi, a talkative reporter got to know that some evil persons are using innocent children for supplying alcohol. When he shared about it with our reporter, he went there to find the whole truth. We have kept the name of that place as confidential as we hope that after reading this news, people living there will change in a good way. When our reporter investigated the area, the children living there said that this raw alcohol is made in their area from many years. Till date, there is not even a single person who came up in against of it. These people give a little amount of money to children due to which children also agree to supply the raw alcohol. Children are busy in supplying for the whole day. When our reporter asked the children that how does they make raw alcohol, they replied that they don't make alcohol that work is done by elder persons, they only do the packaging work. Telling about themselves, children said, "We all belong to Bihar. The packet which shopkeepers sell at 1 rupee, they use it for packing. After packaging, they give us by hiding it in the bucket, and send us to sell it. There are some people who come in the slum for buying alcohol. We children did not get much money for this work. At times, when we children are in some problem, they don't even come to help us. They use innocent children for their work so that no one should doubt on us." Asking for some help, they further added, "There should be strict action taken against them. They should be punished so hard that in future no one should use innocent children as there pawn for wrong work."

WHY PARENTS DON'T BELIEVE THEIR DAUGHTERS?

Reporter Deepak

This sad news is about a 11 years old young girl, whose name and he place she belongs to, is kept confidential. This girl shared sad news. She said, "The place at which we are living, there is a man who looks at each girl with filthy eyes and even tries to bully them. Sadly, that man is my father's friend. He comes to my home for meeting my father. Whenever I go to school, this man stops me and tries to bully me, if I stop him he run behind me for beating me." Telling more about the incident she said, "When I told about it to my mother, she shared it with my father. But my father did not believed me, rather he run behind my mother and me, for beating us, for putting such a disgusting charge on his



best friend." It continued for some days. After some days, when the man came to meet his friend, the girl's father was

not at home. She was cleaning the house and the man tried to take advantage of that moment. But suddenly, her mother came and saved her. The mother and daughter both beat him very badly. Raising a question, she said, "Why we girls have to face such situation? The saddest thing is that even if someone tries to bully or harass us and we share it with our family, they don't believe us." Requesting for some care, the girl said, "I request all of you that if you ever see a girl in pain or problem, just go to her and help her in any possible way you can. Please try to make their parents understand that if their girl is sharing about some problems with them they should listen to her and try to find a solution for her so that girls can live safely and fearlessly."

UNKNOWN PARENTS FORCING CHILDREN TO WORK

Talkative Rahul Kumar and Reporter Shambhu, Bihar

This news is of Bihar. In Bihar, people of small towns and villages, in greed of money, catches young innocent children when they go out with their pets for grazing and force them for child laboring. During the visit, reporter saw some young children of around 10 to 12 years of age, picking up heavy bricks. When reporter went to talk to these children, people near them surrounded him and said that they were not doing child laboring as they were their children. When reporter asked the children, they said that they are not their parents. They are being brought here for child laboring. Telling the truth, children further added, "These people give us 50 rupees for working from 9 am in the morning to 6 pm in the evening." Sharing about the problems, they face while working, they said, "When we pick up the bricks, we feel heavy pain in our chest. Even after knowing the truth, our parents won't stop us from working. We belong to a very poor family. If we stop working then it will be very difficult for us to survive. We have to starve. That's why we are forced to do child laboring." Asking for some help, they said, "At present, government has started a camp in villages for spreading awareness in children that's why they tell government workers that we are their children so that they should not get indulged in some punishable acts."

IS THIS IS HOW WE CHILDREN HAVE TO SPEND OUR LIVES?

