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BALAKNAMA

UNIQUE NEWSPAPER FOR AND BY STREET CONNECTED CHILDREN

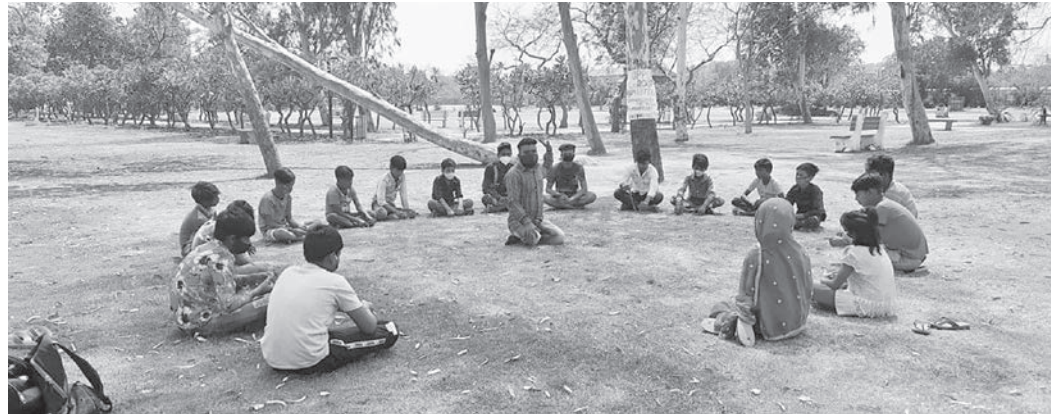
“Balaknama is the newspaper presented by Street and Working children themselves to fight for their own rights and problems because they are being completely ignored.

STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN AFRAID OF SECOND WAVE OF CORONA VIRUS!

CHILDREN BREAK THEIR SILENCE ON THIS SECOND WAVE

Editorial Team

Sharing their personal experiences, one of the 12 years old girl named Payal said, “I work as a cleaner with my mother in a Door house. As we all are very well aware with the current situation all around the world and India comes on the 3rd place in the list of severely affected countries, still we, street and working children were healthy and not affected by this virus. But recently, few of our children working with the other staffs of higher categories got infected with this virus. These staffs were used to contact each and every person in the door house in order to know about their health. If they are infected that means few of us are also ill. Due to such reasons, we all are very afraid.” She further added, “Last year we somehow survived this corona virus, fighting with all the rents, loans, food and water crisis. But now we fear that this second wave is more dangerous and we might not pass through it. How can we,



street and working children survive on roads without food, shelter and way of earnings?” In order to look into this matter, some of our reporters tried to interact with these children in more personal. A 13 years old girl, Suhana said, “There are 4 members in my family; my mother, younger brother and sister and me. My father died due to heavy drinking. From then only, we sell balloons in market and my brother and sister begs in the market. We somehow survived the past year but we are not at all sure how will we survive this second year. We belong to a family in which we earn and

spend on daily basis. We don’t have any particular earning. If the lockdown continues extending on weekly basis like this then how will we earn to live. Last year we do have some kind of savings but this year, we don’t have anything to spend or eat.” Sharing more stories, a 15 years old boy named Anmol said, “I wander here and there in the streets of Lajpat Nagar to polish shoes. Before this lockdown I used to study in school but after my father died due to current in the city, Rajasthan, I had to start working to look after my family and help them to survive. Now I wake up early

and went to the market in the morning time to polish shoes of the people going to school or offices. Due to this second wave, I am not allowed to step out neither people are willing to go out so I and my family fear of our earning and survival.” Another 13 years old girl, Tanya who sell balloons and toys in the market said, “My father already took so much of loan from other people and my brothers are also going towards drinking so my family is already under too much of loan. I and my mother had to look after my family and we two are the only earning person there. We fear that if

the lockdown again extends for about 7 to 8 months, then how will we survive and earn this year?” In this, another 15 years old girl, Kohinoor who works as a cleaner in a shop, said, “There are 8 members in my family and my father is not at all supportive. I and my mother have to look after my family and him. my mother works in bungalows as house-helper and both of our earning is used for our survival. My mother is much under depression because currently she is not allowed to step out and bungalow owners have told her not to come for some time to work. She is afraid if the owners don’t call her back soon then how will we pass this year?” Sharing more, another 13 years old boy, Tohid said, “I and my mother works as rag pickers to look after our family and fulfill the basic needs. Due to this lockdown and corona virus second wave, people don’t allow us to enter their streets. If this continues then how will we earn? From where will manage to buy food? How will

cont. on pg. 2

STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN WANDERING IN SEARCH OF WATER

Balkanama Team

As we all know that summers are getting hot day by day and street and working children doesn’t have any proper shelter hence, they are wandering on footpaths under scorching sunshine. Neither the work nor the shelter they have. First wave of corona virus already exploited them, their parent’s work and their lifestyle, still they somehow manage to live and earn to fulfil their stomach but in all these things, they still



struggle to get clean drinking water.

When our Balaknama reporter tried to contact them,

children said, “In order to earn we are selling pens, toys and flowers even in such hot summers. The only thing we

can’t fight is our thirst. As we have to wander under the scorching sun, we need to keep ourselves hydrated in order not to fall ill but we are not able to find any free way of drinking water rather we have buy drinking water or have to walk too far to drink free water. At times, we can’t even get water after walking too far for it.” We also got to know that there is a Delhi Jal Board supply near them, but they are not allowed to fulfill or drink water from that point. Telling more in this context,

Aarti (changed name) said, “Recently, my friend Pushpa tried to go to this Delhi Jal Board supply, to fulfill water, but the guard threatens her to go back and doesn’t allowed her to drink clean water.” Street children are already struggling hard to survive and with this they had to wander for searching clean drinking water. It’s heart-wrenching. After getting tired, these kids have now started drinking water used for plantations as they don’t have any other option either.

