

# 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.

## CHANGING WEATHER AND GROWING PROBLEM OF STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN

Reporter Kishan, Aanchal, Sangeeta

Let's know that due to the changing weather in the present time, what kind of problems are being faced by the street and working children. Our Balaknama reporter interacted with street and working children living in places like Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Lucknow etc. 10-year-old girl Sonia (name changed) said, I live in a slum and the day it rains, the children living in the slum bathe in the rainwater, but some children are not doing this not just for fun but they take bath with rain water so that heat rashes on their body get cured by bathing with rain water, that's why some children take bath in rainwater. But when the rainwater gets filled, the children start bathing with that water and start playing in the water because they enjoy a lot and the children push each other among themselves and drop it in that water and that

water also goes in the mouth of the children due to that also children are falling ill and they are suffering from various diseases like cough, cold, fever and skin peeling of hands etc.

Our reporters spoke to 10-year-old Roshan, who lives in Noida, Roshan said, We children are very worried about the changing weather because the weather changes anytime and when we children have to go to school in the morning, sometimes the weather changes in the morning and the clouds turn dark, it seems that it is going to rain very fast, but we go with courage but when the rain comes while we are on the way to school, we children are stuck in the half way. And we are not able to go to school and we have to come back home soaked in the rain, but the biggest problem is that we have school books and bags in our hands when we come home soaked in the rain have got wet. Books get drenched when they get wet in the rain



and a book costs from ₹ 80 to ₹ 100 but we do not have enough money that we can buy books again. We children have to use the books by sticking taps in those books so that we can complete that academic year somehow. We have to face a lot of difficulties and our studies suffer a lot.

Talking about the changing weather with 14-year-old Kamini, who lives on the streets of

Noida, Kamini said, We live on the road under the open sky and that is our only place. As everyone knows about the changing season that the weather starts changing anytime and how, and sometimes it rains and sometimes it doesn't. But sometimes it happens that there is a very strong sun and then suddenly the dark clouds cover and it starts raining all of a sudden and the rain lasts for a few minutes after the rain stops then the sun starts coming out immediately. Due to this, there is a lot of humidity and the hot steam that comes out of the earth after rain, and this type of weather causes a lot of skin problems in children. It seems impossible to pass the time without electricity and a fan in the humidity.

As we all know that it is raining continuously nowadays. When the people living in big bungalows get upset in this continuous rain, then imagine how much the street and working children must be getting

upset. So in the same situation, the children of our Lucknow's Lavkush Nagar Basti are getting very upset due to this incessant rain, when our Lucknow reporter went there for a reporter meeting and tried to know the problems of the children, the children told us that this incessant rain has troubled all of us a lot because whenever it rains, the roads in our streets get filled with a lot of water and become muddy, due to which we find it very difficult to cross the road and some children keep playing in the mud and roam in the play with the water and if someone questions them then they do not listen to them also and keep playing in the same mud and dirty water. It causes wounds and a rash on the legs; children suffer a lot from this pain. There should be some facility or help for the children living on the road so that they do not face problems during the rainy season and can live like other people in the society.

### CHILDREN ARE DISAPPOINTED DUE TO THE LACK OF A PROPER PLACE TO PLAY

Talkative reporter Meenakshi and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

As we all know this thing, our street and working children do not get the facility of everything and even if they are available, it is very difficult for them to get access. Having facilities like playing in the open field seems like a dream for them. A similar story is also with the children of Vinayakapuram Basti of Lucknow, when our Lucknow reporter organized a reporter meeting with the children in Vinayakapuram and tried to know the problems of the children, then the talkative reporter Meenakshi shared that "There are some children who start playing anywhere in the open field or on the side of the road if they don't get the suitable place to play and even if they go to a park to play and jump, then other people present there drive the children



away because they feel that children will break trees and plants, that is why they do not allow children to go inside the park. When the children come back from there with disappointment, they hang on the iron rod on the side of the road and use the rod as a swing. But if this stand is overturned, then they can also get hurt and many vehicles keep coming there due to which accidents can happen there at any time. But the children ignore this and keep playing on the same iron rod all day. But innocent children do not understand the seriousness of the game and keep swinging in the same stand all day.

### STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN TROUBLED BY RAIN

Talkative reporter Khatija and reporter Sangeeta Lucknow

We all know that when the roads get flooded due to rain, how many problems do we face? So imagine how many problems must be faced by the street and working children who live on the side of the road under the open sky.

A similar situation is also with our children of Lavkush Nagar Basti of Lucknow, when our Balaknama reporter went to Lavkush Nagar Basti to have a reporter meeting and tried to know their problem, the children said that "Whenever it rains, we have to face a lot of problems. As the water gets filled inside our house, due to which we have to take out that



dirty water by filling water in small utensils and all the ration, spices, clothes etc. get wet and we got troubled a lot. Our parents are able to arrange ration with a lot of difficulties and whenever it rains, the ration gets wet due to which both the child and the parents get very upset.

All the garbage we bring from the streets gets wet and we have to face a lot of trouble because no contractor wants to buy wet garbage. Our parents are able to save as much garbage from getting wet with great effort, they are able to arrange food for one time by selling garbage.

