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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.

12 June World Day Against Child Labor - Children's thoughts on increasing child labour and their dreams

## CHILDREN LEARN THE VIRTUES OF JOURNALISM (REPORTING) ON WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOR

### Bureau report

Do you know the meaning of journalism? The reporter is called the person who collects information on current events, people and issues etc. and spreads it among the public with the help of various mediums, this website or work is called journalism. It is to be noted that this year CACL (Campaign against child labour) initiated 44 days campaign on the #ChildLabourFreeIndia campaign which was started on 30th April 2022 in which state-level officials and media also participated along with children and adults. The ChildLabourFree-India campaign culminated in a national consultation with the participation of over 150 children and adults in New Delhi on the occasion of International Day for the Prohibition of Child Labor (June 12, 2022). Balaknama editor Kishan Rathore



and Balnama advisor Shanno Pathan together taught 17 street and working children the virtues of journalism for two days through various interactive methods at Vishwa Yuva Kendra, Delhi on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour -12 June 2022 and discussed with the children about what should be the role major role of child reporter? So, the children shared one by one that a reporter should be educated,

intelligent, agile, pay good attention to the news, have the art of speaking, follow discipline, have the art of listening, be fearless, be honest, etc. During the meeting, children were given detailed information on the role of a reporter in the Balaknama newspaper as well as the types of reporters. The first reporter in Balaknama is a talkative reporter who does not know how to read and write, he just narrates the news to the other



reporter who can read, write and type. The second reporter is a writing reporter, who knows both reading and writing, he tells his news both by speaking and writing. The third reporter is the editor who corrects things and types the news for the newspaper and maintains liaison with all the reporters. During these two days, children learned about the things that have to be kept in mind while collecting news and doing an

investigation of the same, such as when, where, why, how, for what, etc. questions are considered to find out any event, then after that our news becomes ready to publish.

During the meeting, children were made to visit Sarojini Market and Kale Khan Nizamuddin in Delhi and met street and working children and discussed with children about their current situation and what they would like to be when they grow up.

We all have many dreams and aspire to fulfil them and similarly, children doing many tasks on the street also have many dreams. But why can't they fulfil their own? When our journalists went and interacted with working children, Sonia (name changed) said, “I live with my parents in a small rented room in Delhi and I am from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. I go to school till

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## CHILDREN FORCED TO LIVE IN RISKY PLACES

Talkative Reporter Kamani  
Balaknama Reporter Aanchal

This news is about street and working children living in Purnia Basti of Lucknow. The township where the children live in Purnia, Lucknow is situated on the side of the railway line. Because of living here, children have to face many problems every day. The children told us that a railway line has been built right in front of our settlement, around which thick and big stones are lying on the top. We have a lot of trouble because

whenever the train leaves from that railway line, big stones fly from under the train and come towards our settlement and those stones also cause a lot of injuries, sometimes we have been injured in the head and sometimes it gets in the feet. Due to this our parents also get very upset. Not only this but when the train leaves at high speed, whatever garbage is there, also flies away and comes to our homes. But we cannot even do anything because this is a government railway line, which we cannot even ask to be removed.

PARENTS SEND CHILDREN TO WORK BUT NOT TO SCHOOL

## LITTLE GIRL ALONE IS TAKING THE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HOUSE AND ELEVEN SHOPS

Talkative reporter Noorjahan  
and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

It is a misfortune for street families that as soon as any child is nine to ten years old, instead of enrolling them into school, they are pushed towards child labour. Due to this, the future of a child turns from bad to worse. The same situation also with the street and working children living in the Assamese Basti of Lavkush Nagar, Lucknow.

When a Balaknama reporter tried to know the problems of the children during the visit, a girl told Didi, I go out with my mother in the morning to work in the house. Due to this, I do not get time to study and spare time for play. This girl wants to study, but she is not able to study due to being stuck in outside work. Similarly, another



girl also said that she goes with her mother in the morning and sweeps in 11 shops like a medical shop, clothes shop etc. She leaves at 8 in the morning and while her work completes, it is almost 2 in the afternoon. Then coming back home, she also cooks all the food for the entire family. Seeing all this, the friends of this girl are very sad,

because they say that earlier she used to go to study with us and also used to play with us. But since she started working in 11 shops, she does not play or studied with us now. Children say that we believe that we have many problems in our homes, but at least parents should think that education is very important for us along with work.



## STOP THE ILLEGAL LIQUOR BUSINESS RUNNING IN THE STREETS OF WEST DELHI

### Bureau Report

Our Balaknama reporter held a meeting in West Delhi and discussed the problems of the children. 13-year-old Satyam said, "Brother, I live in West Delhi and the place where I live has very narrow streets and grocery shops. Here people in these shops sell liquor through theft. Those who do the work of selling this liquor, those people have contact with big liquor contractors. These people take liquor from them and sell it stealthily in their area. As you must have heard different names for liquor. Here these people sell cheap liquor worth 40 rupees and the shop owner makes the people sit in the shop and drink it in real-time. The bigger problem is that when girls, children and women pass through this road, these people start abusing each other after



drinking alcohol and use very abusive language due to which girls and women feel very uncomfortable. He does not say anything to the people who drink alcohol because if he speaks then the people who drink alcohol will start abusing him even more. This

problem also happens to the people of the adjoining house. But those people do not say anything because the people of their house also drink alcohol and those people also have an advantage, they do not have to go far to buy liquor. Whenever the policemen come to check, these people are also caught. But before the arrival of the policemen, these people also keep some liquor in the house of their neighbours, so that all the liquor does not come into the hands of the policemen. The policemen catch these people, but after catching them, they leave them after taking a bribe and these people take all the liquor with them. Children say that liquor is available on government contracts, but people start selling liquor in their homes in order to earn money. We want that the business of selling this liquor illegally should be stopped.

