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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.

## SMILES ON CHILDREN'S FACES IN THE FREEZING COLD AS CHETNA'S "GARMİ KI JHAPPI" CAMPAIGN REACHES THEM

Balaknama Reporters: Deepak, Kajal, Nancy, Kishan and others

As winter intensifies and temperatures continue to drop, many street-connected and working children are forced to live under flyovers, on roadsides, and in slum settlements, struggling to cope with the harsh cold. During this season, everyone hopes for warm clothes to protect themselves from the biting chill. Keeping this need in mind, Chetna's "Garmi Ki Jhappi" (Warm Hug) campaign has been distributing warm clothing such as sweaters, jackets, and socks to street-connected and working children. The campaign is currently being carried out in several cities including Gurugram, Jaipur, Delhi, Noida, and Lucknow. Children from these cities have shared their experiences about this initiative.

In Gurugram, amid the increasing cold, the social organization Chetna organized the "Garmi Ki Jhappi 3.0" campaign to provide relief to street-connected and working children. The initiative was carried out under the banner of Chetna (Childhood Enhancement Through Training and Action). Under

this campaign, warm jackets, warm pajamas, vests, and socks were distributed to children associated with 15 Alternative Education Centres located in informal settlements, as well as to children living along the city's walled areas and roadsides.

During the campaign, nearly 700 children received warm clothing to protect themselves from the winter cold. The aim of the initiative was not only to protect children from harsh weather but also to strengthen their sense of safety, confidence, and care. The program saw active participation from school principals, police officials, child protection representatives, and social workers. Discussions were also held on children's rights, safety, and the importance of education.

A 14-year-old girl, Rani (name changed), who lives on the roadside, expressed her happiness after receiving a jacket. She said, "It used to be very cold at night. Now the jacket will help me stay warm. It feels good when someone thinks about us."

Speaking on the occasion, Panch Kumar, Special Police Officer from Badshahpur Police Station, said that society needs to come



together to support street-connected and working children. He emphasized that coordination between schools, the police department, and the child welfare system is essential to ensure a safe and better future for children.

Sanjay Gupta, Director of Chetna, said, "The aim of the 'Garmi Ki Jhappi 3.0' campaign is to ensure that no child is left behind due to cold and deprivation. This initiative represents society's collective responsibility and sensitivity towards children." Rajendra Kumar, Project

Coordinator, added, "This campaign is not limited to distributing warm clothes. It is an effort to reassure children that society stands with them. The smiles on their faces are our greatest achievement."

The campaign was made successful through the dedicated efforts of Chetna's staff members, teachers, and partner departments. The relief and smiles seen on the children's faces made the initiative truly memorable. After Gurugram, the campaign also brought warmth and joy to children

in Jaipur. In several informal settlements across the city, the "Garmi Ki Jhappi" program has brought a ray of happiness in the lives of children during the cold season. Under this initiative, Chetna distributed jackets and socks to nearly 500 street-connected and working children across 10 communities in Jaipur.

Balaknama reporter Deepak visited different settlements in Jaipur and spoke with children about their experiences. The children shared that, as every year, Chetna had again provided them with jackets and socks to help them stay warm during winter. Many said they often do not have enough warm clothes, which makes it difficult to attend school or play outside.

Roshan (name changed), aged 13, shared that receiving a jacket and socks helped him stay warm and now he can go to school comfortably without worrying about the cold. Many children smiled while saying that wearing the jackets made them feel good and cared for.

Amrin (name changed), aged 12, said she eagerly waits for this program every year because it not only provides warm clothes but also gives **continue on page. no. 3**

Balaknama Reporter: Ritika  
Talkative Reporter: Avi

## AARAV'S CHANGING WORLD

Nine-year-old Aarav (name changed) came to Gurugram from Bengal with his parents. In search of better livelihood opportunities, the family finally found shelter in the JMD slum settlements of Gurugram. Life there was not easy. Leaking roofs, muddy floors, limited electricity, and standing in long queues every day for water were part of their routine. In such an environment, children's dreams are often crushed under the weight of responsibilities. Aarav's childhood was no different. His mornings did not begin on a playground, but on

the streets. Sometimes he stretched out his hands outside temples, and at other times he collected scrap to support his family. His tiny hands had learned the habit of hard work far too early. While other children ran toward their classrooms at the sound of the school bell, Aarav spent his day working to help his family. Yet, somewhere deep in his heart, the desire to study was still alive.

One day, a social worker from CHETNA noticed him. During their conversation, she realised that this child wanted to learn — he just



needed an opportunity. The very next day, Aarav was enrolled in the organisation's Learning Centre. In the beginning, he would

sit quietly. Perhaps he did not fully believe that education could truly become part of his life. But slowly, books became his friends. Letters introduced him to a new world. A pencil taught him how to express his thoughts.

Today, Aarav comes to the Learning Centre every day after taking a bath and wearing clean clothes. He studies attentively, completes his homework on time, and does not hesitate to ask questions in class. There is no longer hesitation in his eyes — instead, there is confidence. When he writes

new words in his notebook, the smile on his face shows that education truly has the power to transform lives.

Aarav says, "I want to study and become a successful person so that my parents never have to work as daily wage labourers again."

Aarav's story is not just the story of one child. It represents countless children who, despite difficult circumstances, do not stop dreaming. With the right guidance, support, and opportunity, the direction of their lives can change.

Today, Aarav is writing his future among books. With every page, his confidence grows, and with every word, a new hope is born.

# WHEN CHILDHOOD GETS LIMITED TO RESPONSIBILITIES

Balaknama Reporter: Damini  
Talkative Reporter: Reena

Recently, Balaknama reporter Damini visited Khor settlement in Jaipur. At first glance, the scene there seemed ordinary, but on closer observation, it was deeply moving. Young girls, who are still at an age meant for play and learning, were seen kneading dough in small utensils, cutting vegetables, and making tiny rotis. It might look like a game, but the reality behind it is far more serious.

For these girls, cooking is not something new. They take care of their younger siblings, help with household chores, and often prepare full meals. From a very young age, they are taught that taking responsibility for the home is their duty. Gradually, these responsibilities become part of their daily routine. Amid scarcity, these chores even become their form of play. Damini observed that girls as young as six or seven were playing with utensils instead of toys. Since there was no



gas connection, a temporary stove had been made using wood and bricks. In their tiny hands were flames and smoke all around. The scene clearly reflected the contrast between the innocence of childhood and the burden of responsibilities.