## MOTHER BECAME CHILD PROBLEM



### Bureau Report

We share with you the problem of many streets and working children, but have you thought about what problems street and working children have to face on the streets or some people from their own group can become the cause of children's problems? We are talking about street and working children living in West Delhi. Our reporter met a 15-year-old girl and found out what problems are happening around her.

Then the girl said, "I have a dear friend, she is 13 years old and there are 4 members in my friend's house. My friend, his mother and his stepfather and younger sister work in the factory, she removes utensils by hand from the heavy machine. One day my friend and I were sitting together and I saw that my friend's hand was injured and the hand was chopped off, that hand was cut by the same machine with which he takes out the utensils. I asked my friend how it happened.

He told me that I was working and suddenly my shirt sleeves got stuck in the machine, I injured my hand and started bleeding. When my mother came to know about this, she did not feel any pain and when I told her that I should not go to work, my hand hurt, then she forced me to work. My mother has married again and I do not talk to the person whom she has married and my mother beat me badly because of this and got me a separate room on rent. Room rent I used to pay with the money that I got after working for a month. When I went to meet my mother, he would not let me get into the house and used to abuse and beat me badly. That's why I had to go back to my room. I have also requested my mother that I do not like to work and I mostly like to study, but my mother forcefully sends me to work and the money that comes after working for a month is only for the expenses of the house. She only loves the money I earn, otherwise, she doesn't talk about anything."



## WE WISH WE TOO COULD ENJOY THIS MONSOON

Talkative reporter Huma and BalaKnama reporter Aanchal

When Monsoon arrives in this scorching summer, almost everyone enjoys it and cooks different types of dishes in their homes and enjoys with the family. But do you know the exact opposite of this is with street and working children? When our Lucknow reporter Aanchal met the street and working children living under the Daliganj bridge as well as interacted with those children and tried to know their problems, it came to the fore that whenever it rains in Daliganj. If this happens, then the Gom-

ti river gets filled up to the top, due to which different types of aquatic creatures enter the homes of the children, due to which the children are very upset and scared. Children say that when it rains, then we have to face this problem and we spend many nights without sleeping. We are worried all the time that some animal may bite us. The children also shared their feelings with us and said that when this season comes, people generally enjoy by doing entertainment in their house but this problem comes on our side due to which we are not even enjoying this season.



## CHILDREN LEARNED: - QUALITIES OF THE LEADER

### bureau report

Friends, who is a leader? What are those special qualities in him, due to which he is called leader. And because of such quality, he gets an opportunity to lead not only himself but also his society and a whole group. Life Skill session was organized to tell the children about similar qualities in which about 60 to 80 children participated and they came to know what are those special qualities due to which a common person becomes a leader. It is formed and conveyed that a leader he also teaches others that working in a group is much easier than doing any work alone and conveys his and the issues of the society to other people. And plays its role differently from the rest. Children were told that a good leader is one who learns from

his mistakes. Also take the initiative and make others aware about any particular work. Along with this the children were told that a good leader is one who takes the whole group along and gives equal status to all. Give everyone equal opportunities to progress. Along with this, he should have the art of speaking. He should never consider himself different from others, but should come to live with everyone with love, he is a true and good leader. And because of this, the public or group agrees with him on one of his issues. So children, today you have learned that due to which special qualities a common man becomes a leader. After this, questions were also answered about the discussion held during the entire life skill session to all the children, in which many children answered in a very easy way.

## THE EPIDEMIC IS GONE BUT ITS CONSEQUENCES ARE STILL NOT LETTING US EASE

Talkative reporter Shalu and Balnama reporter Aanchal

You must have also seen millions of lives being converted into death as a result of the 2019 pandemic. But right now the number of covid cases in our country is very less now but the lockdown caused by this epidemic has affected the education, mental health and physical health of the children very badly. When Balaknama reporter from Lucknow met street and working children living in Shram Vihar Basti while visiting the community, the children shared the problems related to their studies and said that now the studies are done according to our grades and we do not understand anything, now you tell us what to do? Understanding the feelings of the children, the Balaknama reporter asked the children, what has happened that you do not



understand the lessons taught in the school? So the children said that the school remained closed for almost 3 years during the pandemic and all subjects were taught online but we did not have a smartphone we could never attend those classes and today when the school is open, our school education is on a high level, which we are finding it very difficult to cover. When a conversation was held with Shalu who is a talkative re-

porter, on this subject she said that many children are upset, as well as the children also say that if a child was in class 1st in these 3 years or he/she was in class 4th earlier now he/she is in 7th class, now but that child does not know any subject according to that class, due to which they are also getting very upset for their upcoming examinations that how they will give their exam and how will they pass?

## CHILDREN PLAYING CARELESSLY IN THE DIRTY WATER OF RAIN

Talkative Reporter Babita and Sangeeta Lucknow

As we all know, stored rainwater is harmful to us. But our street and working children are unaware that they can be harmed by rainwater. Due to their lack of knowledge, they take bath in the dirty water rain. Similar is the situation of our children of Lavkush Nagar Basti. When our Balaknama reporter went to organise the reporter's meeting. Talked to the children there and tried to know their problem,



then some children there told me that whenever it rains here, the children here take bath in the same rainwater. In the place where water got stuck during rain, the children fill that water in a bottle box and take a bath with that dirty water and when those children are scolded by someone, they do not listen to anyone. They follow their rules and keep bathing in the same dirty water. But parents also get so busy with work that they are not able to pay attention to their children.