## EVERYONE GIVES SUGGESTIONS BUT NO ONE COMES FORWARD TO HELP

### Talkative reporter Meenakshi and Balaknama reporter Anchal

We often meet wise people who often ask us, why do you work as rag pickers, collecting garbage and begging? Why don't you study? We get tired of answering such questions. Similarly, when Balaknama reporter from Lucknow reached to meet street and working children, we saw that a child was working in a temple to make flower garlands. We went to him and talked to him. During the conversation, we asked him that "How much he is able to earn from this work?" He shared that "I sell small garland for 5 rupees and big garland is 10 to 15 rupees, so even if I sell 10 to 15 garlands in a day then it is difficult to earn 100 or 150 rupees only. With this much money, my family can afford



only ration for the house and we are left with nothing end of the month. At the same time, the child also said that seeing our condition, no one helps us, just say that I should leave all this work and focus on studies. But tell me if I leave this work, how will I fill my stomach. I can study only when I have money. But I ignore listening to people because I know that no one can know my condition better than I do.

## CHILDREN LEARN THE VIRTUES OF JOURNALISM (REPORTING) ON WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOR

### From Pg. No. 1

o'clock at present I study in the ninth class, we are from a poor house and we go to a government school to get an education because that school doesn't cost money till the 8th class and we can also study I have a dream that I can become a doctor but I don't think I will be able to fulfil my dream because now I am currently studying in ninth class and need money to study in ninth class but my family's I do not have enough money to pay school fees, I have to make my dream come true, that's why now after coming from school, I go to the railway stations to pick up the junk and the money that comes after picking up the junk, they get it from money. I can even pay my fees.

While talking to Sahil (name changed) who lives in Noida, Sahil told that "I live in Noida with my parents and I go to school in the morning and come back home by 2:00 I also have a vegetable shop, after coming from school, I also work in a vegetable shop, my dream is that I can read and write to become a police officer. I have to set up a vegetable shop so that household expenses I can walk and if I do not work then there will be a lot of trouble in running my household expenses. When I am studying in school, I do not understand the subject because at that time in my mind shop work, money, and responsibilities. I have to set up a vegetable shop after leaving school and what are vegetables and what is not, because of this I am not able to pay good attention to education.

12-year-old Suman (name changed) who lives in Delhi

said, "I live with my parents in a slum and I can't go to school because I have to sell balloons all day. I used to go to school a few months back too. But my parents had to go to the village again and again for some important work and I am so young that I can not leave me alone, that's why I also had to go to the village with my parents, and due to going to the village, again and again, my name was removed from the school. My dream is that I can become a good dancer but I have to work and also need a lot of money to learn dance, there is not enough money that I can learn dance and after selling balloons, whatever the money that comes is spent on eating and drinking.

14-year-old Bandana said, "It is my dream that I should be able to read and write, become a soldier and protect the country. Presently I am studying in class VII, but the whole of India has also known this thing since the Corona period came. Since then, every child's education has become a hindrance and most of the child's school has also been missed. Sometimes problems like lockdown come and studies have also suffered a lot.

During the field visit, along with talking to the children, the children understood and learned very carefully about writing news, investing, qualities of a reporter etc. The children learned journalism in a very important way during the 2 days and they also had a lot of fun. It is known that this training was organized with the help of the Campaign Against Child Labor (CACL). Reporter Kishan, Sangeeta and Anchal

## HOW STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN DEALING WITH THE IMPACT OF INFLATION: FORCED TO SELL THEIR SHOES FOR A FEW RUPEES

### Talkative reporter Chand, reporter Kishan

Due to rising inflation, street-working children are required to earn more money to run their household expenses. Everyday needs can be met only when you have money in your pocket. But earning money for street and working children is not so easy. After working hard for the whole day, they are able to earn a penny. Even now their income is limited, but due to rising inflation, it is becoming difficult for the family to survive with that much money. Due to this, these children are forced to do wrong things. Om (name



changed) shared that there is a market in the place where I live, a little further away from my house and in that market, children work barefoot and sell balloons, flowers, masks,

giraffes' toys etc. Even though people also get these children's shoes and slippers. But these children sell those shoes and slippers. When the children were asked the reason for this, a 10-year-old boy said that we work in this market from morning till night, but the inflation is increasing day by day, and we are facing difficulties in running daily expenses. We do not have enough money that we can buy slippers or shoes for ourselves and the people who give us slippers, we have to sell them so that we can run our household expenses well with the money we get by selling them.

## GIRL'S HANDS AND LEGS INJURED DUE TO HARMFUL PHENYL: FORCED TO WORK AS A MAID



### Talkative reporter Shahida and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

Balaknama reporter held a meeting with the children of Lavkush Nagar Basti of Lucknow. During the meeting, when she saw the injured feet of a girl, the reporter talked to the girl and tried to find out her problem. The girl said that she was about 9 years old when her mother used to go to work

in the house. But ever since her health, she constantly goes to work. Wherever she goes to work, the owner makes her clean the entire house. Then the reporter asked the girl, "How did you get these wounds in your feet?" Then the girl told the whole thing, and she was blown away after hearing it. The girl said that the owner of the bungalow gets us to wipe the floor with phenyl

due to which my fingers have wounds and the soles of the feet have cut marks. Because of this, we also have trouble walking and it does not get better soon. When the reporter read about the problems caused by hard phenyl on the internet, it is clearly written to keep it out of reach of children. But the irony is that why the owner of the bungalow did not notice all these things. Perhaps he cannot understand the pain of the maid's child. But a person must have such an understanding that what we do not do to our own children, we should not do to anyone else's children. Balaknama reporter advised that girl as well as other children to stay away from acid and phenyl and also told them about its harmful side effects.