When eight-year-old Reena (name changed) was spoken to, she smiled and said, "We will have to do this work when we grow up too, so we are learning it from now." Reena's words are not just the thoughts of one child. They reflect a mindset that society often places in young girls at an early age — that their future is limited to the four walls of the home. Because of this, their play, their dreams and their

aspirations gradually become restricted.

Some women in the settlement also shared that due to lack of resources and financial hardship, girls begin doing household work at an early age. Many times, they have to prioritise domestic responsibilities over education. This affects their confidence and limits their opportunities for growth.

This is not just the story of Khor settlement. It is the reality of countless young girls who grow up carrying responsibilities during their childhood. There is a need for families, communities and authorities to work together to create conditions where girls can play freely, study and recognise their dreams. Childhood should not be only about responsibilities — it should also be about learning, playing and dreaming. If we bring a change in our thinking, every Reena can have the right to choose her own future — not limited to the kitchen, but reaching toward her dreams.

# CHILDHOOD ENTANGLED IN RESPONSIBILITIES AMID FLYING KITES

Balaknama Reporter: Damini  
Talkative Reporter: Riya

On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, while children in the settlement were joyfully flying kites, a reality emerged that raised questions about the innocence of childhood. During a visit to the Mansinghpura settlement, Balaknama reporter Damini noticed a 10-year-old girl holding around 30–35 kites and selling them to other children. When spoken to, she introduced herself as Riya (name changed).

Riya said that she sells kites for 5 or 10 rupees, fixing the price according to their shape and condition. When asked where she gets the kites from, she explained that she does not buy them; instead, she and her siblings catch kites that drift down after being cut during kite flying. Since there are no kite shops near the settlement, her kites are easily sold.

Sharing her family situation, Riya said that her father has passed away and her mother earns a living by selling cumin seeds door to door, but the income is not enough to run

the household. Her elderly grandparents also live with them, and her grandfather is disabled, which adds to the family's responsibilities. Riya has an Aadhaar card and had attended school for some time, but she had to drop out due to family circumstances. Caring for her younger sister, managing household chores, and her grandfather's condition led the family to stop sending her to school.

Now, whatever money she earns from selling kites, she hands over to her mother to help support the family. Riya shared that sometimes she has to climb trees or use sticks to retrieve kites, hoping they are not torn and can still be sold. For her, every intact kite is a new thread of hope.

On a festival like Sankranti, when many children were enjoying the celebrations, a child like Riya was compelled by circumstances to shoulder responsibilities instead of enjoying her childhood. This story is not just about one girl, but about many children whose childhoods are cut short by difficult circumstances and who are forced to grow up too soon.

# EDUCATION DID NOT STOP AMID RESPONSIBILITIES: A BIG ACHIEVEMENT BY CHILDREN OF KAMLA NEHRU CAMP

Balaknama Reporter Asif

Several children living in Kamla Nehru Camp in West Delhi are appearing for their Class 10 board examinations this year. When Balaknama reporter Asif spoke to them, an inspiring story emerged. The children shared that due to household responsibilities and financial hardships, the education of street-connected

and working children often gets interrupted. However, families are gradually realizing the importance of education. Managing household chores, fetching water, caring for younger siblings, and facing financial pressures are part of their daily lives. Despite these challenges, these children continued their studies and have now reached the board examination stage. They

are the first generation in their families to achieve this milestone under such difficult circumstances.

During the interaction, 15-year-old Sunil (name changed) said, "I am the first child in my family to appear for the Class 10 exam. I am very happy and want to continue my studies further."

Anu (name changed) shared, "My mother did not want me

to study, so I came to live with my grandmother to continue my education. I am very happy to be appearing for my Class 10 exams. I never thought I would be able to study."

The children expressed that with the support and guidance of CHETNA, they received the motivation and assistance needed to continue their education and reach this stage. Their achievement proves

that with a little support, guidance, and opportunity, working children living in slum communities can fulfill their dreams.

The children of Kamla Nehru Camp hope that the government and society will continue to support their education so that they can build a better future for themselves, their families, and their community.

# A TROLLEY MADE OF WOOD AND SKATING WHEELS HELPS CHILDREN

Talkative reporters Riya and Kishan

It is often said that India has no shortage of talent, and street-connected and working children have proven this once again. During a visit to a settlement near Noida Sector 15, journalists noticed several children pulling a small trolley made of wood and old skating wheels. They were using it to carry goods and even bring containers of water. Curious about this unique method, the journalists spoke to the children to understand how and why it was created. Suman (name changed), a

13-year-old girl living in the settlement, shared that there are more than 80 huts in the area but a severe water shortage. Children and families have to walk about half a kilometer to fetch water, and carrying heavy containers on the head or in their hands is very difficult. Often the containers fall and break, causing further loss. To address this problem, the children came up with an innovative solution together. Since most families in the settlement work with scrap materials, they easily found plywood, old skating wheels, and nails. The children took



a large wooden board, fixed skating wheels firmly at all four corners underneath, and tied a strong rope at the front so it could be pulled. In this way, they created a small trolley. Initially, the children used it themselves, and when

it proved successful, adults in the community also began adopting the idea. Now many families have made similar trolleys to bring water.

There is no permanent water facility in the settlement, so residents must go to a

nearby temple where a tap is available. Each family has to pay ₹200 per month to use it. Water is available for only two hours a day—one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening. If families collect water during that time, it is fine; otherwise, they have to wait. The trolley has made it easier to bring more water with less effort.

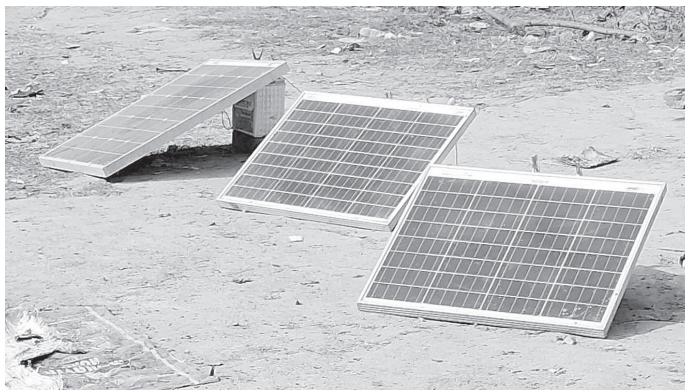
The children's creativity and hard work show that even in difficult circumstances, they do not give up. Instead, they use their skills and resourcefulness to find practical solutions to everyday problems.