**CHILDREN'S HELP  
LINE NUMBERS**

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

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

## ATROCITIES OF PARENTS STARTED ON CHILDREN DUE TO NARROW THINKING OF NEIGHBOURS

Talkative reporter Razia Sultan and reporter Kishan

Our reporter visited several slums in Delhi and they saw seven to eight children sitting in a sad position in one place. And seeing this, our reporter reached out to those children and got to know in detail why they are in this sad condition. Then the 13-year-old girl said, "We live in a rented slum at this place, our parents go to work in the morning and the children stay here all day without the care of an elder. But you tell me once that girl and boy can't be dear friends? If a boy and girl are talking to each other then they must be talking wrong. But when



they start talking, the people around think that this girl is having an affair with this boy! That's why she is talking so much and not only this, seeing this, the women of the neighbourhood would go and com-

plain to the parents of these girls and say to their parents that "Your girl was talking to that boy and you should take care of your girl and do not let her out of the house. Hearing all these, parents do not ask us whether girls were talking to a boy or not, but parents believe the other and do not ask their own daughters. This is so that the girls do not get time to get out of the house. If girls go out of the house to the shop for some time, then parents ask 36 types of questions like where did you go, why did you go, why etc. Sometimes parents torture us so much that we have to bear their questions and we are not allowed to go to the tuition.

## WE ARE CHILDREN BY NAME ONLY, THERE IS NO LIFE LIKE THAT

Talkative reporter Malik Ali and Balaknama Reporter Aanchal

As we know, the environment around a human being is a major part of his life. The effect of the environment affects the life of a human being. Whether it is a positive environment or negative. We all know very well that a person fulfils his wish only by looking at his condition. Something similar is also with our street and working children because they fulfil their aspirations only by looking at their life situation. Our street and working children learn how to run their daily expenses and life at a very young age. Come, let us tell you. So, today we introduce you to those streets and working children who do not say anything to anyone even after keeping thousands of wishes in their hearts at a young age. When our Balaknama reporter Aan-



chal visited the community and met the children residing in Lucknow's Sachivalayam Basti, during the survey she saw children playing with their small toys and their companions were also playing. When she talked to them and asked what are you doing, the children replied, Didi, we are playing with toys. After continuous interaction with the children, it was found that the children who are playing

with these toys were brought by their parents from where they work. These children do not make any demands from their parents because they know the condition of their house. One of these children said that we also have a desire to play with new toys, but we hardly get food for two times. If we don't understand this then who will? Rather, we know that we eat food for one time is a big thing for us.

## SO CARELESS IS NOT GOOD

Talkative reporter Anjali and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

Human beings adopt many solutions for healthy living. You must know this very well and this is why man does this remedy. So that his life becomes comfortable and efficient. To get good health, humans try all kinds of methods and bring them into their daily routine. But street and working children don't get time to think about it. We got one such news. When our Lucknow-based journalist Aanchal met the children living in Vinayakapuram Basti. While visiting, we saw that many people were cleaning the drain near the settlement. Which was the garbage in the



drain and they were throwing that garbage out on the way. When Balaknama journalist visited the same place again, he saw that many young children were playing in the garbage of that drain. Which can prove fatal for them. When we had a conversation with our talkative reporter on this subject, it came to the fore that ever since the garbage has been removed from that drain. Since then, Innocent children come out over that drain. You will also know this thing that in every small disease if we do a little carelessness, it takes the life of even an adult human being. These are small children. They don't even know what is right for them and what is wrong.



## STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN ARE TROUBLED DUE TO THE LACK OF PUBLIC TOILETS

Talkative reporter Huma and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

When our Balaknama reporter along with the children of Purnia Basti of Lucknow went to the reporter for a meeting and talked to those children and during the conversation, our talkative reporter Kamani told, Didi that we do not have any toilets here. Due to this, all the people here have to go for open defecation. Small children do not have any problems and neither do men have any problems. But we girls and women have a lot of trouble in going for open defecation. Due to this, we

are not able to go to the toilet during the day and we go only at night. Or if we go at 5 o'clock in the morning and everyone goes behind the train tracks to defecate, then on that side a lot of people keep playing cards and the boys keep flying kites and we don't get the chance to freshen up in the morning. And when we tell those people that go away from here, then those people do not listen and they keep playing. Because of this, we go back home. When it is the evening or it is night, then only we are able to go for defecation, we have to face many problems.

## BY GIVING A BRIBE, WE COULD HAVE TWO TIMES FOOD

Talkative reporter Deesha and Balaknama reporter Kishan

Our reporter reached the roadside slum to know the condition of the street and working children working at the Noida Sector 37 bus stand. We have often seen children working at bus stands and roads but what problems do they face?

Our reporter got to know from a boy working as a water bottle seller at the bus stand, what are the problems he has to face. T. know from that child what difficulties he has to face in doing his work, the boy said that at such a place, we do the work of supplying water bottles from 11:00 am to 11:pm. The child said that we bring 30 or 40 boxes of water from the shop in the morning and some bottles to keep at home. And some bring water boxes with them to the bus stand. Due to the heat, the water becomes hot. Therefore, ice



from 50 to ₹ 100 has to be put in the water box every day. We have to pay some money to the owner of the place where we keep the water boxes. When a bus comes, we climb on the bus and shout - take the water, take the water. Some people do not even allow us to board the bus and abuse us. And some bus drivers take the water bottle for free and harass us. Our 4 to 7 water bottles are sold in a bus and we earn up to ₹ 200 a day.