## PARENTS SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH OF THEIR CHILDREN INSTEAD OF FORCING THEM TO WORK



Talkative reporter Sabina and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

Our street and working children are so compelled to see the conditions of their homes that they do not even notice what they are doing with their lives? Children living in Lucknow's Secretariat Basti told such a heart-touching thing. These children work as garbage

pickers. He earns his living by picking up garbage to help the parents and sometimes they share the work with the parents. When we met, we saw a girl who would be around 11 years old. The girl was walking with a limp. When we went to that girl and saw her feet, we were shocked. The girl had a huge wound on her leg. When did we ask the girl how did you

get this wound? So, the girl told that one day I went out with my parents to pick up the garbage and I was not wearing slippers. As you also know that there are a lot of underlying things in the garbage place which is hard to notice. So just one negligence happened to me too. I did not pay attention and a broken wine bottle was lying there. The pieces of broken bottle entered my leg, due to which there was a huge wound on my leg. Due to the severe wound, it was bleeding very severely. But the surprising thing is that Neither bandage nor any medicine has been applied to the girl's leg. Only the soil is filled in the wound of that girl's leg, due to which her entire wound looks black. But they probably do not know that this carelessness can prove to be very fatal in the near future.

## STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN TROUBLED BY THE SMELL OF GARBAGE HEAPS

Talkative reporter Anjali and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow



We all must be aware that street and working children are ready to do any work to help their parents and to run the household expenses. No matter how much hard work they put in that work, they get the job done. Similar is the condition of our children of Vinayakapuram in Lucknow. When our Balaknama reporter had a meeting and tried to find out about the problems of the children, the child said, Didi, there is a street on the side of our house where there is always a pile of garbage. There some children come and keep picking up bottles or plastics. And when our talkative reporter Anjali talked to those children and tried to know their problem and asked the children, ``Why do

you do this work? Then the children told Didi, we do this work to run our household expenses and we are able to help our parents too. The children also told that Didi when we come through this garbage dump, there is a lot of bad smell due to which it becomes very difficult to breathe.

## DRUG ADDICTS COMMIT ATROCITIES ON WORKING CHILDREN THEY SNATCH CHILDREN'S MONEY FOR DRUGS AND BEAT THEM UP



Talkative reporter raj Reporter Kishan

When our reporter held a meeting with street and working children, it was found during the conversation that these children do the work of selling flowers, toys and pens in the market around them. They do not do this work alone, they are accompanied by 8 to 10 other people in their family, who are doing the same work. All these people spread throughout the market so that they can sell their pens, flowers and toys to as many people as possible. While they are doing this work, the drug addicts who come around are intoxicated and when they do not have money for drugs, they beat up these people. Not only this, the money these people have earned from morning till evening. They also snatch from them and they cannot do anything because they are too young and drug addicts are much older than them, and if they tell or reply to them even a little bit, they go away after beating them badly. Sometimes they beat some children so much that their body starts



bleeding. After beating these people goes a long way, then children are not able to do anything to them, and people looking around also do not come forward to help. Because those drug addicts go away by pelting stones at those people. All these children have become very upset with these people. But now what to do?

## TARUN EARNS RS.5000 BY WORKING IN A HOTEL

Talkative Reporter Anjali Reporter Kishan

Tarun (name changed) living in a slum of Noida and during the visit met our reporter. Tarun told the reporter that there are 5 family members in his house, three brothers and parents. His mother goes to work in a bungalow and his father does the work of painting. Tarun said that when our mother and father go to work, they do the work on time but they do not get the money from the owner on time. That's why our account runs in our nearest grocery store. Parents borrow stuff from the same shop. Every day in the morning we buy milk, sugar, tea and two Parle G biscuits and then after some time when we go to the same grocery shop again to buy something different, the shopkeeper starts



scolding us and refuses to give us what we need. Then we ask for money from our parents to eat something delicious, but they do not have any money, then the parents refuse to give the money. Tarun told me that I had to work in the hotel due to not getting money to get things for the home. Tarun works as a cook who makes parathas in a ho-

tel, goes to work at 7 in the morning and returns home at 5 in the evening. Till then, Tarun makes parathas at the hotel and feeds the customers as they come. Tarun also eats his day's food in the same hotel. Now Tarun gets 5000 rupees a month, so he no longer needs to take money for things from his house, and Tarun takes care of his own expenses.

## INNOCENT CHILDREN SELLING WATER BOTTLES ON THE STREETS INSTEAD OF PLAYING SPORTS DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS



Talkative report Noorjahan and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

As you all must be aware that all the children's schools have been closed due to the scorching heat. This is the time when kids do their holiday homework. They do a lot of sports and go for a walk with their parents and family members. Street and working children have also been asked to stay at home and study and enjoy their holidays to the fullest. But there are many such children after the closure of the school,

who have to run their household expenses and engaged in helping their parents to meet the expenses of their household. In Lucknow's Lavkush Nagar Basti, Balaknama reporter was going for the reporter's meeting when he saw a child. The child, like other working children, was selling water bottles on the streets and on government buses, in the late afternoon. While talking to that child, he told the reporter that I live in Nishatganj and go to school. But at this time when the school is closed, I

run a shop here and sell water, from which I get some money. When we tried to know the problem of that child in more detail, that child told us that we sell 20 water bottles a day. By which we get 200 rupees. Due to the closure of the school, the family members have asked us to work and this is why we keep selling water about 6-7 kilometres away from the house. Homeowners send the entire bottle of cardboard here, which we sell. Sometimes it gets over completely, and then we call and ask for more.