CHILD MARRIAGE: A CURSE FOR YOUNG MINDS

Reporter Sangeeta

Balaknama Reporters took a visit to interact with the street and working children of Delhi and Lucknow in order to know about their current lifestyle. Children were already fighting against corona virus and now they have to struggle with this child marriage too. Sharing their stories, children said, "Our parents are forcing us to get married in such young age." A 14 years old girl, Lalita (changed name) said, "My family's financial condition is not good. As boy's family is not asking for dowry due to corona virus, my parents want me to get married as soon as possible.



They are even thinking that if they deny for good rishtas now then it will be difficult for them to find the same or better after this pandemic

ends. Due to all these reasons we, children are going through lot of mental stress." Another 17 years old girl, Lata (changed name) kept an

interaction with a girl who is married at a younger age. She said, "My parents fixed my marriage at an age when I didn't know what marriage or

husband is. Later my parents got to know that the boy has changed his mind and now want to marry another girl. My parents got panicked and searched for another boy. Sooner they planned my marriage and made me marry another boy in a fear of society." Corona again came with another new challenges and fears of struggle and child marriage for younger minds. Children can't even argue and fight for themselves as their family's condition is not at all good enough to handle all these things. Parents are thinking for their kid's future but they don't know that they are spoiling it in other ways just to overcome one fear: Marriage.

STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN AFRAID OF SECOND WAVE OF CORONA VIRUS!

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we fulfil our stomach?"

In this matter, our reporters took a visit to West Delhi, where 14 years old street and working child, Shefali said, "My elder brothers don't work, rather they are into drinking. Also, my father is also not earning much to fulfil our stomach that's why I and my other siblings started begging in the market. We have not yet paid the loan we took in the first wave of corona virus and this second wave came again

to spoil us. I heard that the lockdown is for Saturday and Sunday, which might be a good measure to control corona virus but we are not happy with this decision as people step out in these two days only. If people don't come to the market, then how will we earn and survive? It's good that the government is thinking for us but they should take some ideas and reviews from us too before implementing the same."

In the same context, a 13 years old boy, Anuj (changed

name) who lives in the city of Taj- Agra said, "I fear that we will have to sit at home like last year due to the lockdown and corona virus. Our parents will be laid off again and will have to search for new jobs again. If this continues then we will have no other way of earning." Another 13 years old girl, Monika said, "I live in Nagla Udawith my family. There are 7 brothers and 5 sisters in my family. Being the eldest one, I have to look after my siblings and have to take care of all the responsibilities.

My father is a rickshaw puller and mother are a house-helper. Whatever my parents earn is used for paying the rent and electricity bills and hence I have to work in order to fulfil the basic needs of my family. I make anklets to

earn. Though I do go through many problems while making an anklet but that's my work and only way of earning. We are ready to work and earn in any situation. We don't want to sit at home and cry for food under depression again!"

NEED PRIVATE TUTIONS TO COMPLETE ONLINE HOMEWORKS

Reporter Shanno

Our reporters tried to interact with the children who used to go to school but are now taking online classes due to corona pandemic. In order to know about their challenges, reporter took a ground report. During this, a 16 years old boy, Rahul (changed name) said, "We make a group of 5 to 6 children and walk too far to take private tuitions to complete our online homework. This might sound good and adventurous but seriously it isn't. We get tired as hell and also, we are paying extra just to complete our homework because it is online. Before we used to pay Rs 500 as our fees for 1st to 6th class and now we have to pay the same amount to the tutor per month. Our parents came to Delhi to earn money and survive. We are not that rich. They won't spend much amount on our education like this. For our better future, they do allow us to join private tuitions but seriously if it continues, we might have to leave our studies." In the same context, another 14 years old



girl, Neha (changed name) said, "I am also continuing my studies through online classes. I take help from my private tuition teacher to complete my online homework. Currently, I am facing issues in taking private classes because my parents have been laid off due

to lockdown and they are not able to pay the tuition's fees. I am afraid that if it continues, I might have to leave my school and education. Just wish that schools open soon so that things can get back to normal and we don't have to attend online classes."



SAD STORY OF BEGGING CHILDREN

Reporter Muskan

Many children do the work of begging in famous place like Noida, these children talked about their problems and said that it has been going on for years in our family. That children who grow up, put a bowl in their hands, they are left as passers-by to beg. That is why we do the work of begging. Our parents also do beg. This is our ancestral work. The 12-year-old Pushpa (changed name) told that as soon as we take care of our senses, our parents give us a bowl in our hands instead of books and say that you go and earn money by begging, that's why we children are begging and we don't even know what is education. We children keep wandering from here to there all day to beg, and while begging, we children have a lot of trouble because the public sees us children with the wrong eyes, we see us with the eyes of hatred, and now we see them with such eyes It is as if we are corona positive and we are spreading corona all over the country. That is why the public also abuses us, it seems that we children are not part of this country, in such a situation, what should we children do and if the children go to the market to fill our stomach, then people sell vegetables in the market. There are some good vegetables after getting spoiled vendors tosses the spoiled vegetables into the garbage. But in compulsion we bring those spoiled vegetables to our house and after that we cook for ourselves to eat from those vegetables. Because sometimes we do not get money from begging, so we do not even gather money that we can eat good food, that's why we take those bad vegetables and eat the food. But we do not like to beg, but to feed ourselves, we have to do something, so we are forced to beg and have to bear hatred eyes of people.