# LIVING BY CANDLELIGHT WITHOUT ELECTRICITY

Talkative Reporter: Suneet  
Reporter: Kishan

Can you imagine spending nights without electricity? Even a short power cut at home makes us uncomfortable. But for street-connected and working children living in informal settlements, life without electricity is a daily reality. This raises a serious concern about how families and children manage in such conditions. During a recent visit by Balaknama reporters to a settlement near Sector 14A, Noida, a major issue related to electricity came to light. Families living in the settlement do not have regular access to

electricity in their homes. Thirteen-year-old Babu (name changed) shared that the monthly rent for a small hut in the settlement is around ₹1,200. Most families stay there because work opportunities are available nearby and the rent is relatively low. However, the absence of electricity creates many difficulties in their daily lives. Babu explained that when there is no light, they buy candles from nearby shops to light their homes. Later, he noticed that some residents were using solar panels and large batteries for lighting. Inspired by them, he too purchased a small solar plate and battery from the



market. He charges it in the sunlight during the day and uses it at night to arrange some light at home. However, this solution is not always reliable, especially during winters. Due to fog and

cold weather, sunlight is limited and the solar panels do not charge properly. Many times, the battery only gets enough charge to run a mobile phone. There are government electricity poles near the settlement,

but residents cannot access electricity from them. Police monitoring in the area and restrictions from contractors prevent them from taking any informal connections. People fear that attempting to draw electricity could lead to action against them, so they rely on solar plates for basic lighting. The lack of electricity is also affecting children's education. Studying in the dark is difficult, and many children are forced to sleep early because of insufficient light. This issue is not just about convenience—it directly impacts children's learning, safety and future. It is a serious concern that requires urgent attention.

## A CHILD'S DREAM LIVES ON DESPITE STRUGGLES

Talkative Reporter Mohit  
Balaknama Reporter Amrit

Balaknama reporter Amrit recently visited an informal settlement in Delhi, where he met 13-year-old Mohit (name changed), who is supporting his family while facing life's harsh realities at a young age. During the visit, Amrit saw him washing a tea kettle at a small shop. In conversation, Mohit shared, "We don't have much money. My mother works in a factory and earns around ₹6,000 per month. From that, we have to pay house rent, and whatever little remains is used to buy groceries. It is very difficult to run the household with such limited income." He added, "That's why I started working at the shop. Whatever money I earn, I give to my mother so that we can manage our daily needs." When asked about his education, the pain in his voice was evident. He said, "I was enrolled in school, but due to our poor financial condition, I had to drop out." Despite the



hardships, his dream is still alive. With hope in his words, he said, "I want to get re-admitted to school. I want to study well and get a good job in the future so that I can support my family." This story is not just about one child's struggle, but reflects the reality of many children who are forced to leave school due to financial constraints, yet continue to hold on to their dreams. With the right support and opportunities, such children can change the course of their lives and turn their aspirations into reality.

## HAPPINESS AMONG CLASS 9 GIRLS AS THEY RECEIVE BICYCLES UNDER THE CYCLE DISTRIBUTION SCHEME

Balaknama Reporter: Damini  
Talkative Reporter: Arpita

Under the Cycle Distribution Scheme, bicycles were distributed to girls studying in Class 9, bringing visible happiness to their faces. Balaknama reporter Damini visited different settlements in Jaipur. During her visit, she noticed many girls riding identical new bicycles. This made her curious, so she spoke with the girls to understand their experiences. During the conversation, she learned that girls studying in Class 9 in government schools had received bicycles under the Chief Minister Girls Bicycle Scheme. While speaking with them, their happiness and excitement were clearly visible. They shared that they had been waiting for this scheme for a long time. After receiving the bicycles, going to school will now become much easier for them. Many girls were carefully riding their new bicycles and happily returning home with their friends. Neena (name changed), 14 years old, shared that she had been waiting for a bicycle for a long time. Her school is quite far from her home, and sometimes it



was difficult for her to attend school because she did not have money for transportation. She explained that many times she had to make chhajle (traditional handmade items) to earn money for travel. Now, after receiving the bicycle, she will be able to reach school on time every day and focus better on her studies. Similarly, Bhavana (name changed), 13 years old, also expressed her happiness. She said she felt very happy after receiving the bicycle. Now her parents will not have to worry about daily travel expenses, and she will be able to continue her

studies by going to school easily. Other girls studying in the Ganesh Puri community also shared their experiences. They said that having bicycles will save time and make them feel safer and more independent. The beneficiaries mentioned that they will no longer need to depend on others to travel to school. They can now go to school by themselves, which has increased their confidence and motivated them to continue their education.

On this occasion, a small program was also organized at the school, where the area's councillor and MLA were present. They distributed bicycles to the students and encouraged them to move forward in life while understanding the importance of education. The impact of the bicycle distribution scheme is not limited only to Class 9 girls. Younger girls studying in lower classes are also feeling inspired by it. They are excited to continue their studies and look forward to reaching higher classes in the future. In this way, the Chief Minister Girls Bicycle Scheme is proving to be an important step toward promoting girls' education and making them more independent.

**CHILDREN'S HELP  
LINE NUMBERS**

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

Child line Number

**1098**

Police Helpline Number

**100**

## SMILES ON CHILDREN'S FACES IN THE FREEZING COLD AS CHETNA'S "Garmi Ki Jhappi" Campaign Reaches Them

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a feeling of care and security. Stakeholders present at the event appreciated the efforts of Chetna, noting that the initiative not only protects children from the cold but also strengthens their confidence and sense of belonging. In Lucknow, the organization also distributed tarpaulins and blankets in different communities to support families during the harsh winter. Tarpaulins were distributed in six communities, benefiting

about 152 families, helping them repair their temporary shelters and protect children from cold winds.

Additionally, 810 blankets were distributed among needy families across 15 communities in Lucknow.

When Balaknama reporter Nancy visited the communities and spoke to residents, Kishmato Bano (name changed), aged 11, from Sadar Bazaar shared that they had only two thin sheets to cover themselves during the cold. The blanket

provided by the organization was therefore a great help.