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## WHAT IS THE USE OF COMPLAINING WHEN THERE IS NO SOLUTION?

### Bureau Report

Our Balaknama Reporter had a support group meeting with the children living in the slums of Noida Sector 55, in which the children actively participated. An 11-year-old boy shared that "We children live in slums and there are about 50 shanties. Most parents leave their young children at home and go to work. The people living in

this slum have migrated from villages and when they come back from work, they generally get drunk and molest girls between the ages of 10 and 17. We feel very ashamed to see that they try to touch the body of the young girls. A 15-year-old girl said that when we were playing in our slum, a person came there and said, "Take ₹200 and come with me. I made the strategy to save myself and picked

up the mud and put it in his eyes so that I could run away. When I told this to my parents, my parents talked to the family members of that drunkard, and then his family members said, "Please leave him this time and next time you can complain to the police. But even the policemen are of no use to complain because they do not take action. On the contrary, we have to pay to the policemen to file a report.



## CHILDREN ARE FORCED TO STAKE THEIR LIFE IN WORK

### Reporter Rajkishore and Reporter Kishan

Hardly the whole of India would know about mica. Let us know what asbestos is and what it is used for. Mica is a versatile mineral, which is found in igneous and metamorphic rocks in the form of lumps. It is mostly found in the states of Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Karnataka, etc. Mica is used in the manufacture of electrical equipment, radio, aircraft, pharmaceutical manufacturing, fire retardant clothing,

telephone, guard glasses, etc. It is transparent and bright. Our Balaknama reporter wanted to know more about it in detail from the working children living in Jharkhand, then a 15-year-old boy said that this mica is found in big rocks. In Jharkhand majority of the people and children work in the extraction mines of Mica. When they go to extract mica, they go inside the big rocks and work to extract mica. When we go to collect mica through dense forests there are threats from wild animals e.g. elephants, foxes, bears, and deer, we often feel

that if we go to collect mica, then we are often scared of the threats from wild animals. Now the major cause of concern is that if we will not go for its extraction then how we will manage the household expenses? The condition of our hands has deteriorated due to this. We have blisters in our entire hands and the skin also peels off which causes a lot of problems. Sometimes for the extraction of mica, we go deep inside these rocks and when we hit the roots of these Rocky Mountains these rocks often fall on people and children. Many people have met with an accident and have lost their lives because of this. When we brought mica, some mica is average in quality and some mica is categorised in best quality, these micas would also have different prices, if it is a little less good then it sells for ₹ 5 kg and if the best it sells for ₹ 10 kg and whatever money comes by selling mica, we and our family use the same money to meet daily needs.



## A SMALL CARELESSNESS CAN TURN INTO A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR CHILDREN

### Talkative Reporter Meenakshi and Sangeeta (Lucknow)

Street-connected children often face one problem or another. Similarly, in Vinayak Puram children are facing problems. When Balaknama reported visiting Vinayak Puram, children interacted with Balaknama reporter, During the interaction, it was found out that the children are living in a place where there are

large numbers of electricity meters and the height of these meters is easily accessible to all the children which is a big threat for children. Children often play in that space but now they are afraid to play there because if it rains heavily then there are chances of getting electrocuted. It's threatening to their life. This is not only a threat to the life of children but also old senior citizens and stray animals.



## ON THE 20TH FOUNDATION DAY OF BADHTE KADAM, CHILDREN SHARED THEIR THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES

### Reporter Kishan

You must be aware of the Badhate Kadam Federation. Badhate Kadam is a federation of street and working children. Badhate Kadam started on 9th July 2002 in Dehradun with 35 children, at present, there are 17000 children. Badhate Kadam has three objectives. First -give recognition to the street and working children, second - give a dignified life to the street and working children, and third -equal participation of street and working children in government non-government meetings. On 20th Foundation Day, children shared their views and memories, let's know in detail. The reporter of Balaknama asked the children how many years have been associated with Badhate Kadam? and



what do you do now. Most of the children told, we have been associated with this federation for 5 years, one by one the children also told what they used to do before joining the federation, and what they do now.

Naman(name changed) said that when I was not associated with Badhate Kadam, I used to work as a scrap picker and no one recognized me. And I did not even go to school to study, when the Chetna organization

came to our slum, then we joined the Badhate Kadam federation and we started getting an education after a few days became the leader of the same. I was very happy, and after a few days I got admission in the school. Now I don't work as a rag picker, currently, I am studying in the fifth grade, now the people living in and around my slum know me very well. And I get an identity too. The other girl said, "When I was not associated with Badhate Kadam used to stay in my house and used to do household chores all day long." When I used to come from my slum, the people living in the slum used to despise me after seeing me and whenever they talked in an abusive way, before joining Badhate Kadam I did not know how to read and write a simple sentence. But since I joined the

federation I started getting an education and after a few days I got enrolled in the school and now I am currently studying in 6th class, now when I come out of my slum, the same person would be happy to see me and now talk to me with respect. The third child said that when I was not associated with the Badhate Kadam, I used to roam like a vagabond all day with my friends and when I joined the federation, I also started getting education by regularly attending the classes organized by CHETNA NGO. And now at present, I am studying in 4th class. When I was not associated with Badhate Kadam, I didn't get a chance to attend any meetings. When I joined Badhate Kadam, I met government officials and police personnel as well as interact with the media.