Talkative Raj Kumar and reporter Shambhu, Bihar

The situation of street and working children in Bihar is becoming worse day by day. One of our reporters tried to investigate about it in deep. During the investigation, he got to know about a village, Jamalpur which is having a river. On both of its sides, houses are there. People have to use boats for crossing the river as

it is very deep. We can cross it by swimming too. According to the surveys of 2017, only one child used to work as a sailor but at present 3 children are working there. The reporter then interacted with these children. Children said, "We are not getting any income for this work. Instead, they get 15kg of wheat, rice or any other crop from each house, once in a year. We have to face many problems and difficulties while crossing



the river as we have to pull the boat with a rope to other side of the river due to which we even get scars on our palms." Expressing their feelings, they further added, "We don't like

to do this work but we have to do it for our family's survival. We all want to get rid of this work as soon as possible. We also want to study and live a peaceful and happy life."

CHILDREN'S HELP LINE NUMBERS

CONTACT THESE TOLL FREE NUMBERS IF YOU FACE ANY PROBLEM.

Child line Number

1098

Police Helpline Number

100

GIRLS WANT EDUCATION, WHO CAN CONVINCED THEIR PARENTS?

Talkative reporter Roshni and Reporter Deepak

During a visit in West Delhi, our reporter got to know that innocent young girls are being tortured by their parents. Their parents are uneducated and they don't know the importance of education. Girls say, "Government has launched a policy, 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' for girls like us but our parents are not ready to send us to school. When we talk about studies, they run behind us to beat us." There are some girls who are allowed to go to school. Sharing about their problems, they said, "We do go to school but after getting back to home we are so busy with our



household works that we are not able to do our homework. Our parents work as rag pickers

and some do have a business of cloths." Telling about her, a 15 years old girl, Suhana (changed

name) said, "Our parents don't want us to study. They say that what we girls will do by studying? At last we have to go to our in laws house only. If we will learn households then we will not have to face problems and listen to the taunts of our future in laws." Expressing their feelings, some girls said, "We girls don't like to do household works. We also want to study. We also want to show the world that we girls are not weaker than the boys. All we need is a chance and support. Our parents are not ready to listen to us. We want that someone should help us so that we girls can also study and can make our future bright and can live a peaceful life."

WILL THESE INNOCENT FACES EVER GET TO SMILE?



Reporter Jyoti

This new is about a Basti, located at Badarpur border, whose name has been kept confidential. We have seen that 8 to 9 years old children are begging in this basti. 15 to 16 years old children are polishing shoes and even the girls are going out for begging.

Females of this basti are used to go to other's houses as a household helper and males just spend the money in gambling. The behavior of males towards their children, girls, is not at all good. If girls denies going out for begging, they tortures them. On asking for money from wife, if denied, they beat them.

Children don't want to polish shoes, stil they are forced to go out for this work. Telling about the whole story, a 12 years old boy, Raju (changed name) said, "Our parents were not like this before. There are some people who come here from outside area and force our fathers for gambling that's why our fathers are also indulged in this dark world of gambling.

This is the reason why our family always fight. Not only our mothers, but our siblings and elder brother and sisters also go out for earning or begging, only our father does do anything for earning rather they spend money in gambling. Even the policemen also ignore everything." Expressing their feelings and keeping a simple request, he further added, "We children just want that gambling should be banned in our slum so that we can live happily with our families, again."

STRAY DOGS BITING CHILD RAG PICKERS

Talkative reporter Mampi, and reporter Shambhu, Badshahpur

A meeting was organized in a basti located at Badshahpur, Gurgaon. During the conversation, we got to know about many strange things. Children living there told us that they are facing many problems while living there. The biggest problem is that when young innocent children from this basti go to other areas for collecting garbage, dogs run behind them for biting them. Dogs bark and bite them as their cloths are dirty. If they will not do this work, then how will they survive? At present, children are doing it in fear. Telling about themselves, they said, "The sad thing that even if go in a group, then also dogs bark and bite us. We cross that area under compulsion as there is no other way to go for collecting garbage. If we change our path, it will be very difficult for us to collect the garbage. If we deny working, our parents will



also get angry on us." Sharing a recent incident, they said, "Now, we are doing our work in fear. Recently, a dog bites a child after which we have to take him to the hospital and he has to take injections. Neither our parents going to change nor we can leave this work." Requesting for some help, they said, "If you want to help us then please inform government workers about these dogs. Tell them to catch them and leave them at a safe place so that we can live safely and happily and can do our work properly."