COVID REPERCUSSION ON STREET-CHILDREN: LEARNING OR EARNING?

Reporter Kishan

During a meeting with street and working children of Noida, our reporter tried to know about different ways children are continuing their studies with. A 15 years old boy, Bittu (changed name) said, "We don't have any

option to study currently. What can be more painful than leaving our schools and education and getting indulged into child laboring and begging for our survival." Another 14 years old boy Kanhaiya, said, "Most of us work as rag pickers and collect garbage for our

survival. Due to lockdown, factories are closed and hence we are not able to go out to collect garbage. We do feel tired and stressful due to working but what more depressing is leaving our education for this garbage work." Another 16 years old boy Pawan (changed name)



CHILD LABOUR WASN'T ENOUGH; THEY NOW HAVE TO FACE FAKE BLAMES



Reporter Mamta

Lajpat nagar market is a very well-known shopping place. People of all standards go there to purchase things for festivals, home decors, functions and marriages. Slum people and street and working children also go there to sell things, toys, flowers, garlands, low-rate clothes and many of them also go there to collect garbage. Everything is fine with this market except the fake blames and problems street and working children have to face. As the lockdown have extended, it

is getting very difficult for such kids to survive. People hardly allow them to enter in the market area and ignore them in fear of falling ill and getting Corona virus because of their unhygeinity.

Sharing few incidents, children said, "Forget about the ignorance, if someone from the public lost his belongings, then everyone blame us and call us thieves. We know, we wear dirty clothes, collect garbage, sell cheap things but we don't steal anything. We do this for survival." A 15 years old girl, Mamta (changed

name) said, "I feel like, we kids are now used to such things and blames. There are few elder boys who do pick-pocketing and steal things due to them we have to listen to their abuses. Seeing our dirty clothes and gesture, public believes in those pick-pocketers and files reports against us, sadly, even the policemen doesn't believe us. They cross-question us that we are the only ones who could do such things because we belong to poor families." Another girl, working in the markets, Sofia, said, "Whenever a complaint is filed against us, policemen take us to the police station and do the enquiry and questioning from us. At times, they even threaten us to tell the truth but sadly, they don't believe the truth. Rather they want to hear what they already believed in. Why would be sell things and collect garbage if we could survive on pick-pocketing? We are not bad, only our situations are."

shared his feelings and said, "Most of us are struggling with new challenges in our daily life due to this corona virus and lockdown. That's why we are doing each and every work we are getting to do and earn money from. For this, we even have to quit schools and can't continue studying through online classes or private tuitions. Sadly, we do want to study but we can't." On further

interaction, reporter got to know that many parents have started drinking alcohol due to depression and in such cases children have to look after their parents too and their responsibilities. We feel very bad for ourselves while seeing other people studying and doing good with their lives as we know we can also do such things but our compulsions doesn't allow us to."



PARENTS' BEEN LAID OFF; CHILDREN HAVE TO SUFFER

Reporter Shambhu

When the journalist held a support group meeting with the children at the grassroots level. During the meeting, the children told that recently the kind of situation is there, on seeing this situation the condition of the road and working children is getting worse day by day. It is being heard that parents are not able to get work in the Kothi like the way it was before the corona period. Because of these parents have started sending children to work forcibly. The work is like

the garbage picking and do begging. But sadly, when the children are not ready to do this work, then the parents also get angry at the children and sometimes they even beat them. Because of this, the children are very upset, the children say that our parents are not getting work in the kothi, but why are we facing the punishment for that. So, the children want to find a solution so that we do not have to face such situations. We appeal to the children that our parents should get work in the kothi so that we do not have any pressure of work.

CHILDREN STRUGGLING WITH THE MESS



Reporter Shambhu

Recently, during a visit to Noida, it was discovered that there is some basti where the parents of the children are living in a rented house

and go to work in the kothi to make a living. It has been heard that small innocent kids who live in this place have to face many problems, as there are many rooms in such a way that there is no

place for the children to play. It has been seen that there are many small streets around the room where only the gutter pipelines are there, due to which many times after filling the gutter pipe line, a lot of dirt from the stool urine gets spread. Where for the children, it is very difficult to pass through and play. There have been many times that the parents of the children are not able to plead with anyone due to their involvement in the work.

The children want that such a situation can be dealt with quickly. So that we do not have to face such a mess, and cleanliness remained around basti.

**CHILDREN'S HELP
LINE NUMBERS**

CONTACT THESE TOLL FREE
NUMBERS IF YOU FACE ANY
PROBLEM.

Child line Number

1098

Police Helpline Number

100

BAD CONDITION OF STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN IN CORONA