## IF THERE IS A FATHER, THEN THE WHOLE WORLD IS OURS

Talkative Reporter Seema Ram and Reporter Kishan

All of you often see that children are also involved in construction site work. Have you ever seen children doing work of breaking stones? Balaknama reporters have interacted with the children who belong to Jharkhand. While speaking to Ramesh (name changed) and asked about his work then he told "Till the time my father was alive our whole family was living a decent life and we were not facing any kind of problem and every day we were going school but now my father has passed away in 2012 and our peaceful life turns into an upside down. After the demise of my father, our household expenses started rising and we didn't have enough money to pay for our school fees due to which we dropped out of school then me and my sisters along with my mother started breaking stones. In which the cement which is used for bricks we need to break it with a hammer, when we break the stones, our hands often get injured when the whole cement

is removed then it turns into a brick, after that we load the bricks in the truck and then this truck goes to those places where the houses have been constructed. We earn Rs 250 in this meagre amount to run our house expenses.

## I WANT TO BECOME BUSINESSMAN

Reporter Aakash and Kishan

Balaknama reporter was passing through streets. Balaknama reporter saw one boy working in a motorcycle repair shop. The Balaknama reporter started talking to this child and asked about his condition. This boy is 13 years old and stays in Noida. His family comprises parents and three sisters and one brother among which two of his sisters are married and one sister is single and stays at home. Before the Covid pandemic, the boys were going to school but since the lockdown, he was unable to resume school. During the lockdown, he started working in the motorcycle repair shop. The owner of the shop hired him on one condition he will teach this boy about the entire



work related to motorcycle repair but will not pay him and the boy agreed because he wants to do his own business

when he will grow up. Now it's been 1 year since he is working in this shop and almost learned most of the work.

## WICKED PARENTS TORTURE CHILDREN

Bureau Report

You must have seen children begging at the red lights, streets etc. while passing through the streets. Do you know how many problems these children faced on daily basis? These children do all these things under compulsion. Radhika (name changed) is a girl who spends her life on such streets. Talking to Radhika about her problems, it is learned that the girl has parents, a sister and a brother who spend their lives on the street. The parents do not do any work and are indulged in drug addiction all day. But the question must come to your mind where do the parents bring money



for drugs? To know this, the Balaknama reporter inquired about the girl's family in detail. Then the girl said that she

and her brother do the work of begging at traffic lights from morning to evening and after begging from morning to eve-

ning, whatever money they get, their parents snatch the money from both the children. Children have to give this money to them in compulsion. If they do not give them money, they beat their children a lot. Many times, when children get less money from begging, parents take drugs by borrowing from people living nearby. When neighbours come and ask children for money, then they come to know that their parents have borrowed money from them. If we do not give the neighbours, then they take away our household items. Children have to give money to them in compulsion. The life of Radhika and her siblings is going through difficulties.

## CHILDREN ARE FORCED TO SACRIFICE THEIR LIFE FOR TWO-TIME MEALS



Reporter Santosh and Reporter Kishan

We always discuss the problems of the street and working children of Delhi, Noida, and Lucknow only. Let us tell you today about the condition of street and working children living in Jharkhand. Our reporter interacted with a 10-year-old boy to find out what these children do at present. The boy told that "When I was 8 years old, I used to go to

work in the house of a landlord. But I used to work that owner was a very evil person and he didn't even give me money on time. That's why I had to leave from there. After some time, there is a company named NTPC and they took our land. Due to the fight between my father and elder uncle, my family did not even get the money for the land. That is why there was a fight between father and elder uncle every day. We used to take sacks, axes

and hammers to extract coal. Coal mines are thin and deep, so I had to go with my parents so that I can also help. When we used to take out coal and break coal with a hammer, we used to get pits in our hands and blisters in our hands due to which it was very painful to work. While digging down about 30-40 feet suddenly a big rock fell on both of us and my brother and I got buried. I survived, I got an injury in my right hand, due to which I still have trouble while writing, but my younger brother died in front of my eyes in the same accident. I couldn't do anything. When NTPC people came to know about this, they did not help us in any way and even refused us to work. But we are forced If you don't work, what will you eat? For this reason, it is my demand that we should have some kind of help or work so that people do not have to face problems and can live a good life and can have two times meals peacefully.

## THE STORY OF A CHILD WHO SELLS FRUITS

Reporter Santosh

On the roadside one child was selling fruits, when we reporters saw the child in the scorching sun selling fruits, our reporters went to him to speak to him and know the reason why the child is working in the

such scorching heat. The age of child was 13 years old and he live alone in Delhi for rent. The parents of the child live in a village and they do farming in someone else field. The child wakes up at 6:00 pm and goes to the fruit market to buy fruits, by 10:00 am he comes back home and after that, he takes a bath and cooks food etc. Reporters asked him don't you go to school. He said the whole day I sell fruits due to which I don't get time. It's a compulsion for me if I will not work as a fruit seller then I and my family will not be able to run our house expenses therefore I have to sell fruits.