Gudiya (name changed), aged 13, from Charbagh said that due to ongoing construction work near the railway station, their hut had been demolished and they had no proper place to stay. The tarpaulin and blanket provided by the organization became a great support for her family.

Rosy (name changed), aged 12, from the Secretariat area said that their old tarpaulin had been damaged by sun and rain, but the new one helped

repair their shelter, and the blanket provided warmth during the cold nights.

In Noida, the campaign continued across 22 locations, where around 1,600 families and children received warm blankets.

Damini (name changed), aged 12, from Belurpur said that there are eight members in her family but they only had two thin blankets earlier. The new blankets will help them stay warm during winter.

Similarly, Kavi (name changed), aged 11, from

Sector-76 shared that many times they want to buy blankets but cannot afford them. When an organization comes forward to help, it brings great happiness.

Through this initiative, the "Garmi Ki Jhappi" campaign has emerged as a symbol of care, compassion, and collective support for children. The smiles on the children's faces show that even small efforts by society can bring great happiness into their lives.

## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS IN SCHOOLS APPRECIATED BY CHIEF GUESTS AND MEDIA

Balaknama Reporter: Damini  
Talkative Reporter: Palak

On the occasion of 26 January, Balaknama reporter Damini interacted with children regarding the cultural programmes organized in various schools of Jaipur and in the alternative education centres run by CHETNA. The children enthusiastically shared that this year's Republic Day celebration was very special and memorable for them.

The children informed that cultural programmes were organized in government schools across Jaipur. At Mahatma Gandhi Government School, Jaisinghpura Khor, a grand celebration was held where the ward councillor was invited as the Chief Guest. The school campus was beautifully

decorated, and there was visible excitement among the children. For many of them, it was the first time performing on stage in a uniform costume, which made them extremely happy.

Eleven-year-old Sheela (name changed) shared that she was admitted to the school this year and got her first opportunity to perform a dance on Ganesh Vandana while wearing a coordinated dress. She said this experience boosted her confidence and brought her immense joy.

During the programme, children presented songs highlighting serious issues like child labour, spreading awareness through their performances. Some students dressed as soldiers performed patriotic dances, filling the atmosphere with love for

the nation. The audience applauded enthusiastically, encouraging the young performers.

Thirteen-year-old Palak (name changed) shared that she had the honour of welcoming the Chief Guests on stage by applying tilak and garlanding them, which was a proud and unforgettable moment for her. The children also mentioned that media personnel covered their performances, and seeing themselves featured in the news further increased their excitement and confidence.

The children expressed that such programmes give them opportunities to showcase their talents, speak on stage, and grow with confidence. For them, this year's Republic Day celebration was filled with learning, happiness, and pride.



## CHILDREN FALLING PREY TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE AT A YOUNG AGE

Balaknama Reporter: Farukh

When Balaknama reporter Farukh Hussain visited his area in Wazirabad, Sector 52, Gurugram, he came across a deeply concerning situation. In the locality, he found a child of around 10 years old, Rahul (name changed), using substances.

Farukh spoke to Rahul and asked why he had started using substances. Rahul shared that it had now become a habit. As the conversation continued, Rahul explained that one day he was walking near a nearby dam when some older boys caught hold of him and forced him, through fear and pressure, to try substances. After that incident, he gradually became addicted.

When asked how he arranged money for substances, Rahul said that his parents gave him money

for food and daily needs, but he used that money to buy substances instead.

Farukh also asked whether Rahul knew about the harmful effects of substance use on health and the body. Rahul responded that he was aware that it could cause serious illnesses, but now he found it difficult to give up the habit even if he wanted to.

Seeing the seriousness of the situation, Farukh spoke with Rahul's parents. With their consent, Rahul was taken for counselling to a hospital where treatment for substance de-addiction is available.

This incident highlights that even very young children can fall into substance abuse due to peer pressure and negative influences. With timely awareness, open dialogue and proper guidance, children can be protected from such risks.

## BROKEN ROAD POSES A THREAT TO CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Balaknama Reporter: Amrit  
Talkative Reporter: Anshu

Aryan (name changed), a resident of West Delhi, shared that the road in his area is broken and damaged in many places, making it difficult for children to travel to and from school. There are potholes everywhere, and during rains or due to water from nearby drains, mud accumulates on the road. If a child is standing by the roadside or passing through, vehicles going by often splash muddy water on them.

Children who go to school by bicycle face even greater difficulties, as they have to stop their cycles and carefully maneuver along the edges. Aryan said that the water accumulating on



the road comes from nearby open drains and household wastewater outlets. A local resident, Rahim (name changed), explained that the road has been repaired once or twice before, but because the drainage system is not properly maintained, it has broken again both times. He added that the drains remain uncleared

for months, causing water to overflow onto the road and create potholes.

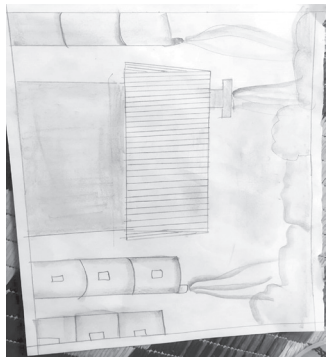
Rahim also mentioned that vehicles often get stuck in these potholes, causing inconvenience to schoolchildren traveling in them. Once, a rickshaw even got stuck in a pothole and overturned. Fortunately, at that time there was no child in the rickshaw apart from the driver, and the driver sustained only minor injuries.

Children and parents in the area have appealed to the government to repair the road and properly cover or reconstruct the drains so that water does not overflow and the road does not deteriorate repeatedly. They say that safe roads and clean drains are essential for children's safety.

## INDUSTRIAL VISIT GIVES CHILDREN NEW LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

Balaknama Reporter: Preeti

During a visit to the N-86 community in Delhi, Balaknama journalists met 16-year-old Ehsan (name changed). During the conversation, Ehsan shared that he studies at Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya Keshavpuram in Delhi. Recently, his school organized an industrial visit for students to a company located in the Bawana Industrial Area. The main objective of this visit was to ensure that students do not remain limited to textbook knowledge but also get exposure to real-life work environments and industries. Ehsan said that along with his group, four teams from the school visited Bawana. During the visit, they toured a large company where electronic motherboards are manufactured. The students got an opportunity to understand how important



electronic components are produced, what role machines and workers play, and how the entire production process operates. Through this experience, students gained practical knowledge about the technical field and got a close look at how work is carried out in industries. Ehsan also mentioned a special aspect of the company: women who have completed Class 12 are also given employment opportunities there. The company focuses on providing

jobs to women and encourages them to become self-reliant. Women's participation not only helps the company run smoothly but also promotes gender equality in society.