## CHILDREN STOPPED GOING TO THE PARK DUE TO ADULT'S OBSCENE ANTICS

Talkative reporter Pinky, reporter Kishan.

Most of the children do activities like sports, study and exercise in the nearby government parks. But there are some parks in Noida where children have stopped going. To find out the reason, Balaknama reporters visited the place and spoke to the children in detail about their problems. A 15-year-old girl said, "There is a park near our house and we children stay

at our house from morning till evening and keep doing household work. As everyone says, playing is a good to keep ourselves fit and healthy. It is very important, that's why we go to the park nearby to play. But the adults and elderly people living in this village come and sit in the park. Those people stare and tease the girls playing in the park and also use filthy slurs, which we do not like at all. We can't even say anything to them else they will treat us



more badly than this. That's why we stopped going to the park. We told this to our parents also, but they did not pay any attention to it and said that it does not matter, you will not go to the park from now on. They know that if we say this to anyone, nothing will be resolved. Children were saying that is it possible for any guard uncle to sit in that government park and protect the girls so that we children can play in the park.

## CHILDREN LIVING UNDER TARPULIN AND THATCH ROOFS ARE UPSET DUE TO THE STRONG STORM



Talkative reporter Shivam and reporter Kishan

There are very few children living on the streets, they have a house, otherwise, most of the children live by putting tin, thatch and tarpaulin foil. It is very difficult for them to live in such heat without a house without a tarpaulin and thatch and now even these children are very upset due to dusty storms. A 12-year-old girl living in Noida told the Balaknama reporter that at this time there is a storm every day and sometimes heavy

rains come along with it as well. We children live in slums on the side of the roads, some children live in the slums in a small temporary home made of tarpaulin with tin tappers and some empty tarpaulin tied all around. Keeping our safety in mind, we tie the tin tapper with a rope so that the tin tapper cannot fly away when there is a strong storm. But sometimes when there is a strong storm, the rope tied in the tin tapper breaks open on its own and the tin tappers fly away. Because of this, dust, soil and garbage are

spread all around come inside our homes. We have to work hard to make our home again. The children living in these houses shared that tin and tarpaulin are very costly and we do not have enough income to can buy 5 to 7 tins, that's why we have to live without a roof most of the time. When storms come, this tarpaulin gets torn again and again, due to which we have to change the tarpaulin many times, but in the summer season, storms keep coming every day and we do not even have enough money to buy new ones. Now our problem is how do we protect ourselves from the frequent storms and rain? Sometimes we are sleeping at night and when there is a strong storm, our tarpaulins fly away and dust becomes soil on our eyes and body. The water that we have kept by filling it also gets spoiled in the dusty soil. We are facing these problems every day at this time.

## WE ARE NO LESS THAN ANYONE



Bureau Report

It is not necessary that everyone has enough resources to do something, nor is it necessary that everyone should have so much passion and desire to do something. This time we will tell you about the story of one such boy whose name is Bhola (name changed). This boy lives in Noida and comes to participate in studies and other activities in a Nanhe Parindey mobile education van initiative run by Chetna Ngo. Apart from this, Bhola's admission has also been done by the Nanhe Parindey team in a

government school. However, you have come to know about the name and introduction of the Bhola. Now coming to the real issue, friends, this boy has made such a beautiful arrow bow without spending a single rupee on any equipment. To make this arrow bow, this boy used waste materials very well. In which dry fallen wood from the tree, a rope of old sack, plastic cover behind the broom with spit, which people usually throw in the garbage after the broom becomes small. Through his hard work and mind, Bhola has made such a wonderful arrow bow.

## INFECTION SPREADING IN THE SETTLEMENT FROM DEAD ANIMALS



Bureau Report

The children living in the slums think that we are not short of anything and they do not like it at all if someone takes pity on them. This thing came to light when a Lucknow-based Balaknama reporter met street and working children living in the Secretariat Basti. The children said that in the place where they live, garbage is spread all around because these children do the work of picking up the garbage. Not only this, in the settlement where these children live, some day or the other leaves dead animals nearby, due to which their dead body smells very bad. Insects also

start falling into the dead animal for a long time. Due to this, it becomes difficult for the people of the settlement to live and even breathe there. When the bodies of dead animals decompose, they spread various diseases in the settlement. This is the reason that the health of most of the children, elders and old people here is always bad.

There are many such children who are often sick but no one pays attention to this problem. We also know that no one will do anything in the future. That's why we have also thought that now we will live in this condition and will not say anything to anyone

## CHILDREN LIVING IN SLUMS COLLECT FOOD GRAINS FROM THE GARBAGE HEAP IN THE DESIRE TO EARN MONEY

Talking reporter Nikki and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

The population is increasing rapidly in our country, and the resources of living are decreasing at the same rate. Those who have money are living very comfortably. But they do not have anything, it is becoming very difficult for them to survive. They are facing some or other problems related to employment, household expenses, and health. There are many such children of this settlement who collect and sell food grains from the garbage piles lying in the streets outside. From which he gets some money, then he gives that money to his guardian so that he does not face any problems in running the household expenses. In the desire for money, these children are so engrossed in these things that they do not understand anything beyond



them. When people see them doing this kind of work on many paths, they advise them to study but these children ignore them. Because the children say that if we keep telling our problems to the people while walking on every road, then what will happen to it. People will make fun of us.