## GATHER KNOWLEDGE WITH FUN

Talkative reporter Rita and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

As you also know that for almost 3 years, the epidemic had made life difficult for us, due to which we stopped going out. Even a person could not eat anything of his choice. But now after a long time, there has been a lot of change in our India, due to which now we can roam anywhere and at the same time eat our favourite things. By the way, everyone is very happy with this change. But do you know that street and working children are very happy with this change because after many years a smile has returned on their faces? So let us try to know the secret of the smile of these children. When Lucknow-based reporter Aanchal interacted with the children living in Vinayakapuram Basti, it was found that many such children were taken to Jubilee Inter College with the help of SET NGO Partner



in which the children got a chance to do an exposure visit at the science lab. When the children went to the science lab, Imran Ji from there (lab in-charge) told a lot of things related to science children, so that the children came to know how the cloud is made. At the same time, they also came to know that our body consists of

70% water. Children also asked questions to the lab in charge, the answers of which made the children very happy because they came to know many new things after many years. The children also thanked Uncle. Along with this, the children also said that they have been getting more information on such opportunities.



## SURROUNDED BY PROBLEMS ALL AROUND

Talkative Reporter Huma and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

Education is very difficult to achieve but if it comes into the life of a person, then it makes his life very bright. When our Lucknow-based Balaknama reporter Aanchal met the street and working children living in Daliganj and interacted with them, they came to know that almost all the children want to learn and study, and want to be something in their lives. But due to their financial condition not being stable, there are many obstacles in their studies. While interacting with the children, a child told his problem, saying

that Didi, we children have been admitted into the school but we do not have any stationery items, neither pencil, nor copy, nor book without it, if we ever go to school, our teacher scolds us and drives us away, and says that we will not teach. But didi, you also know that the situation of people like us is not so good, that we could buy copy pencils. We eat only one meal a day. That's a big thing for us. But now you tell me how we get an education? Anyway, in these 3 years, this pandemic has ruined our studies a lot. Will we become like our parents working as labourers or working at home?



## WE CAN ALSO MAKE OUR FESTIVAL BEAUTIFUL AND GREAT

Talkative Reporter Babita and Balaknama Reporter Aanchal

Street and working children don't need anything big to be happy, rather, they find great happiness in small joys. There are also children of Luvkush Nagar in Lucknow. These children are from Assam. When the Balaknama reporter made a community visit to Luvkush Nagar and met these children there, the Balaknama reporter saw a child playing a broken musical instrument. When the reporter spoke to the child and asked him why are you playing this instru-

ment. The child expressed his feelings and said, "Didi, as you also know, when any festival comes or marriage takes place, we have seen that big musical instruments are played there. But we do not have any such facility that we can buy any such musical instruments for our entertainment. That is why we want to celebrate our upcoming festival Eid with entertainment by playing this broken speaker (musical instrument) so that we can also entertain our festival and celebrate with a lot of happiness.



Talkative Reporter and Balaknama Reporter Aanchal

You must have also heard this thing when a person learns to struggle, then no one can stop him from moving towards success. Similarly, street and working children struggle to fight a new problem every single day. Something similar happened when Balaknama reporter Aanchal visited a settlement. During the visit, it was found that a girl who is about 7 or 8 years old was carrying a sack. When the reporter had a conversation with that girl and asked her what are you carrying in this sack? So that girl told us

that there is no cooking gas cylinder in our house, that's why we are taking small pieces of wood in this sack and taking them so that we can

cook food. During the conversation, when the reporter looked in the sack of the girl, along with the wood, small toys were also found which she picked up from street garbage. While talking to the girl, it came to know that the girl is the eldest among her siblings, due to which she has a lot of responsibilities on her small shoulders, but still, the courage of that girl has to be admired. Despite living with so many problems, that girl still has a smile on her face. Even at such a young age, she has learned to fight with her problems and the girl has learned how to laugh after fighting with problems.

## WHAT'S THE HARM IN TRYING?

Talkative reporter Noorjahan and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

Try it and see that everything seems easy if we put our hundred per cent into any task. No matter how big or small it is. In this way, you must have seen many types of children who keep wandering in the street in search of work so that they can contribute some help to their household expenses and improve the financial condition of their family. These children who are doing many types of work to improve the economic condition of their homes. But do you know that there are many of our working children who are trying to improve their home as well as improve their country? Let us know what this child has an idea to improve the country. When our Lucknow-based reporter Aanchal visited Lavkush Nagar Assamese Basti and saw that



some children were cleaning their house with a broom. When she talked to those children, the children shared that where we children live, there the whole junk is lying all around. Because our parents are garbage pickers that's why garbage is lying around his house. Due to this, they do not like that any outsider comes and goes away with a bad smell. That's why now the children have decided that now all of us children will not allow garbage to collect in all the places around our homes

and keep it clean so that we also feel good and look clean. When we had constant conversations with the children on this subject, it also came to the fore that although these children do clean their house, they think that we can keep this lovely country clean by considering it as our home. Do not spread garbage in the streets. If we do not do this then our country will be called the most healthy and clean. Try it once and see. We have heard that with effort, everything becomes possible.