Reporter Jyoti, Shanno

As friends you all know that at this time the corona crisis is not taking the name of ending from our country and from the state, in such a situation, the life of children working on red lights is being greatly affected. Young innocent children should study at this age, are in search of work on the red light in the crisis of this corona. The journalist met those children to take survey who are working on red lights, or either are looking for work. A 14-year-old Manisha (changed name), said that brother kids are not working on their own. We kids have a boss who makes us work, but it is our compulsion to work and that is why we are contacting our old boss so that we can get work for ourselves, so that we can find a way to work easily and get some money

to fill our stomach. 15-year-old Arun (changed name) told that brother, we have a very poor family, ever since the coronavirus has come to our country, since then the condition of our house is getting worse and the people are getting enough food to eat, so now we children are going to our old boss and requesting him to give us the same work as before, give us something similar to what we used to do earlier by selling our goods on red lights so that we can earn our some money and get something for ourselves. In the link said that recently in Kotla, children cook food on their own and go out to look for work and come back at 8 pm at night, during this time they go to red light and sell goods like pens, pencils, books, children's small game & toys, mobile charger, data cable, dusters, etc. Children go to sell their



items at different red lights. In this link, 15-year-old Rahul (changed name) said that we children used to sell goods from 8 am to 10 pm, but since the night curfew has been implemented in Delhi, from then we are able to sell goods from morning 8 am till evening 8 pm at red light. After the night curfew

in Delhi, there is a loss in our selling and we are also suffering a lot, because there is no traffic at the red light due to the night curfew, none of our goods are being sold in large quantities. Already, we have been able to work on low commission due to compulsion, our work is not able to continue due to

the night curfew. In such situation, running our home has become difficult. In this link, 12-year-old Sonu (changed name) said that when traffic stops at the red light, the children run towards the driver, and try to sell them charger, mobile items, thus the children sell their goods and sells a car cleaning duster for ₹ 40, mobile charger for ₹ 120, thus different items have different rates. 15-year-old Aarti, told that the police drives us away from red light by beating because of the night curfew there is a lot of strictness on the red light right now, due to which we are not able to sell our goods easily, our boss abuses and beats us children, so we have to work overtime but due to the night curfew we do not give overtime either. We are getting it, so we are not earning even. Children are very upset.

HARD TO FIND A PLACE FOR SLEEPING IN NIGHT CURFEW

Reporter Jyoti

The journalist from Balaknama contacted the girls who were spending time under the flyover and organized the meeting and the names were introduced during that meeting to discuss the problems that the girls face while working on the red light for their family's living whole day and sees the opportunity to sleep under the flyover at night. Girls have faced a lot of trouble at that time, 15-year-old Kamal (changed name) told that we are girls but work all day and in the night, we have to sleep under this bridge or in the open place like the bridge, we are compelled to sleep at these places. Because there is no safe place for us to live, nor do we have enough money so that we can live in a rented house,



even if we have money, no one gives us a room for rent. Even if someone gives us a room for rent, we do not have enough money to pay the rent every month, so we are compelled to find places like flyovers after working, because we girls while sleeping under the bridge have to face a lot of problems like big boys who are hovering here after drinking alcohol, keep looking at the girls and speak abusively. 14-year-old Kajal (changed name), told us we are not allowed to sleep under the bridge now, as it is a completely open area, which is now not allowing us to sleep due to night curfew and we are very upset that now where do we spend our night? Because the night curfew starts after 10:00 pm, due to which no public can go on the road. Earlier, we used to sleep under

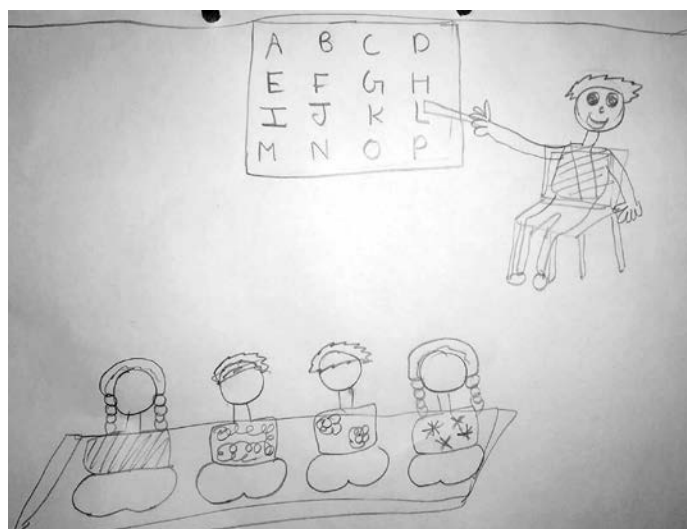
a flyover by hiding, but now it is getting very difficult. Due to the night curfew, the police keep visiting, due to which we are not able to complete our sleep nor are we able to sleep in the open. The trouble is that in this corona virus crisis, how do we live in a rent house? we are not able to rent a room and start living. And we cannot even live in night shelters because it's already so much crowded that there is no place to live. Even if we go into the night shelters, then a crisis like corona hovers over our head and there is also the fear that if we stay together in a crowded place, then corona infection may happen and we will get sick. That is why we have to see an open place somewhere and spend our night there, in this way we girls are living our lives in the crisis of Corona.

WHEN EDUCATION TURNED INTO BUSINESS

Reporter Shambhu

Recently, big news has come out that the way all centres that were ran by the schools and institutions are closed due to corona epidemic. Some children are taking virtual classes through smartphones but those who do not have a smartphone how they can complete study, this has become a serious problem for the parents, in view of this serious situation, some people have started teaching tuition to the children around their basti. Parents have started

sending their children there to study, but the matter of concern is that their fees are also four hundred rupees per month. The parents are having a lot of difficulties in giving Rs 400 per month, but still they are paying so that their child's future is not spoiled in this way. But the sad thing is that children go there to study, but even after studying for a month or two, children do not know how to read and write anything. People also have to say that those who used to work in the factory and other company earlier



have also started teaching tuition to the children to make their living. Though the situation is serious now but if the business of education will be done in this way, neither the children will be educated nor the parents will be able to fulfil their needs. That is why the children say that we should also get the opportunity to study as before. Those children who do not have any modes, needs to draw more attention. So that we get rid of such situations and provide a good education.