We know that there is no one who can help us to reduce the problems of our parents. That's why to support our family and with a little help from our parents, we sell these aluminium boxes and earn money. After eating, everyone throws it in the garbage anyway, so we sell them.



## DUE TO THE SMOKE FROM THE STOVE, CHILDREN SUFFER FROM EYE PROBLEMS



Talkative reporter Mahi and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

Even today many houses do not have a gas stove. These people cook food on the stove itself. 9-year-old Soni (name changed) is deeply troubled by this. Her mother is always ill. To run the house expenses, she has to sit on the road and beg. With that money, the expenses of her house are taken care of. Soni's father passed away. Her family live in a small temporary house made of tarpaulin and mud and the family does not even have a gas stove in the house, due to which they have to cook food on the stove every day. Soni has to work very hard to cook food on the stove. First, he also has to collect wood, then she has to arrange kerosene to light the stove. Due to the smoke from cooking on the stove, water also starts coming from her eyes and the eyes also start burning. She also has a fear of getting burnt by the stove. But what to do, from where to get so much money that can buy gas and even if you buy a gas stove, then from where will the money come to fill the cylinder

every month. Right now, our schools are closed, when our schools open, we have to prepare food on the stove in the morning and also go to school. Because her mother is ill and is unable to do any work, she has to cook something for her also to eat. In the event of illness, outside food will not be right for them, nor is they going to get healthy food for less money.

## BIG RESPONSIBILITY ON SMALL SHOULDERS

Talkative reporter Raja reports Kishan

There is 5 family members in 15-year-old Raman (name changed), two sisters, a brother and a parent. Raman's mother works in the kothi as a maid to run the household expenses and his father does the cleaning work in the companies. One of Raman's two elder sisters is married and the other sister stays at home and helps her mother with her work, his parents worry about her marriage expenses. Raman has been working in a grocery shop since last year to ease the burden on his parents and earn money for his sister's wedding. He goes to the shop at eight o'clock in the morning, comes home at two o'clock in the afternoon to have his meal and goes back to the shop at three o'clock. Aman



not only gives goods to the people coming to the grocery shop but also delivers the goods told by some customers to their homes. In this way, he delivers 5 to 6 rations at home in a day. Right now, Raman is only 15 years old and while making

home delivery, due to the high quantity of ration, the goods become very heavy, which Raman carries with his head and delivers them by walking. Sometimes the customer's house is on the first, second or third story, so Raman has to carry all the rations by stairs. It has happened a couple of times that suddenly his feet slipped from the stairs and all the ration fell apart and he was also got hurt. Raman also has to suffer a lot due to such an incident. Raman has to pay all the damages for the spoiled ration from his own pocket. It is not an easy task for Raman to carry so much load, but he has to do this work under compulsion. Raman gets Rs.4000 a month for this work. He gives this money to his house so that his parents can add some money for the sister's wedding.

## STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN CELEBRATED WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY BY PLANTING TREES AND CARRYING OUT AWARENESS RALLY

Talkative reporter Meenakshi and Balnama reporter Aanchal

Our environment is getting polluted day by day, due to which life seems to be ending in future. If the environment is giving us life, then we also have to protect its life and its better option is tree plantation. On this occasion of World Environment Day, the children of our Vinayakapuram Basti, Lucknow, made a drawing on World Environment Day and



gave the message of protecting their environment. The children made them aware of the environment by showing the

pictures made by them to the people of the community and took an oath to protect the environment from them. Some children also planted small plants and they also decided to take care of those plants and

water them daily. The children said that we will definitely protect them. The children said that we will definitely protect them so that when that plant grows up, it will protect our environment and our lives.

**CHILDREN'S HELP  
LINE NUMBERS**

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

Child line Number

**1098**

Police Helpline Number

**100**

## IF YOU DO NOT WORK, WHAT WILL YOU EAT?



Talkative reporter Babita and Balanama reporter Aanchal

In today's era, everyone is working hard day and night to take care of himself and his family. Street and working children are also included in this race. These children are trying to make their future better. These children are helping their parents by working hard day and night and compromising their education and happiness.

During our Lucknow-based Balaknama visit Lavkush Nagar community, she met one such brave girl. During the visit, the reporter noticed that many children were standing in a flock in one place. When she reached there, she saw that a girl child was selling something and the children were eating. When we asked some children what this girl is selling, those children told us that Didi is selling this boiled potato chaat. When the reporter talked to that girl, she said that she brings at least 8 or 9 potatoes from her house after boiling, then she puts them on a chair and sells that chaat for 5 rupees by putting salt and pepper on potatoes in a paper and she earns 40 to 50 rupees in a day. She gives half of her daily earnings to her mother and keeps half with her so that she can eat and drink whatever she wants with that money. This girl is doing this work under compulsion because her parents want her to do whatever work, just money should come into the house. That is why she sits in this small shop every day so that she can earn money and give it to her parents.

## CHILD LABOUR OR IS IT A COMPULSION FOR CHILDREN?



reporter Komal he reporter Kishan

Many strict rules have been made in our country against child labour. Under the Child Labor Act 1986, if any person makes a child below 14 years of age work for the purpose of his business, then there is a provision of imprisonment of 2 years and a fine of 50000 rupees to that person. But still, the number of child labourers is increasing day by day. Wherever we look around us, children are seen

doing child labour in the same place. Child labour has serious short-term and long-term consequences on children; Such as being deprived of education and lack of physical and mental development of the child.