**CHILDREN'S HELP  
LINE NUMBERS**

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

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

## EDUCATION STOPPED; BEGGING STARTED

Talkative Reporter Shiva and Reporter Jyoti

Balaknama reporter visited a place in Noida where there are a lot of children who are involved in child labour. Kajal said, "Ever since our school was closed, most of the children spend their time in the temple. Whatever they get to eat there, they eat and beg. When the reporter asked the reason for this, the girl said that in our house, parents go to work early in the morning. Because of this, we are not able to make anything at home. So to fill our stomachs,

we stay at the temple with siblings and whatever we get there, we eat lunch and dinner. Our parents do not give us enough money to buy from outside and eat something. Therefore, the children stay here in the temple all day and those who give them something to eat in the temple. The girl doesn't want to have school holidays, because if the schools are open, then there is something to eat from the school. Along with this, we also get to study. But when our school is closed, we are hungry all day, so most of the children work as beggars.



## WHY IS THIS WITH US?



Talkative reporter Sania and reporter Jyoti

When Balaknama visited various slums near the roadside they found out that many children live in rented rooms. A girl named Poonam told Balaknama reporter "There is not a single toilet in the building where we children live and all the girls have to go to the house of the landlord and use the toilet and he takes ₹ 100 per month for the same. Many times, the

landlord does not even allow us to go to the toilet, due to which we have to go to our friend's house and use the toilet. Our friends also make fun of us. We girls are very ashamed. But what can we do? Our parents don't even earn enough that we can rent a room separately and have toilet facilities. We children are forced to go to the toilet at other's houses. We children want that toilet facility should be made for us so that all girls can get toilet facilities.

## WHY DO PARENTS BEHAVE LIKE THIS?



Reporter Jyoti

Balaknama reporter visited a place in Noida and during the visit, it was revealed that there are a lot of families here who come from different places. There are quite a few small children here who are involved in begging. Kajal

(name changed) told us that our parents make us beg and teach us how we should beg. They ask us to beg for the whole day by sitting in the sun on the road. Little innocent children beg at the behest of their parents. Young children from 4 years to 12 years beg here at the behest of their parents.

## THE TALK OF SOCIETY DOES NOT HURT AS MUCH AS IT HURTS THE WORDS OF YOUR LOVED ONES

Talkative Anjali and Balaknama reporter Aanchal

Society keeps saying random things to the girls. They just need a reason to speak bad things about girls. Society says a thousand types of things about girls. We girls don't care about the things of this society because it's their habit to say such baseless things. But then it makes a difference when our loved one says such things and it hurts a lot. Facing similar suffering and holding sadness in mind, street and working children. Share that it is extremely difficult to live in a slum area. When our Lucknow-based Balaknama reporter Aanchal met the children living in Vinayakapuram Basti and interacted with them at the same time. While interacting with the children, she asked about the well-being of the children and community members and as well as checked the atmosphere of the settlement. Talking to the children, she found out that there are many such girls. Who are 14-15 years. They are engaged in housework and out-



side work all day. These girls do not get a chance to study. While they want to study. Aanchal spoke to reporter Anjali on this subject. On talking to Anjali, it came to light that "The girls say that we are forced to work. We have to do the work, but with that, we also want to learn and study. The children expressed their feelings as well as told that there are some people in the society, who doesn't want us to study? They stop us by saying that now these girls have

grown up and there is no need to study now. They should get married and sent to another house. Hearing all these things, we children become very sad. When our parents say all these things when they get into the reverse things of society. So, we feel even sadder than that. All of us girls spent half our lives doing all the work. Now if we feel like studying and learning new things, then there are many obstacles to it. It is our parents who stop us from studying.

## CHILDREN HAVE BEEN GIVEN HYGIENE KITS BY POLICEMEN

Reporter Ravi

Friends, we all know how important cleanliness is because only by living in cleanliness our body remains healthy and we can remain mentally healthy, apart from this, society also respects you. If we talk about street and working children, then these children also want to be clean and smart. But due to many difficulties, children are forced to live in filth. But now these children are started coming to Nanhe Parinde mobile education van run by CHETNA NGO. With the help of a hygiene kit distributed by Chetna NGO, these children are also able to keep themselves clean and hygienic like other



children. Apart from this, children did not use handkerchiefs or masks of any kind earlier, but since this hygiene kit has been distributed to children, children have now started using masks as well. This distribution has been done by CHETNA NGO in 16 settlements in Noida and Greater Noida, during which beat officers or other

police staff were present there. They also explained to the children how to protect themselves and avoid anti-social people and activities etc. At the same time, he said that whenever the children need any kind of help, then the children can come to their gipsy or the police station and there is no need to be afraid of the police.

# MY DREAM CAME TRUE

## Bureau Report

No person is complete today without education. Even if there is no education, the person does not know what is right for him. Because it is impossible to do any work without knowledge. For some time, you will be successful in doing that work. But to always remain successful, education is very important. In today's competitive era, everything is becoming digital. Therefore, education is very important in this era and that is why that education has now become even more important than before. You must be thinking that's why we're telling you all this. The reason behind telling all these things is that a child named Hariom (name changed) lives with his family in a small rented room in Sector 62, Noida. Hari Om's father used to work as a cleaner in a company. The boy, Hari Om, also used to go to a private school before the lockdown. But after the lockdown, the situation of his family became very pathetic and his father lost his job. And the economic condition



of the house deteriorated. For a long time after leaving school, Hariom would pick bottles from here and there and earn some money by doing small things and helping his family financially. But then Hari Om met the Chetna worker and the team member of CHETNA told Hariom about the Nanhe Parinde Mobile Education Van. Along with this, Hariom also introduced the CHETNA workers to his parents. And the worker also called him on the van and told him about the bus and explained that they would teach Hariom here