MAKING WOODEN STANDS FOR LIVELIHOOD

Balaknama Team

Number of children working on the red light of Delhi is increasing, to check that journalists met the children working on the red light and talked to them. After meeting these children, it was learned that those who are very young children are made to work for begging or they are made to sell flowers, you will often see small children selling a bouquet of flowers in a hand on a red light. It was found from 15-year-old Kamal (changed name) that all these children are living in the vicinity such as West Delhi, South Delhi, Noida, etc., as everyone knows that children and their parents are not doing any work due to coronavirus.

In such a situation, the children have started working on the red light. Kamal said that most of these children are from Rajasthan, who are not working in Rajasthan. So, their parents have brought them to Delhi now, these children used to work in Rajasthan as well, but the work there has completely collapsed because neither a fair is being held there nor a market like fair is left. Due to coronavirus, there has been strictness in the Rajasthan too. Therefore, the earlier work of the road and working children and their families living there has been left out. For this reason, their parents have recently brought their children to Delhi, and got the children to work on the red



light. Some of these parents build wooden stand, they can

make a wooden stand and sell it in the market. 14-year-old Sapna told that our parents buy wood from the market, after that make a stand to keep slippers. Children also make wooden stands with their parents. Therefore, children have a lot of difficulty while making wooden stand, while cutting wood a lot of dust comes, due to which children have chest pain, stomach pain. After facing such difficulties, children make a wooden stand and sell it in markets near red light. Sapna also told that the wooden stand is worth around ₹ 150 in which we children are getting very little money. Due to Corona period stand is being sold of ₹ 80 which is causing us loss, but we are compelled

to sell a stand of ₹ 80, that's how we are living with our earnings. But the sad thing is that since the night curfew has been imposed in Delhi, we have to leave the market soon and return to our home. Because of which sometimes not a single stand of ours is sold and our younger siblings have to sleep hungry. That is why we are now doing two types of work. We make and sell stand and in addition, we also sell flower bouquets in the market. If our wooden stand would not be sold in the market, then we earn little money by selling flower bouquets. In this way, by doing double work we are living. By doing this, at least our siblings don't have to sleep hungry.

PARENTS IN DEBT, OUT OF WORK, CHILDREN FORCED INTO CHILD LABOUR

Reporter Jyoti

There are countless children in our society whose story can be very sad. The journalist of Balaknama visited and tried to know about the conditions, that how children are living their lives after deteriorating economic situation due to corona and how is his life going on due to Coronavirus? 12-year-old Bhola (changed name) said that he started working in a hotel after his father died. Bhola is older than his siblings in his house and on such a huge responsibility fell

on his shoulders. Bhola has two younger siblings whom he wants to send to school. Wants to send for studying but due to the fragile situation at home, he is unable to educate his siblings, so he is working harder in the hotel than ever before. Bhola works in overtime hotel. So, he works in the hotel every day from 5 am to 9 pm at night. But due to the night curfew in Delhi, Bhola is no longer able to work overtime, due to which he is getting less salary. But Bhola is running the expenses of the house with those little money. His mother has also



started washing dishes with him in the hotel, thus both mother and son are working

together to earn money. When the world was in lockdown due to coronavirus, the rent of the slum on Bhola and Bhola's mother was a debt. Both the mother and son are working hard to repay. Because Bhola still lives with his family in a rented house. While his mother is working to pay the rent of the slum, Bhola on the other hand is working hard to pay back the debt he had incurred. In this way both mother and son are together taking care of the house. Bhola says that my work is my helplessness, as well as my need, because

if I do not work, my siblings will not be able to be nurtured easily. Ever since my mother and I started going to work together, my brother and sisters have no luck in eating good food every day. But when the father died, from that time there is shortage of food and on that living in lock-down had become insurmountable. But now the financial situation is starting to recover a little bit. But the worry is that somewhere in the second wave of this corona, the economic condition of our house will not be weakened again as before.

PAIN AND ANGER ARE THE HIDDEN BURDEN FOR CHILDREN WITH AN ALCOHOLIC FATHER

Reporter Poonam

As you all know there is a corona outbreak in our society. In such a situation, the children who are spending time on the road are very upset and are struggling with difficult situations. Let's find how children are currently living their lives. As friends you all know that in today's society, even today, children are seen begging, despite the government's efforts and millions of schemes, children are easily seen begging in the buses, markets, temples, mosques and on the streets. But do you know that those children do not beg on their own.

These children have some different compulsions, due to which they have to beg by going here and there and when the journalist talks to these begging children to



take survey of this and how the children are living their lives due to this coronavirus. After discussing this in depth, then the 13-year-old Rahul (changed name) said that he and my parents used to live under the bridge in West Delhi earlier, Rahul has two younger brothers, but due to Corona period, the condition of their house became very bad. Due to this, Rahul is so compelled that he now goes for begging with mother every day. Because his father drinks alcohol and he does not nurture his household, he does not bring home a single penny to feed me and my family, so Rahul goes with his mother every day to beg, so that he can also earn some money and help run his home.

After working hard, both the mother and son are able to earn some money for an

emergency situation to get food and drink but Rahul's father fights with his mother the everyday, and all the money is taken away by Dad, and drink alcohol with all the money. If we do not give money to the father, then he takes the money by beating and snatch them. If we do not give money even after the beating, then he starts beating even to my younger brothers and sisters and abuse them for money too. Because they need money to drink alcohol under any circumstances.

Sir, he does not even see before you how badly he is beating his wife and children. Every day I am upset with the fight, by working so hard, we collect some money and my father takes away all the money by beating and consume alcohol. what we can do in this situation.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO FACE THIS?