WORKING CHILDREN BEING TORTURED BY SHOPKEEPERS, POLICEMEN AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS



Reporter Jyoti

There is a known market in South Delhi. Many people come here. Some working children also sell small things for their family's survival. The sad thing is that guards and the shopkeepers just hate these working children.

At times, even eat them. Young children told us that if they don't run away from them, they snatches all of their materials and blasts the balloons which they brought for selling. Sharing their problems, they said, "At times, when committee members comes he also snatches all of

our materials and when we ask him to give us back, he asks for a large amount of money from us for our material. He asks for that much money, which we hardly get to earn in a day. Not only this, even the policemen also forced us to leave this market. If we don't run away from them, they snatch our materials and take to the police station." Expressing their feelings, they further added, "We children are wandering here and there to get rid of this problem. There is not a single market for us where we can sell our items. If we will not do this work, then how will we earn for our family's survival? People don't understand our problems. Nobody helps us. We children want we should also allow selling our items in the market so that we can earn well for our family and can live properly, like we used to live before."

CHILDREN LEAVING SCHOOLS FOR MONEY

Reporter chetan

Children in South Delhi are seen collecting garbage, selling flowers and begging. No one told them the importance of education. For them and their families, earning money is more important than getting education. According to their families, if they will not earn then who will fulfill their starving stomach? That's why children of South Delhi are indulged in collecting garbage, begging, or working at Kothi. They are unaware of the importance of education that's why they are leaving their schools for earning money. Not only leaving schools, but in greed of money they have forget taking bath, wearing clean cloths and at times they starve themselves. At times, in the morning instead of holding school bags, they carry bags for collecting garage and some are begging. Our reported interacted with them. The children said, "We like earning money more than studying. If we will stop earning, then it will be difficult for us to survive. At times, when we go for collecting garbage, some girls from our groups are being harassed by boys and men. When we are collecting garbage, men usually snatch girl's hand. They somehow save themselves by running. Girls are being called by men or workers for collecting garbage from their factories but in fear of getting used or harassed they don't go there." Greed of earning money has not only spoiling the minds of elders, but children are also being spoiled.

CHILDREN FEELING SCARED IN DARK: CONTRACTOR CONTROLS LIGHT IN NOIDA

Talkative reporter Sapna and Shambhu

A reporter organized a meeting with the children living in Noida. In the meeting all children discussed the problems faced by them. In this meeting one thing came up that all slums are made up of tin or tarpaulin. Sharing their problems, they said, "Many problems are faced due to this reason. Sometimes snakes come inside the slums due to which we children are very



scared. Here slums are located between the jungle, where poisonous insects have started

breeding. We don't even have proper light facilities. in our slums. We do have generators,

but here power ranges from 6 in the evening to 10pm the in night. After 10pm whole slum is covered with darkness. Due to this reason we, children and our parents are not able to sleep properly. That's why we want proper light facilities so that we can live safely." On interacting with their parents, they said, "We have to pay Rs 1000 per month for this generator power. If we don't get our salary on time, our slum's light is also cut.. We want to get rid of this problem". In order

to find some solution, parents went to their contractor to talk about their problems but even the contractor refused to listen there problems. Contractor says "We have not made you travel with us for solving your problems, instead for doing our work. If you want to work then stay else you can leave this place". This is why the parents are not able to say anything because if they leave their work their livelihood will stop. They will have to roam in search of food and livelihood.