and then later enrol him in school. Hariom started coming on the bus to study and started studying well. Hariom used to go to school before, due to which his interest was more towards studies. Seeing all this, the workers of Chetna Ngo took the decision that Hariom should be admitted to a nearby government school. So that Hariom also goes to school like the rest of the children, for this, they first talked to Hariom and then with Hariom's parents, persuaded them admission and admitted Hariom to the sixth grade in the government school. According to Hariom, he is now very happy because of going to school. Hariom thanks Bhaiya Didi of Pantheon of Chetna Ngo. Hariom says that since childhood, he wanted to study. When he used to go to school as a child, he was very good at his studies. But due to the poor condition of the house, he had to leave the school, but at present, with the help of the efforts made by Chetna, both Hariom and his younger brother have started going to school again. And both children are very happy.

# WHAT IS THE COMPULSION THAT CHILDREN TO BECOME GOONS?

## Bureau Report

Let us talk about the education of street and working children living in India, the whole of India knows that education is an important matter. If a person does not get an education then he has to face a lot of problems in his life. But do you know young children face a lot of problems when they start going to school? Street and working children living in Noida Sector 5 are facing similar problems. Balaknama reporter, while talking to 13-year-old girl Pooja (name changed) learned about the problems children are facing at present. The girl said that we children go to school daily and our school time is from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Any outsider can come inside the school. No teacher or principal madam pays any attention to this. As every school class has a leader or monitor. If the teacher is busy doing some work, the monitor handles the children of the class and fulfils the monitor's responsibility. One day in a class, the teacher was busy doing some work. She was so busy with her work that she was not paying attention to the children at all. During this time, the children were roaming outside the class and talking to friends outside the school. In the meantime, the monitor saw that the children were roaming outside and talking to their outside friends, and



then the monitor asked them to go to the class. But the outside friends used the wrong words with the monitor and started saying to her, "Will you make love with me?" The monitor slapped that student and came to her class. After school, when the monitor came out of the school, the boys stood outside again and got angry seeing her and started using the wrong words again and said "I will kill you". The boys hit the blade in the monitor's hand, due to which she got a sharp cut and blood started coming out of her hand. She started crying and then went to the principal and told her all her story. The principal extracted all the information about those boys found out about those boys and then handed over the boy to the police.

# GOVERNMENT TOILET EMPLOYEE MISBEHAVES WITH CHILDREN



## Talkative Riya and Reporter Kishan

The provision of toilets is very important in our life. If there is no toilet facility, then we have to be ashamed in front of the people. We are compelled to defecate in the open. But if we talk about men, then men do not have to face so many problems as compared to women. How many women have to deal with these problems? Today we want to tell you about the problems related to the toilet itself, where there is no provision of toilets far and wide. Come and know about this news in detail. Our journalists came

to know about their problems from street and working children living in Noida Sector 62, then many children told one by one that we live in a slum on the side of the road. There is a huge problem with toilets in this place. At this place, there is a government toilet at a distance of 2 km. When we children living in slums and their parents and elders have to go for defecation. So we all have to go at a distance of 2 kilometres. It takes us 15 to 20 minutes to reach there and the other problem with this problem is that 15 to 20 minutes to return. When we go to that government toilet, the staff of that toilet scoffs

at seeing us children and also forbids us to go to that toilet and says that you children have to defecate in your nearby surroundings. Why do you come to this toilet? Then we children tell them that there is no toilet at that place. That's why we have to come to this place, then he sees us and turns off the water motor and says that water is not there. When there is very less water, we are compelled to use the toilet with the same water, so that we do not have to go in the open. In the slum, the people and the children who do have any vehicles or means of transport, such as bicycles, motorcycles etc. Then they park the motorcycle or cycle near that government toilet, then that employee hides the motorcycle or cycle and says I do not know who took it. Many times, the cycles have also been stolen. But when we go to the toilet, we have to pay 10 to 20 to that worker to take care of the cycle. Only then our cycle and motorcycle can remain safe. We have also complained many times to the policemen living near the toilet. In front of the police, the employee says that from now on this mistake will not happen, but still, he dares to make a mistake.

# CHILDREN SAY WE HAVE TO BE HEALTHY

## Talkative reporter Mehak and reporter Kishan

Our reporter visited a slum in Noida. During the visit, the reporter noticed that there was a very strong foul smell in the settlement. To find out, our reporter interacted with the children living in the slums and got to know about the issues. There a 10-year-old girl told that "There is a dirty drain next to the slum, and the people living in the slum here keep pigs and these pet pigs and wild pigs roam around the dirty drain. These people living in the settlement also cut the pigs and openly sell them in the market, this information is also available

to the general public. As everyone knows that it is a legal offence to cut the pig. It is also a crime to cut a pig. In these slums, people like to eat pigs and some people do not even touch the pigs. Children and older people fall ill due to the filthy smell. There is a very foul smell, and when the policemen come to this place, these people close their shops and escape for a while. And if caught, they compromise by bribing the policemen. And as soon as the police left, they open the shop again. We children say that we have to be healthy, the pig's business in this slum should be stopped so that we will be able to stay healthy

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

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