According to Ehsan, the visit helped him understand that large companies are not limited to production and profit; they also play an important role in the development of society. When women get employment opportunities, their financial condition improves, enabling them to take better care of their families. This has a positive impact on their children, families, and ultimately on society as a whole. Ehsan shared that the visit was a very educational and memorable experience for him. It inspired him to think that in the future he would also like to pursue work alongside his studies that contributes positively to society.

## MINOR DISPUTE ESCALATES INTO KNIFE ATTACK

Bureau Report

Sometimes a small mistake or minor issue is blown out of proportion, leading to very serious consequences. A similar incident came to light at a government school located near Sector-5 in Noida. Kavi (name changed), 13 years old, shared that his family originally belongs to Bihar and currently lives in a rented house in Noida. He studies in a nearby government school and is currently in Class 6. According to Kavi, the environment in the school is not very good, and arguments among students often occur over small matters. He explained that two days ago, when school ended and students were leaving for their homes, Farooq (name changed), a student of Class 7, accidentally pushed Mani (name changed), a student of Class 10. This led to an argument between the two, and in anger Farooq started abusing Mani. When the students reached outside the school, some of Mani's friends arrived there and attacked Farooq with a knife. Farooq

was injured in the attack, and the students who carried out the assault fled the spot immediately after the incident. After witnessing the incident, some students quickly informed the school principal. The school administration then rushed the injured Farooq to a hospital, where he received medical treatment.

When Farooq's parents learned about the incident, they filed a complaint with the police. Kavi also said that by the time the police arrived to catch Mani and his friends, they had already run away. According to him, the school environment has worsened due to the misbehaviour of some senior students. Several students reportedly carry sharp weapons such as knives, and sometimes use them during small disputes. Kavi added that teachers are sometimes unaware of these activities, which increases the risk of such incidents happening. Following the incident, it has been reported that the names of some students involved have also been removed from the school.

# STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN VOICE THEIR CONCERNS IN A MEETING, ENGAGE IN DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH OFFICIALS

Balaknama Reporter: Asif

On 7 February, CHETNA NGO organised a stakeholder consultation, bringing together government officials and representatives from various child protection organizations. Members from the Child Welfare Committee, Childline 1098, and the District Child Protection Unit were also present at the meeting. The Chief Guest of the program was Dr Rashmi Singh secretary DWCD. Her presence created great excitement among the children and other participants present at the event. During the program, Dr. Rashmi Singh interacted with the children and encouraged them. She said that she has been working for the welfare of children for a long time and emphasised that it is very important for children's voices to be heard. While interacting with both children

and officials, she encouraged them to express their thoughts openly. The meeting was facilitated by Sanjay Gupta. To help participants better understand children's rights and issues related to spending on child welfare, he conducted an engaging quiz. Through this quiz, the children and participants gained new information about child protection institutions and their work. A special aspect of the meeting was that children from slum communities themselves participated and spoke openly about their experiences. Representatives from Childline 1098 explained that their team works 24 hours a day to assist children in need. They shared their experiences and explained how the helpline functions. Officials from the District Child Protection Unit also explained how their team works to



protect children's rights and continuously strives to provide support to children in need. During the program, children also presented songs they had written on serious issues such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and Child Labour. Children who often do not get opportunities

to perform on stage were given a platform to share their thoughts and talents. Their performances attracted the attention of everyone present, and the audience applauded warmly to encourage them. During the meeting, 10-year-old Aarav (name changed) shared his dream, saying

that he wants to become the Chief Minister of Delhi when he grows up so that no child has to live on the streets or in drains. His statement received loud applause from the audience. In a conversation with Balaknama reporter Asif, 15-year-old Sakshi (name changed) said that she already knew about Childline and the District Child Protection Unit, but attending this program helped her understand their work much better. Similarly, 14-year-old Aman (name changed) said that he felt very happy at the event because he was treated equally and was given the opportunity to express his views. This meeting became an example of how, when children are given the right platform and opportunity, they not only share their problems but also express their dreams and hopes for a better future.

## CHALLENGES OF STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN PERSIST

Talkative Reporter: Aastha  
Balaknama Reporter: Kishan

Issues related to street and working children often continue even after repeated attempts to resolve them. A similar situation was observed in the slum settlements near Sector-76 in Noida. When journalists visited the settlement to meet the children, they noticed a large drain located very close to the area. In several places, the ground level of the settlement is also quite low. Rahul (name changed), 15 years old, who lives in the settlement, shared that most of the slum clusters in this area are built on government land. Since a drain passes close to the settlement, many people had earlier built their huts on the sloping side of the land. However, over time, several families have also started building huts on the pathway that people use for daily movement. Rahul further explained that water is supplied in the area through pipelines, but the opening of



the pipe is quite large, causing water to flow out with strong force. The biggest issue is that there is no proper way to stop the water. Whenever water is released, it continues to flow for a long time. Because of this, the surrounding soil begins to erode and flows towards the drain, which is increasing the

risk for the settlement. Rahul also mentioned that many houses do not have proper pipe connections, which causes water to flow out rapidly. In some places, the pipes are also broken from inside, allowing water to leak continuously. Due to this constant water flow, the soil is gradually eroding and the ground is becoming weaker. According to Rahul, residents of the settlement have been facing this problem for a long time, but no responsible authority has paid attention to it. Neither a local representative nor any official has visited the area to address the issue. In the future, the problem could become even more serious. Residents said that they have tried several times to stop the soil erosion by bringing tractor loads of soil, but after some time the same situation returns and the soil starts eroding again. The people living in the settlement want a permanent solution to this problem so that their homes and living spaces do not face any danger in the future.