DREAMS SHATTERED, THEY ARE FORCED TO BEG

Reporter Jyoti

This has been seen in some places of South Delhi that families from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh brings their children here and torture them to work at a very young age. In south Delhi, at many places it has been seen that many people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh bring their children to cities like Delhi and torture them. They force them to do work. The name of this place has been kept confidential. After talking to these children it came out that their family members torture them because all elder members of these children sit at their home. No one works. Small innocent children are sent for begging. All the money collected by begging is used by these people to buy liquor. If these children refuse to beg then their family members torture



them. Family members are refusing to understand that how these children beg. Expressing their problems, children said, "We children go for begging at 7 in the morning, whole day we don't eat anything. We don't even get single penny even after working hard whole day and that's why we have to starve. After begging for the whole day

we hardly get 50 to 60 rs. If we spend this money on food then what will we give to our family members. We are not able to take this pain anymore. We want to get rid of this problem, because we don't will to do this work. We also want to go to school like other children but it looks like that this will remain a dream forever."

LET'S SAVE THESE CHILDREN FROM GAMBLING

Balaknama Bureau, Lucknow

Due to gambling taking place at the crossing of Madiyon Sadri in Lucknow, the studies of children are getting affected. There is a railway track at this place. From morning to evening, elder people and even people from different places come to gamble. Everyday people play gambling at this place. Seeing these people play gambling innocent kids are getting influenced by them in a very wrong way. According to the parents living at this place children are getting influenced in a wrong way by these gamblers. They says, "Children who go for studies sometimes sit besides them and evil people playing gambling make childrens buy toxic substances like bidi, cigrate, pan, masala, Gutka, kheni etc. for them. If children refuses to bring these intoxicants, they abuse them and even beat them because of which these inocent children forcefully bring toxic substance and give them. There is a daily visit of police in the colony but they ignore all this just because these gamblers pay them." Due to some money police also threaten children and their parents. 12 years old Gopal (changed name) said, "There are good people as well in the colony and they try to stop these evil people but these people threaten them. That's the reason why all children living at this place want to get out of this problem as soon as possible, so that innocent children can avoid entering into the dark world and can go to school regularly to make their future bright."

SAVE US FROM THESE BAD COMMENTS PLEASE, URGED STREET GIRLS

Reporter Shambhu

After seeing the environment in the slums girls are tensed. When one of our reporters organized a meeting with these girls they talked about their problem. Expressing their problems, they said, "There are some evil boys in their slums. Their behaviour is not good. They keep sitting on their terrace. They pass bad comments seeing any girl passing through the slum. That's the reason why our parents dont allow us to go out." Girls who live at this place say that boys whistle when they see them which cause a lot of trouble for them. After listening to their problems, reporter asked,



"Why didn't you informed police or called at Child Helpline number 1098?" Girls said, "Doing this would only increase our problems, because they also belong to the same place where we live at. That's why we are afraid of taking anybody's help. Even after knowing everything, we are facing this problem. Another problem is that we cannot leave this place as our parents are working here and this is the only way of our family's survival.

If we leave this place our family will die starving. That's why our parents are also ignoring this problem, but we girls are very scared. We are scared hat all these things will eventually spoil our lives."

LET THEIR DREAMS BE FULFILLED

Reporter Deepak

In our society there are children who work hard, day and night to run their house due to poor economic condition of the family. It is a matter of pride that even after facing so many problems, those children have lots of dreams. Come let's acknowledge you with the dreams of those street and working children. Our reporter went to different places of Delhi and came to know that there are kids who are hiding their dreams and their hope of fulfilling them is seen in their eyes. They hope of someone who will come in their lives and fulfill their dreams. Telling more about them, a 10 years



old child, Sonu said, "From my childhood I wanted to become a dancer. I want to dance like Honey Singh and Sapna Chaudhry but due to poor conditions of my family this is next to impossible. Reporter also met children who were talking about their dreams and family. They

said, "Whenever we listen to song we are not able to stop themselves and our feet starts dancing, forgetting all problems". After talking to children, reporter also met their parents and presented the dreams of children in front of their parents. Describing the situation of their family, the helpless parents said, "If a single member does not go to work for one day, then our child have to starve. Due to lack of money we are not able to fulfill the dreams of our children. Nobody allows us to fulfill their dreams without taking money. We want someone to come up as an angel to help us to fulfill our dreams."