Our Balakanama reporter interacted with street and working children in the markets of Delhi, one of the children narrating his story said, "I do not have parents and they have died. You already know that there is no one in the world except parents, whether

it is an uncle aunt or any other relative. After the death of my parents, I started living at my uncle's place. Those people took care of me only for a few days. But after a few days, they started finding me a burden. Then my uncle put me in a shop.

Now I work in a tea shop and supply tea to all the shops in this market. I go to the shop from 8 in the morning till 10 at the night. I get Rs 600 for working for the whole month. My uncle takes half of the amount for me and gives me only a penny. He says that if you are eating at my house, who will pay for it. That's why I have to give rupees to my uncle every month. I manage my expenses on my own. When I am working in the shop, if I make any mistake my boss gives me filthy slurs and sometimes even threatens to kill me. I bear all this quietly." Now whether you call it child labour or say something else, it is a compulsion for me to work.



## STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN ARE UNHAPPY DUE TO LACK OF PLAY SPACE



Talkative reporter Mahi and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

Street and working children hardly get a place to live and the place where they live is so densely populated that they cannot even play there. That's why they have to go out somewhere and find their place to play. The children living in Daliganj area in Lucknow are also very upset about this. When our Balanama

reporter held a meeting there, the children told that, where we live, there is no place in the settlement where we can play. Even if we play in the basti, the people around start scolding us. If we go to the park and play somewhere, the owners there drive us away. We don't get a place anywhere, so we play under the bridge and stay there for the whole day which is quite dangerous.

## CHILDREN LIVING IN SLUMS APPEALED TO THE NOIDA AUTHORITY TO BUILD TOILETS IN THEIR SETTLEMENTS

Reporter Jyoti

Friends, today Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is going on in full swing in the whole country and it is not just a slogan or election speech. Rather, work is actually being done on this subject. Especially if we talk about Noida, then Noida has also been honoured with the name of Clean City many times. It is a matter of pride in itself for the residents of this place. But still, there are many such areas of Noida where people have been living in slums for a long time. People living in slums have to travel about 1 kilometre to defecate. Adult people can handle such a situation a little bit, but it is very difficult for children to



go this far to go for defecation. Because of this, children go to defecate in the vacant land or bushes nearby. When children do the toilet in such places, many times they are seen by the people of the building from above and also the people passing through the streets. At times, those people also speak

abusive words to the girls. In the summer season, travelling 1 to 2 kilometres to the toilet in the afternoon is very difficult for children, even adults. We request the Noida Authority to pay attention to this problem of these children living in the slum and please resolve it at the earliest.

## SONU IS TROUBLED BY THE BAD BEHAVIOUR OF HIS PARENTS



Talking reporter Shailesh and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

As we all know that street and working children are sometimes not treated well by their parents, due to which they get very upset. We had a reporter meeting in the slum of our Lucknow's. Balaknama reporter talked to the children

and discussed their problems of the children. A child named Sonu (changed name) told that "My family members do not treat me well. Sometimes scolds me for no reason while it's not my fault and sometimes they scold me without any reason, sometimes they even raise their hands. I do not like this at all because the par-

ents of other children do not beat them at all, but my family members beat me without any fault. But what to do I have to bear all this" When I go to work and earn money, my family members take all the money. It is very difficult for me to work outside in the sun in this hot summer. Due to being in the excessive sun in this heat, my head also starts getting very severe pain. But I still work so that the household expenses continue. Still, my family members do not care about me. Now I don't see any solution to my problem. I study along with work and want to do some good work by reading and writing. But if my parents don't understand my feelings then whom should I share my feelings with?



## TRAIN ACCIDENTS HAPPEN DUE TO NEGLIGENCE OF PEOPLE

Talkative reporter Tohid the reporter Kishan

In today's hectic world, everyone is in a hurry to do all the work. They have no idea about how much damage this haste can cause to them. On one such day, our Balaknama reporter visited slums in West Delhi and was passing through the railway tracks. Our reporter saw that the train was approaching at a speed of about 200 km from the front and a person was in such a hurry that he was going to cross the track without waiting for the train to pass. The train was only 50 meters away from that person and that person was in such a hurry that he had to go home today and do all the work. Somehow that person had crossed the track but he narrowly escaped with his life. Our reporters were very surprised to see this negligence. The reporter went and met

the children living near the railway tracks. The 16-year-old boy said that trains keep coming every five to seven minutes on this railway track. Here people living in the settlement keep coming from this route and some trains also stop at this place. When the trains stop here, people using this route get too late to go home. Some people climb out from under the train or from the middle of the train to cross the road, and sometimes it happens that when people are passing under or between the trains, suddenly the train also stops. In this way, many accidents happen here due to the carelessness of the people. The children said brother if a bridge is built here, then this problem can be solved. If the government can build the bridge, these people would not go through the railway track and come through that bridge.

## CHILDREN HELP THEIR PARENTS BY WORKING HARD FROM MORNING TILL EVENING



Talkative reporter Anjali

Street and working children go through so many difficulties to run their household expenses and help their parents. Similar is the condition of our children of Vinayak Puram in

Lucknow. Our talkative reporter Anjali said that a child lives in this settlement, whose age is about 9 years. That child set up a cart to sell boiled corn to everyone from 10 am to 8 pm. When we asked him don't you go to

school and why you put this corn stall? So, the child told that didi, my mother and sister go to work but their earnings are not sufficient to run the household expenses. Father drinks alcohol and stays at home. The child told that my mother gets money only after the completion of the month and even if there is a need, the owner does not give money in advance. Due to this, it becomes very difficult. Due to all these reasons and to help my mother and sister with the household expenses, I have started this corn cart. In such scorching heat, when I roast corn, my hands also get burnt, but what to do, is a compulsion. We have to do to run the household expenses and that is why I am not able to go to school.