## CHILDHOOD AMIDST GARBAGE HEAPS

Balaknama Reporter: Amit  
Talkative Reporter: Kishore

Kishore (name changed), a 10-year-old boy living in a slum in Delhi, shared his concern that the area where he lives has more than 100 shanties, and right next to them lies a large heap of garbage. This waste is mainly dumped by the residents of the settlement, which has led to filth spreading all around and made it difficult to live there because of the foul smell. Kishore explained that apart from household waste, people also throw dirty water from their homes and leftover food at the same spot. Not only that, vehicles from other places also come and dump garbage there, causing the heap to grow even bigger. Due to this unhygienic environment, many children in the settlement are falling sick. They play around the garbage heap and later suffer from illnesses such as fever, cough, dengue, and malaria. Kishore also mentioned that, so far, the residents of the settlement have not made any concrete complaint to the local



head about this issue, which is why the situation remains unchanged. The children wish that dustbins be installed and regular cleaning arrangements be made, so that people throw garbage in the proper place instead of scattering it around, and the settlement can remain clean. The concern in the eyes of children living amidst this filth is clearly visible. This is not just a matter of cleanliness; it is a serious issue related to children's health and their safe future, which needs timely attention.

## YOUNG STARS SHINED ON STAGE: STRONG PERFORMANCES BY CHILDREN AT THE NIPUN MELA

Balaknama Reporter: Deepak  
Talkative Reporter: Lakshmi

At the NIPUN Mela organized under the guidance of the Education Department, street and working children associated with various education centres of CHETNA participated for the first time and showcased their talents impressively. Children from seven nearby government

schools across different blocks of Jaipur also took part actively. For all the children, the experience was new, inspiring, and confidence-building. The main objective of the NIPUN Mela was to strengthen children's foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN). Through academic, creative, and life-skill-based presentations, the children demonstrated unique ways of learning and teaching.

Some children dressed up as traffic lights to spread awareness about road safety, while others explained topics such as environmental protection, proper handwashing habits, good touch and bad touch, antonyms, shapes, days of the week, and counting in simple and engaging ways. For many children, this was their first experience on stage, where they learned to speak

confidently, explain concepts, and present without hesitation. Twelve-year-old Rama (name changed) shared, "I study at Government Secondary School, Mangyawas. In this programme, I presented information about a clean environment through an environment chart, for which I received the first prize." Ten-year-old Sunita (name changed) also drew attention

by becoming a traffic light and delivering an effective road safety message. At the end of the programme, the children were appreciated for their efforts and participation and were awarded prizes, bringing bright smiles to their faces. The NIPUN Mela proved to be not just an event, but a strong platform for children to learn, express themselves, and move forward with confidence.

## FEAR OF KIDNAPPING RUMORS DISRUPTS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

**Balaknama Reporter: Asif**

These days in Delhi, rumours about child kidnapping are spreading rapidly. Such news is continuously appearing on social media and some news channels, creating an atmosphere of fear among people. This fear is now beginning to affect children's education as well. Many parents are hesitant to send their children to school because of these rumours. Even though exams are approaching, several children are being forced to stay at home, which is affecting their studies. Balaknama reporter

Asif spoke with Anshu (name changed), 14 years old, about the situation. Anshu shared that due to the kidnapping rumours, his mother is not allowing him to go to school. He also said that his younger sister has become very scared after hearing these reports and now feels afraid to go outside the house. During the conversation, one parent also expressed concern, saying that these reports have created a lot of fear among people. They are confused about which news is true and which is false. According to them, the government and administration should



provide clear information on the matter so that people

can know the truth and send their children to school

without fear.

Some people believe that spreading unverified news and rumours creates panic and confusion in society. At such times, it becomes important for the administration and police to provide clear and accurate information so that people do not believe in rumours and can understand the situation correctly. This situation shows that rumours not only spread fear but also affect children's education and their mental well-being. Therefore, it is important that people do not spread unverified information and rely only on accurate and confirmed news.

## KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT ON CHILD FOILED DUE TO ALERTNESS

**Bureau Report**

During a conversation with children about their current situation in a settlement near Sector-53 in Noida, a concerning incident came to light. Tarun (name changed), a 10-year-old boy living in the settlement, shared that concerns about children's safety have been increasing in the area. According to him, earlier some people used to come disguised as holy men (babas) and try to lure children. Recently, however, some individuals have been approaching children in normal clothes, trying to attract them by offering chocolates or other items. Tarun explained that about three days ago around 5 p.m., a three-year-old child who lived in a green building near the settlement was playing in the mud outside his house. His mother was upstairs busy with household work, and his father had gone to work. At that time, a CNG tempo stopped nearby. Two people were sitting inside it—one driving and the other sitting in the back. They looked around



for a while and, noticing that no one was paying attention to the child, approached him. By offering him something tempting, they made the child sit in the tempo and drove away. Meanwhile, the child's mother came downstairs to check on him but could not find him there. She immediately raised an alarm and called the child's father, informing him about the incident. On hearing this, the father asked his relatives and acquaintances to help search for the child in nearby areas. While searching on the road, the father spotted a tempo and stopped it. When he checked inside, he found his child in

the vehicle. As soon as the tempo stopped, the driver ran away, but the man sitting in the back was caught. The father then called nearby residents, and together they handed the person over to the police. After hearing about the incident, journalists advised the children that if they ever notice any suspicious situation or if a stranger tries to lure them, they should immediately inform their parents, nearby people, or trusted adults. They were also told that in emergencies they can call the Childline 1098 for help so that children can receive timely assistance and stay safe.

## CHILD INJURED AMID A DOMESTIC DISPUTE

**Balaknama Reporter: Amrit  
Talkative Reporter: Payal**

Conflicts at home can sometimes lead to serious consequences. A similar tragic incident has come to light from a slum settlement in West Delhi. Payal (name changed), a 14-year-old girl living there, shared that an argument began between a couple living near her house over some issue, which gradually escalated into a serious fight. During the altercation, the atmosphere in the house became tense, and no one noticed that a small child was playing near the kitchen.

At that moment, hot oil kept on the stove suddenly spilled and the child came into contact with it, resulting in severe burn injuries. Hearing the child's cries, family members rushed to the spot and immediately took the child to a nearby hospital, where doctors began treatment at once. According to the doctors, the child suffered burn injuries but is now out of danger due to



timely medical care, although treatment is still ongoing. This incident makes us reflect on how domestic disputes often have the greatest impact on children. In moments of anger and arguments, adults sometimes forget that children are present nearby. Families should therefore try to resolve their differences peacefully, so that children's safety and future remain secure.