Reporter Shambhu

During the visit, a shocking news came out, which you will also go to the shocked, let's get detailed information about this news, it has been heard that during this corona epidemic when the roadside and working children pass by a person, they are seen from the eyes of hatred. Although such discrimination used to

happen before but since this Corona period has come, more and more of these cases are being heard that the children are being discriminated even more than before. The incident further came to light that some children who went to play in the park were also wearing masks, but still those children were scolded out by rebuking by the guard of the park and started using abusive words

too on children. But despite this, the children also tried to tell the person overseeing the park that before coming to park we washed our hands and everyone has also put on masks. We play in the park by following the social distancing. Didi Bhaiya of our organization has taught us how to follow the social distancing, please don't scold us but that person did not listen to any of the children and asked the children them to leave the park at that time. Then the children came out of the park disappointed. Children say that if we will be treated in this way, then where we will go, therefore there should be a solution to this problem so that we children can play in a safe park. We children are seeing this kind of behaviour towards ourselves for the past one year, everyone shuns us from everywhere, by reprimanding us in the same way.



SALUTE TO BRAVE CHILD

Talkative Reporter Rohit, Reporter Shambhu

This news is about the brave child who went to protect other children without caring for his life. Let's get detailed information about this 9-year-old Rohit (changed name) lives with his family in Sorakha, a place in Noida. Rohit's parents work for their family's expenditure, then the family is able to live. The sad thing is that in the place where Rohit resides, there is a very big pond in which water has accumulated for a long time, often many animals have fallen in it, many times

animals have died by falling in the water. The incident has happened recently, a child was cycling there, suddenly his balance deteriorated and he fell in the same pond of water, that child started drowning slowly in that pond, then Rohit saw that child. Rohit came running to save the child, he jumped in the pond and took the child out of the pond and saved his life, although Rohit knew how to swim so Rohit was successful in saving the life of the child. Rohit says that this pond should be filled with sand as soon as possible so that such an incident cannot happen again.

LEAVING SCHOOLS TO PAY THE RENT, PARENTS TOOK IN THE PAST YEAR



Reporter Mamta

My name is Kiran, I am 11 years old, I live with my family in the Nagla region of Uda. I do knit with my family. My father works of a shoe. Whatever money we earn from this work, the father blows that money into liquor and gambling and do not pay even a single penny to spend money at home. For this, I now weave with my mother separately because I have younger siblings and

I work with my mother to nurture them. Whatever money we get from this work, with those money, we spend our house expenses. But to fulfill my needs, I do other things too, because from money made from weaving can only be spend on household expenses, but the rest of our needs are not fulfilled, that's why I and my mother are also forced to work to make shoes. Do more work by doing overtime. Then our remaining needs are fulfilled.

Uda said that I used to go to school before, but had to face a lot of problems since the lockdown, because all our work stopped, due to which a lot of debt was incurred on us. We borrowed money from some people to make our living. I had to leave my school to repay the people who had borrowed money from me because my mother was unable to pay the debts alone and to maintain the cradle of the house. Whatever money my mother used to earn, father used to fight and spend all on gambling and alcohol. money that was left with the mother, she used to give those people from whom we had taken loan. But there was no money left to eat, so I was forced to leave school and work with my mother to weave. Now I work with your mother and work and maintain my home.



WATER CRISIS; HOW TO SURVIVE?

Talkative reporter Kaira and reporter Poonam

This news is of the children living in Agra city, during the visit, the Balaknama journalist spoke to the child living in Jagjivan Nagar New Basti. Then the children told the problem, 12-year-old Kayra girl said that the water problem is increasing here and we have to fetch water from far away places and we have to face a lot of difficulties while filling the water. The people who live there tell us "don't know from where these people come to

fill the water" and at time of filling water children starts to fight that I will fill water first. Our head, hand and legs start paining because we bring the big pot and bucket of water filled with water on our head. Sometimes it happens that due to excessive pain on our hands, the pitcher placed on the head falls down and all our hard work becomes useless. Then we have to bring water again on our head and again we have to face same problems. We have to face the loss of water pot separately, on which parents also reprimand us.

SAHIL BEING THE ONLY RESPONSIBLE PERSON FOR HIS FAMILY

Reporter Poonam and Talkative reporter Sahil

This news is of 12-year-old Sahil living in the area Nagla Nanda in Agra city. Balaknama journalist spoke to Sahil during the visit. During the conversation, Sahil told that he works in a dhaba and the financial condition of the house is deteriorating, because of this he works in the dhaba, whatever money he gets he spends for his house expenses. Sahil said that he



is older than his siblings, he has two younger sisters and Mummy goes to work in the kothi, father runs a rickshaw. Sahil lives with his family in a rented house, which his parents are able to earn from which all the money goes to pay our house rent or electricity bill. As I am elder in the house, the parents have given some responsibility of the house to me too. I go to work in the dhaba to spend the rest. In the dhaba, I do the work of cutting vegetables

and do work of washing dishes. It is a different thing that I have to face a lot of problems during this, because when I do the work of cutting vegetables, the fingers of my hand are cut with knife, after that when I wash the dishes, then there is a lot of irritation on the severed place of my hands. Apart from this, the owner of the dhaba also gives me some work around the oven, then my hands also get burnt. I have to face all these troubles.