**CHILDREN'S HELP  
LINE NUMBERS**

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

Child line Number  
**1098**  
Police Helpline Number  
**100**



## BALAKNAMA REPORTER EMPHASISES THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION FOR STREET CHILDREN

Reporter Aslam and reporter

We have never imagined in our life what kind of troubles children have to go through who do not have a mother or father. Similarly, while talking to a 14-year-old boy living in Uttarakhand, he came to know that his mother has died and

now he works as a garbage picker with his father. He goes with him to the market and whatever garbage is there, like plastic bottles, liquor bottles, cardboard, etc., picks them up and puts them in a sack and takes them with him. Then put it in one place and sort it. Cardboard, plastic bottles and

liquor bottles are sorted separately and then sold at the junk shop. The child told that when my mother was there, I used to go to school, but now I have missed school. Now I don't feel like going to school.

Balaknama reporter asked the child if you get a chance, what would you like to be?

So, the boy said that I want to become a government driver when I grow up. Our reporter shared with the child that education is very important in life and if we are not able to study then we may have to face many problems. Then the boy said brother, I will try my best to be able to start my studies again.



## TO FILL THEIR STOMACH, STREET CHILDREN GO TO THE VEGETABLE MARKET BAREFOOT IN THE SCORCHING HEAT

Talking reporter Kamini and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

It is getting so hot and hot these days. No one wants to step out so that they can escape from this sun and heat. Especially young children want to stay indoors. But these streets and working children are forced to work even in this sun and heat. The street and working children of Purnia Basti of Lucknow go barefoot to the vegetable market and collect vegetables. The children told the reporter, we go to the vegetable market so that we can bring good vegetables from there. In the vegetable market, the vegetable sellers sort out and throw away the perishable or rotten vegetables while arranging their vegetables on the cart. We pick up fewer rotten vegetables from the vegetables thrown by them and bring them to our house. The vegetables that we collect



from there, we make the same vegetables at home. Because we do not have enough money to buy fresh vegetables from any vegetable seller. Sometimes due to lack of money, we have to starve. That's why we have to do this work. Even in such heat and sun, we have to go barefoot and pick vegetables, due to which sometimes we get blisters on our feet. But everything has to be done in compulsion and hunger.

## It is a compulsion to work in the hospital AARTI'S DREAM OF BECOMING SOMETHING IN LIFE REMAINED UNFULFILLED

Talkative reporter Zoya Maharashtra reporter Kishan Delhi

Our Balaknama reporter met a girl named Aarti (name changed). Aarti lives in the city of Bandra, Mumbai. Mumbai is called "The city of dreams" and people come from far away to make their dreams come true. Aarti also had some dreams, to fulfil so she came to Mumbai. Aarti had high expectations of herself. But Aarti's dreams were burnt to ashes. All his hopes that she had placed on herself turned out to be false. One day Aarti came to know that her father had left Aarti's mother and got married for the third time. To run the household expenses, Aarti's elder sister had to do the work of cleaning utensils in people's homes. Aarti's mother started sewing people's clothes so that the financial condition of the house



can be managed. At the age of studying and playing, Aarti also started working in the hospital. It was impossible to meet the needs of the household with the earnings of Aarti's mother and sister. The money that Aarti used to get by work-

ing in the hospital, she used to use for household expenses. Aarti's hobby of completing her studies and the dream of becoming something in life remained unfulfilled. Aarti is very sad about this, but now she has no option.

## FOR SOME PEOPLE IT IS FUN AND FOR SOME PEOPLE, THE RAINY SEASON IS A PUNISHMENT



Reporter Kishan

The first summer, now rain, no matter what the weather, street and working children are always facing the wrath of the weather. Last month, the summer had made life difficult for him and now the rain has created havoc in their life. As soon as it rained, people got relief but the torrential rain made the condition of the children miserable. On

the one hand, the dirty water of the drain started entering their home, while on the other hand, the roofs of these shanties made of tarpaulin could not give them relief in the rain as water starts dripping from it. The situation becomes such that it is impossible for these children to even think of lying down, they cannot even sit peacefully. They keep thinking about saving their belongings or themselves in such rain,

just in this struggle, they save household items from water dripping with the help of glass and utensils present in the house. The matter does not end here only, after the rain, the water that entered the house has to be taken out of the house after hours of hard work with the help of glasses, bowls, mugs and buckets etc. Along with this, due to the wet ground, insects also start coming out into the home. Children are also constantly at risk of insect bites. But still, they have to live in slums due to compulsion.

Many times, due to strong winds, the entire slum gets blown up in the air and then the children and their parents do not understand where to start fixing it. Because they have very low income and the tarpaulins get torn due to strong winds. After that, it is very difficult to buy tarpaulins again.



## FIERCE HEAT: - CHILDREN SUFFERING DUE TO LACK OF ELECTRICITY

bureau report

Most of the people living in slums face the problem of lack of electricity. Diwan (name changed) shared that there is a huge problem of lack of electricity in our slum. There is no light here during the day but sometimes light does come at night. There are about 110 jhuggis in this place and in this jhuggis there is a contractor of 5 to 6 jhuggis. This contractor charges two and a half thousand rupees a month for a slum, in which he gives us the facility of light at night. He arranges the light by stealing it from the surrounding place. This light comes only from 8 in

the night to 5 in the morning. After this, he cuts off the light so that no checking person comes. We have to stay without a fan in the heat for the whole day. People who have trees around their homes can sit under them and take a sigh of relief. But those who do not have trees around their house, have to bear the scorching heat. Due to the scorching sun, the water also becomes very hot, which one does not feel like drinking. Sometimes the lights are cut off even at night. Due to lack of light throughout the day, even mobiles are not able to charge, so those whose parents work in the cells, go there and charge their mobiles.