## CHILDREN EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS WITH FRUSTRATION

**Bureau Report**

There are many kinds of work. Children often help their parents with household chores at home, but it is also important to understand where and what kind of work children are doing. When reporters from Balaknama visited a settlement in Noida Sector-78 to meet the children, they tried to find out whether the children were regularly attending school. An 11-year-old boy, Chiku (name changed), who lives in the settlement, said that he could not

go to school that day because his school uniform had become dirty. When asked how his clothes got dirty, he replied a little angrily that he studies in a government school in a nearby village and is currently in Class 5. Chiku explained that there are some rules in the school that create problems for the children. He said he could not share the name of the school, but there is no cleaning staff there. Because of this, their class teacher has made a rule that when students arrive at



school in the morning, they have to clean the classroom themselves. They are required to sweep the floor, clean

the chairs, and dust the charts and posters on the walls. Chiku said that when it is their turn, they do the cleaning

work, but while doing so their school uniforms become dirty. Because of the dirty clothes, they are sometimes unable to attend school the next day. When they return the following day, the teacher scolds them and sometimes even punishes them. Even when they explain that their clothes were dirty, their explanation is often not properly heard. Chiku also shared that the school principal is aware of the situation. However, more than a year has passed and the school still has not appointed any cleaning

staff. Instead, children are made to do the cleaning work, and therefore the issue is not being given much attention. Hearing this situation may not feel right to anyone. Balaknama reporters also request the school administration not to make children do such work. The primary responsibility of children is to study. Therefore, cleaning staff should be appointed in the school as soon as possible so that children's education is not affected and they do not have to face such difficulties.

## DEMOLISHED TOILETS INCREASE DIFFICULTIES FOR CHILDREN IN THE SETTLEMENT

Balaknama Reporter: Deepak  
Talkative Reporter: Sandeep

When Balaknama reporter Deepak visited Premnagar informal settlement in Jaipur, he encountered a serious and concerning situation. Local residents shared that toilets built in the settlement by the municipal corporation had recently been demolished. According to officials, the toilets were constructed on land considered unauthorized, which led to their removal. However, while the toilets were demolished, no alternative arrangements were provided. As a result, residents—especially children and women—are now facing significant hardship. During the visit, talkative reporter Sandeep spoke in detail with children, parents and local residents. People

shared that earlier, the community toilets had been a great support. Children could use them safely before going to school and at night. Now, in the absence of toilets, everyone is forced to go out in the open.

Children shared that going out early in the morning or late at night has become a source of fear and insecurity. Many said they are scared of snakes, stray dogs and other dangers. Some children also mentioned that they drink less water so they do not have to go out frequently, which is already affecting their health.

Fourteen-year-old Janat (name changed) said, "We feel very embarrassed. Many times we have to go in groups just to feel a little safe. Even before leaving for school, we worry about where we will go to use the toilet."

Other girls also shared that



going out in the open makes them feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Their privacy is affected, and many of them hold it in for long periods, which can lead to health problems.

Parents expressed concern that if the demolition of structures

was necessary, then alternative toilet facilities should have been arranged before or immediately after the removal. They said children's basic needs cannot be ignored.

Local residents believe that sanitation and health are the rights of every citizen. The

absence of a basic facility like toilets directly affects children's dignity, safety and education. When children live in discomfort and anxiety, it also affects their ability to focus on studies.

This situation raises important questions: Will the concerned departments arrange temporary or permanent toilets soon? Will the safety and dignity of children and women be prioritised? The children of Premnagar settlement have a clear demand — they want safe, clean and dignified toilet facilities so they can carry out their daily routines without fear or shame. Through Balaknama, the children of the settlement have appealed to the authorities to take their concerns seriously and provide a solution at the earliest. Cleanliness is not just a facility; it is directly linked to health, safety and dignity.

## STRAY DOGS THREATEN CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Talkative Reporter: Anjali |  
Balaknama Reporter: Kishan

Children living in slums, including street and working children, face many challenges in their daily lives. One of the major problems they deal with is stray animals. A similar case came to light in Bistrakh village in Noida. Here, journalists were conducting a "Badhte Kadam" meeting with 26 children. During the meeting, a 9-year-old girl, Seema (name changed), repeatedly said that she needed to leave early and looked a bit worried. At first, it seemed that she wanted to go home. However, when the journalist called her among the children and spoke to her in detail, it was revealed that she was actually in a hurry to go to the hospital, not home. Seema shared that a few days earlier she had been bitten by a dog. She explained that she lives in a rented house in the village with her parents. Her parents go to work in

the morning, leaving the children at home. Seema studies in Class 5 at a nearby school. She has a younger sister, Rani (name changed), who is about 6 years old and stays at home. Seema further said that one day she had a fever, so she did not go to school and stayed at home. While leaving for work, her mother gave the two sisters 20 rupees and asked them to buy something to eat. After some time, Rani asked for the money. Seema had only one 20-rupee note and felt that if she gave it to her sister, she might buy something only for herself. So, she refused, and the two sisters began playing together. Seema said that a stray dog usually stays outside their lane. While playing, she ran into the lane and looked back to see if her sister was coming. Suddenly, the dog appeared in front of her, and she accidentally collided with

it and fell. At that moment, the dog bit her. Seema started crying, and a young man living nearby immediately took her to a government hospital, where the doctor gave her an injection and medicine. Seema also shared that the same dog has bitten several other children in the settlement. The children have tried many times to chase the dog away, but it does not leave the area. Seema also mentioned that a woman from a nearby building comes every day to feed the dogs. The children requested her to move the dogs away because they had bitten many children, but she refused to do so. According to the children, they would feel much safer if the dog was removed from the settlement. At present, whenever they come out to play in the lane or the settlement, they remain scared that the dog might bite again. Because of this fear, many children are unable to play freely.

## CHILDREN STRUGGLING WITH TOXIC AIR

Balaknama Reporter: Riya  
Talkative Reporter: Amrit

Riya, a young reporter from the Balaknama newspaper, has drawn attention to a very serious issue. She shared that pollution levels in Delhi have risen sharply, which is dangerous for both adults and children, but its impact is greatest on children. According to experts, children breathe faster and more frequently than adults, so polluted air enters their bodies more quickly, leading to respiratory illnesses, cough, asthma, and other health problems.