SCHOOLING GETTING TOUGH AFTER 8TH STANDARD

Reporter Ravi

As we all know that in the midst of Corona crisis many people have lost their jobs, only few are working. On that also people are hiring laborers for very less money. In such a situation, the parents of the children are in deep concern. When the journalist talked to the parents of the children on why they are worried, the parents told them that in the government school, the children get books on

studying till the eighth grade. But when the children pass the eighth grade, after that the children do not get books from school. Because of this, further education of children is under threat. Because where on one side the parents of the children do not have jobs. On the other hand, they are worried about other important essentials like room rent and food. On the other hand, the cost of school books of children is also haunting them. To know more in depth



on this subject, the activist spoke to many such children living in Sarai Kale Khan who

have just passed class 8th and have entered 9th class. Many children said that half the

books are received at school. But we have to buy half the books. And many children said that not a single book has been received from the school. We have been asked to buy all the books from outside. Whether the books have been received or half received, the road and working children and their parents are in great tension among them all. And thinking seriously on this subject, whether he will be able to teach his children further or not.

YOUNG GIRL WORKING IN BUNGALOWS FOR HER SURVIVAL



Talkative Reporter Kajal, Reporter Kishan

This news is from a village in Noida, our journalist arrived in that village and talked to some children, the girl of 15 told her the problem, the girl told "brother, as you also know that since the lock-down took place, so our parents who used to work in kothi's had been stopped during lock-down. Due to which there was a lot of problems in the house. Since then, the work of our parents is not there, due to which now I

tried to find work myself, and I got work. Now I work to feed the children in the kothi and I leave the house at 8:30 am in the morning and come home at 8:00 pm in night, during this time I do the work of feeding the children in the kothi, in which I get only ₹ 6000 for the month and run the expenses of my house with this. I have recently given the fifth grade examination under the Open Basic Education of Chetna Sanstha. Along with work, I am also looking at education as well.

HUGE FIRE BROKE

Reporter Deepak

The journalist from Balakanama spoke to the street and working children at a place called Shaheed Camp in West Delhi, and the children put their words with great grief and said that the brother with us on April 14, 2021 at around 9:30 pm the entire colony is facing a serious time. As you know, brother, we do the work of picking and sorting junk and because of the excess of goods, we have to choose one place which we call a warehouse where we can collect all that junk and keep it there. It is believed that last night someone next to theka smoked a cigarette and threw a light up matchstick on the side of the warehouse. In that warehouse there was only clothes, plastic and bottles due to which the fire immediately went ahead and within half an hour, the goods of the warehouse of many people were burnt and at the same time the houses of 30 to 40 people were also burnt. The items of their needs such as ration,

STREET-FAMILIES AND INNOCENT CHILDREN STRUGGLE TO REBUILD THEIR SHELTERS



clothes, important documents, children's books, etc. were also damaged. The parents of the children also said that brother, we had to work hard to collect

some accumulated capital and we have lost them. Hope that the government understands this serious problem and will reach us as soon as possible.

BIG COURAGE ON LITTLE SHOULDERS: A CHILD CALLED FIRE BRIGADE ON TIME DURING FIRE BROKE



Talkative Reporter Ravi, Reporter Deepak

The journalist of Balaknama thought of talking to the members of the Badhte Kadam, one of the members said that brother, there was a lot of fire in our colony last night, in which many people got scared and many people were fainted due to panic. But my brother and didi have taught me on the education club with the helpline number. I knew

that the fire brigade's number is 101. At that moment when I saw that there was a huge fire in the colony and when the people were running here and there from that fire, that time I called the fire brigade on number 101. And as soon as the fire broke out, the martyr came to camp township and stopped the fire from moving forward, but by the time the car arrived, there was a fierce fire in 30 to 40 jhuggies and many people kept junk in the warehouse also

caught fire. They collecting their accumulated capital, who had spent many days wandering around in the sun and thought that on one day all the garbage will be sold and they will make money from it, but it all turned to ashes in the fire. But if the fire brigade does not come on the case, then the fire was getting caught in the canvas and clothes with fire very fast, due to this there was a possibility of many accidents on a large scale which faded. In view of this passion of Ravi, a member of the Badhte Kadam, many people there thanked him and at the same time Ravi said that brother, there has been a lot of damage at this place, which we will have a lot of trouble to fulfill. What I want is that some brother or sister did come and make every effort to bring a small smile on his face by helping those who have suffered with me here.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE FLEEING CITIES DUE TO FEARS OF A CORONAVIRUS

Reporter Radha

This news is from Shakurbasti New area of West Delhi where the families of the children have migrated to their village in large numbers due to the fear of lock down. The families of all these children are from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, who live in a small slum in New Shakurbasti and live in very odd circumstances. In Shakurbasti New, most of the children and their parents make silbatta and sell mats, rope and wiper and break the hive of bees from trees and extract honey from it and sell them. The main reason for the families of these children to migrate to their village is to get one or two times of food to

eat because these people work very hard so that they can get their two-time food. When the lock-down started last year, all the work of these children and their parents was stopped, due to which these children could get a onetime meal even with much difficulty. So now that this second wave of Corona saw the situation like lock-down again, the families of the children migrated because they had experienced the earlier condition and circumstances of how difficult they would get food to fill their stomachs. They had to stay hungry many times in last year's lock-down, so that they don't have to face same condition they already went to their villages.