INCREASING EVE TEASING, GIRLS LEAVING SCHOOLS

Reporter Chetan

The girls living in west Delhi are very interested in going to school. They go to school regularly. Though their parents are not wealthy enough to provide them proper school uniform and bags, all these things did not affect these girls. They only focus on their studies. After returning from their school they help their parents in household activities too. Their parents are also very happy since their daughters are going to school for studying. Current society does not allow girls to go out of their home. The saddest

part is that at present these girls are not willing to go to school. What are the compulsions these girls are going through that they decided to leave their school? The reporter tried to gather the information. Expressing their feelings, they cried. They said, "Now we are scared of hearing the name of the school which once motivated us. There are some bad boys who stand on the gate of our school and they talk badly with the girls passing by and even abuse them, this is the reason why we don't want to go to school, anymore." Reporter then asked

the girls, "Why didn't they complain to their teachers about this problem?" Girls told that their teachers are also afraid of them. Telling more they said, "That's why our teachers also don't say anything. We are not able to communicate with our parents about this problem, because we know if we will tell them about this problem they will take off our names from the school. We girls want prompt action against these boys and they should be taken away from school premises so that our future will not get destroyed.

WILL RADHA'S FAMILY EVER GET TO SMILE AGAIN?

Talkative reporter Radha and Chetan

This news is about a girl, Radha living in Shakurbasti, used to live her life peacefully with her family in past. There are 5 members in Radha's family and she is the youngest among them. Radha's parents go out for work. Father used to make bed cabinets etc and her mother used to do packaging work in a medicinal factory. In this family

everyone used to live happily. Radha's young brothers used to study in their village. There was no kind of shortage of anything in their house. After a few days, Radha's father suddenly passed away, due to which the mountain of sadness broke down in the house. At present everyone is sad in Radha's home. When Radha spoke to the reporter she said "I want to study but since my father died we are not able to

do anything. All the members of my family have started working for our survival. The brother who used to study in the village he also doesn't want to study now." For Radha her father was her hero, who is not with her anymore. In this sadness her mother is also not taking proper meals. She is always lost in dreams of her father. It seems like after the death of father their life has become

hell and her mother is no longer paying proper attention to children. That's why Radha wants her family to be happy as it was when her father was alive. Expressing her problems, she said, "But nobody is willing to help our family. Our uncle-aunt and relative do not even talk to us properly. That's why we want you to help us, so that we children will be able to go to school again and help our mother to become happy."

BALANAMA AND BADHTE KADAM IN HEADLINES

We are sharing some photos related to these moments with you.



A unique fashion show by street children (Girls)



A street child become SHO for one day.



Street children learning the leadership for group of children

Former street kids make the long jump to class toppers

Krittika.Sharma @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Sandeep is a 12-year-old who can leap 13 feet in the long jump, ranks second in his class, and can calculate the cost of a dozen bananas in a split second if given the current rate. Till a year ago he was a street child. Today, he is among 13 such children in west Delhi who have earned one of the top four positions in their respective classes.

In the last one year, in west Delhi alone 511 children have moved on from working as beggars, tea-stall helpers, housemaids and petty labourers to regular school. They have been accepted in 14 corporation schools in west Delhi with the effort of Chetna, an



Five students, who were earlier street children, show off their mark sheets. They study in two corporation schools in west Delhi

NGO that works to help children get off the streets and make something of themselves.

Sandeep and his friend Nitish love to jump. They usually

practice in open areas around their slums and parks, competing against one another.

▶ Related report, P 8



Badate Kadam and Street Children celebrated the International Street Children Day

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

This newsletter 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.