## DRUG ADDICTS CREATED TERROR IN DELHI: PEOPLE ARE TROUBLED BY LOOTING AND THEFT



Reporter Aslam this reporter Kishan

You must have seen drug addicts on the roads of Delhi every day. But you hardly know about how they behave

with people after taking this intoxicant. To find out about this, our reporters met Aman (name changed), who is 14 years old, living in Delhi. Aman said that the area in which we live is a very dan-

gerous place. We are not safe in this area at all. The drug addicts on the streets do not know where they are sleeping or misbehaving with others after getting intoxicated. At the night, they roam around the streets and grab any person and show them a knife and threaten to kill them and snatched their mobile, and money. Everyone, caring about their lives, gives money and mobiles to these addicts. There is also a group of these people, in which there are eight to ten people. They work in groups. Whatever they find from this act they sell in the market. Whenever the people of this area go to the wedding party, they are afraid that some accident may happen to them while coming in the night. That is why no one agrees to leave the house after 10 o'clock at the night.



## CHILDREN FORCED TO DRINK SALT WATER

Talkative report Soni & Reporter

Our reporter visited 145 slums in West Delhi, met the children and learned about their problems. The children told the brother that there are 145 slums here, but there is a big problem with water in these slums. Water comes into this slum, but that water is so salty that it cannot be drunk. The problem is that the place where we children go to get water is a little far away and children

find it difficult to come alone. A week ago, 3 kids went there to get water and they are lost. It is heard that those children are still missing. Since then, we children have started feeling very scared. We feel that if we also go there alone, then no one will catch us. Because of this, we children have stopped going to that place. The 15-year-old boy said that brother, ever since we have stopped bringing water from there, we are compelled to drink this salty water.



## SMALL HAPPINESS IS ENOUGH TO MAKE LIFE HAPPY

Talkative reporter Babita and Balaknama reporter Anchal

Street and working children don't need any greater happiness to be happy. Small happiness turns into big happiness for them. Even after living such a difficult life, these children try their best to be happy in their life. The children of the Assamese Basti of Lavkush Nagar are very happy with the summer vacation from school. They are enjoying summer vacations by playing any small game while staying at home. If

these children find any broken toys thing from the garbage during their work, then they fix them and do their own play. For example, if the parent of a child found a ludo lying in the garbage, they brought it to their children because they could not buy a new ludo for the children. Children fixed that Ludo and enjoyed summer vacation by playing it. Children know that their parents brought it from the garbage, but still, they do not mind because they only need small things to be happy.

## CHILDREN ARE HAPPY SWINGING ON A TREE IF NOT IN THE PARK

Talkative reporter Zeinab and Balaknama reporter Anchal

While visiting the slums near Secretariat Lucknow, Balaknama reporter noticed that two children were swinging on a tree branch by tying a rope in it. The children were very happy while swinging. When we went to them and told them that if the branch on which you are swinging by making a rope swing, if it breaks, then you can get hurt. The children said Didi, we do not have a place to play and neither do we have any goods. So, where we get something to play, we go



there and play. And you know how much we like to swing, but when we go to a fair or park, we cannot swing because it's quite expensive, so we take a swing on the tree itself. We do not insist on fulfilling our wishes even from our parents, because we know what we are going through. All of us kids get happy playing such games.

## THE REASON FOR THE SMILE ON SAD FACES:- BRIDGE

Talkative reporter Anjali and Balaknama reporter Anchal

It is said that the world revolves around hope. If we do not have hope for ourselves and our life, then the progress of life will stop. Street and working children are also living their lives in this hope. The children living under the bridge in Lucknow are living their life in this happiness because this bridge has become their home. These children sleep, play, cook food and have fun with their friends under this bridge. In a word, that bridge is their abode. The children shared that when this bridge was not there, then these



children used to live with their parents in a hut on the side of a road. While living there, someone used to drive them away from there, but ever since this bridge has been built, the children live under it and do their business under the same

bridge. Along with this, they also enjoy all the seasons like rain, summer and winter. By building this bridge and living under it, these children feel as if they have got everything. All the dreams they had dreamed of have come true.

## I DON'T WANT TO WORK AS A BUTCHER, BUT I WANT TO BECOME A DANCER AFTER STUDYING

Reporter Khimaram and reporter Kishan

Our Balaknama reporter met a boy on his way to the field. This boy seemed very upset. When the reporter asked the boy the reason for his trouble, he said that he and his brother go to school and also work in a chicken slaughtering shop. He goes to school at 7 in the morning and comes back from school at 1 o'clock. After coming from school, he goes to the shop after having dinner at 2 pm and comes home from the shop at 10 pm. In the shop, I work as a rooster. The shop owner buys



chicken from the market in the morning and then the boy also works as a butcher in the shop. He gets very tired doing this work, sometimes his hand gets cut and while cutting the chicken, its blood splatters on his clothes and

mouth. The boy shared that "I do not like to do this work at all but I get 5000 rupees for this work and with this money I help my parents to run the household expenses. If I do not work, it will be very difficult to run the household expenses. The reporter asked the boy that after coming from school, you go to work, then how do you find time to study? The boy told that when I reach home at 10 o'clock at the night, then after eating food, I study till 12 at the night. When I am studying, I am also worried about work. I want to study and become a good dancer.

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.