NOT GETTING PAID PROPERLY EVEN AFTER STANDING UNDER SCORCHING SUNSHINE



Reporter Jyoti

Visited a place in Noida which is named a secret. It was found that there are lot of slum huts have been built, in which the street and working children live with their parents and do different kinds of work, some children sell mats and some sell pens while some go to begging. But in this work, children stand in the sun all day, sell pens and sell mats and even beg from people, but even after making every effort, children are not able to get money to fill their stomach. Now the children are tired, even after working in the sunlight all day, the children

do not get so much money so that they can fill their stomach. That's why recently some children have started selling weed packets. Now children are falling prey to such illegal work. When the journalist discussed this subject, a child said that some children here have given up the job of selling pens and mats. Because they were getting very little money in this work, he used to sell mat and pens in strong sunlight for the whole day, but the children's goods were not being sold, so now some children have started the task of selling weed packets. Children get money easily in this work. Children in the age group of

about 15 to 18 years are getting involved in this work in large numbers who are involved in the job of selling weed selling. And with the help of this work, these children are spending their house expenses by selling weed packets. When the journalist talked to one more child, he told that since the crisis of corona epidemic has come in our life, due to this, our house situation deteriorated and get fuss of food, in view of all this situation, our mind is not calm anymore and do not want to do our studies. During this, our parents are also very anxious, so they too do not ask us to do studies. By seeing serious condition of the house, we children are doing such work to spend expenditure for our home because in such a situation we are not getting any kind of work anywhere. And the work of selling pens and selling mats is downgrading day by day, no one buys pens and mats from us, that is why children running expenditure of house by selling weed packets.



CHILDREN'S WANDERING TO FULFIL MUSTARD OIL FOR TEMPLES

Reporter Jyoti

The journalist visited a township in Noida which has been named a secret, sources in this colony revealed that there are about 200 slum huts here. Where mostly laundry is done. Street and working children living around here do the work of begging. And children fill mustard oil in a small glass bottle that is offered in shani temple, in which those children have about 400 small glass vials. Children fill those bottles with mustard oil. Children get up to 200 rupees per month for doing this work. When the journalist spoke to the 12-year-old Hemant (changed name) to check all of this, Hemant

told his trouble that with this work we spend ourself and our house expenses. I work to fill oil in a small vial at this place throughout the day. My job is only to fill mustard oil in a small bottle. Our boss sells a bottle of oil for around ₹ 30. But we only get ₹ 200 a month, in which we have to fill 200 vials with oil in a day. Even if a little oil falls, our boss starts scolding us and says that if you drop more oil than that money you get in the month will be deducted from the same money, so we work very carefully. There are many children in this job, all the children do this type of work, they also get a salary of ₹ 200 per month.



TARUN DOESN'T FEEL LIKE STUDYING ANYMORE

Talkative Reporter Tarun, Reporter Kishan

This news is about 14-year-old Tarun living in Sector 45 of Noida, our journalist from Balaknama reached out to Tarun and tried to know his problem. Tarun is a resident of Bareilly. He lives in Noida with his parents, he has two brothers and two sisters. Tarun is the eldest of his siblings, Tarun used to go to get education but he left his education from the fifth grade but the problem is that Tarun did not like to study and Tarun talked to his mother and father one day and he talked about his problem, his father asked him, so what did you want to do? Then Tarun said, I will definitely do some work, so Tarun's father got

Tarun to work in a motorcycle shop. Now Tarun learns the work from morning 8 am to evening 7 pm.

Then our journalist asked Tarun that how much money you get there, Tarun told brother, I do not get money, I am only learning work there and I leave house early in the morning. If I feel hungry, he also feeds me food from their side. The dream of Tarun is that I am not into studies but I want to do big work by learning some work because my home situation is not good, that's why I want to learn work and want to fix the situation of home. But the journalist explained to Tarun to move forward in life education is only way, so that we can move forward in our life.

CHILDREN WANDERING IN SEARCH OF WATER

Reporter Jyoti

When I visited a place in Noida, it was found that a large number of slum houses have been built here, children in the slums and their parents do the work of the junk. When the journalist spoke to a 12-year-old girl, the girl said that our father brings garbage from the kothi and we have to sit to sort and pick the junk. When the journalist asked him what's the problem here, they said that there is no water to drink nearby. It is currently so hot; we feel thirst of water within minutes of working in the sun. But here we do not get water to drink nearby, but we go too far



to satisfy our thirst, from where we fill a small or big can for ourselves. This can last for 2 to 3 days, but where we work, they don't even send us to drink water, so we take a can of water to drink. In this way, we are very upset because of this,

we have to drink water that is stored for days. And when we feel the heat, then here we have a small pond, which contains dirty water, we bathe in it and we wash our clothes also, in this work we children use this water. These days, how many serious diseases like dengue malaria are going on anyway. Many times, we get itching in our body. Due to which we also have concerns about our health, but what we can do when there is no water facility, then we are forced to use such water. We want the children to have the government facility of a tanker or water tank available here so that we can get clean cold water to drink and to bathe in.

HOW CAN WE WORK FOR 10 HOURS FOR JUST RS 100?

Reporter Kishan

Our journalists went to contact point and tried to know the problems of road and working children during the press meeting, then a 10-year-old boy said, "Brother, there is a boy next to our house" He is 11 years old and he works as a rag picker. After hearing this, our journalists reached out to the same child, then talked to him in detail and also tried to know his problems. The child said, Brother, we live in a slum, here I and my mother live, mother



too does the same work with me. We have a rag bag and the place where we work, rag belongs to the same owner. When we go to pick up the trash, we take the rag bag and we stand outside the hut and whoever brings his garbage,

he puts it inside the bag. Then we take this garbage to the owner. After that we have to sort this garbage separately. So that when we are sorting the garbage separately, there is a lot of different garbage too such as plastic, iron, plastic polythene etc. When we are sorting garbage, we also have to face a lot of stench. But we are compelled to do this work because this is our livelihood. We work from morning 8 am to evening 6 pm, in which we get salary of 100 rupees for 1 day and we live by doing this work.

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