Riya explained that one major reason for the rise in pollution is the bursting of firecrackers during Diwali. In addition, fireworks at weddings and in banquet halls also release smoke and harmful particles into the air. In many places, garbage piled up in the open is set on fire, producing toxic



fumes that further pollute the environment. All of this together worsens air quality and directly affects children's health. Riya has appealed to everyone to understand the harmful effects of firecrackers and to think about children's health. She says that festivals should be celebrated with joy and in safe ways so that no one's health is harmed. Clean air is every child's right, and all of us must take responsibility to reduce pollution.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT BRINGS SMILES TO CHILDREN IN THE SETTLEMENT

Talkative Reporter: Shaheen  
Balaknama Reporter: Kishan

It is often said that everyone makes mistakes in life, but those who try to correct them and do good deeds can bring happiness to others. When people help others and share their joy, many faces light up with smiles. A similar experience was shared by children living in the settlements near Sector-52 in Noida. Monika (name changed), 13 years old, who lives in the settlement with her family, explained that there are more than 150 huts and a few brick houses in the area, and a

large number of children live there. Near the settlement, there are developed sectors and tall residential buildings. Some people from those areas visit the settlement from time to time and bring useful items for the children. According to Monika, whenever these visitors come, they bring clothes, shoes, socks, pencils, notebooks, books, colours, snacks, biscuits, and chips for the children. When the children receive these items, a special happiness can be seen on their faces. They jump with excitement and feel as if they are celebrating a special occasion. Monika shared that



a few days ago a "didi" (elder sister) gave her a new sweater. She did not have another sweater before, so this one helps her stay warm during the winter. She also received notebooks and books, which

she now uses regularly for her studies. For many children in the settlement, such items are very useful because not all families can afford to buy new things frequently. She also mentioned that some

people visit the settlement on their birthdays and celebrate with the children. They bring food items and small gifts for them. At those moments, children feel as if they are part of a festival. They happily play music and sometimes celebrate the birthday with songs and dancing on their small DJ setup. According to Monika, during such moments children feel that there are people in society who care for them and share happiness with them. These small acts of kindness bring great joy into the lives of children and fill their faces with genuine smiles.

# FATHER FORCED TO WITHDRAW SON FROM SCHOOL

Talkative Reporter: Ritik  
Balaknama Reporter: Kishan

Sometimes the pressure and fear created by older students can seriously affect the education of younger children. A similar incident was shared by Raman (name changed), a 14-year-old boy living near Sector 76 in Noida. Raman explained that his family originally belongs to Badayun. They currently live in a rented house in a village near Sector-76. His parents work as labourers at construction sites. Earlier, Raman used to study in Class 6 at a nearby government school located close to the settlement where he lives. However, he has now stopped going to school. When journalists asked him why he left school without any major reason, Raman shared his

difficulties. He said that the environment in the school was not good. Some senior students were more involved in fights and arguments than in studies. They often picked fights over small issues and sometimes harassed younger students even when they had done nothing wrong. Raman recalled that one day his teacher had to step out of the classroom for some work. Before leaving, she asked the children to sit quietly and gave Raman the responsibility to note down the names of anyone who misbehaved. After the teacher left, a few students started creating trouble, so Raman wrote down their names. Soon after, a 17-year-old senior student came to him and asked him to erase his name from the list. However, Raman refused because the student



had actually been misbehaving. When the teacher returned, Raman told her everything. As a result, the student was scolded and asked to do sit-ups as punishment, which made him feel embarrassed and angry. According to Raman, after school that day the boy and

some of his friends caught him outside the school and beat him badly. Raman said that such incidents did not happen just once—he was harassed several times. He also mentioned that similar incidents happened with other children in the school as well. When the children

complained to teachers about these problems, their concerns were often not taken seriously. Eventually, Raman told his father that some boys were troubling and beating him after school. Hearing this, his father became worried about his safety and decided to withdraw his name from the school. Now Raman stays at home and currently attends classes through the Nanhe Parinde Van, where he continues learning. After hearing the children's experiences, journalists advised them that they could also continue their education through Open Basic Education, a facility available through CHETNA NGO. Hearing this suggestion made the children happy, and they decided to continue their studies and work towards a better future.

# BEHIND THE GLITZ OF WEDDING PROCESSIONS: WORKING CHILDREN'S STRUGGLES

Talkative Reporter: Aditya  
Balaknama Reporter: Kishan

With the beginning of the wedding season, cities become lively with tents, lights, and loud DJ music. Whenever a wedding procession passes through the streets or the sound of a DJ is heard, children often stop out of curiosity to watch the celebrations. However, there are also many children who try to earn some money by doing small jobs during these wedding processions. Journalists spoke with four children near Sector-52 in Noida. The children shared that there is a government wedding hall near their slum settlement where weddings are held frequently. Many children work there

doing different tasks such as serving food, washing utensils, helping set up tents, and carrying light umbrellas in the wedding procession. During the conversation, a 16-year-old boy, Radhe (name changed), said, "Who doesn't like money? Hard work is needed in every job, but it feels good when we earn some money in a short time." He explained that whenever a wedding procession arrives at the nearby banquet hall, he and his friends go there to watch the DJ. Sometimes there are not enough people to hold the light umbrellas, so the organizers ask children standing nearby. In such cases, they agree to hold the umbrellas. Now they even go themselves and ask if the work is available. Radhe said



that they have to walk with the umbrella for about one and a half to two hours until

the procession reaches the wedding hall or the bride's house. In return for this work, they earn around 400 to 500 rupees. However, the work also comes with several difficulties. When people in the procession throw money in celebration, many people and children rush to pick it up. During that rush, their hands sometimes hit the umbrella, creating a risk that it may fall or the bulbs may break. Sometimes the bulbs do break, and the children have to pay for the damage. He also mentioned that some people in the procession drink alcohol and intentionally shake the umbrella, which troubles the children. At such times, the children cannot say anything because they fear that the

people might start a fight or refuse to pay them their hard-earned money. So, they often have to tolerate such behaviour. According to the children, there are also a few small benefits to this work. When money is thrown in the procession, they sometimes manage to pick up a note or two. They also get a chance to eat food at the wedding venue. Once the procession reaches the bride's house or the wedding hall, their work ends and they receive their payment. The children said that the money they earn is given to their families, which helps a little with household expenses. However, the children also shared that this work is not easy, but they feel compelled to do it in order to support their families.

# CHILDHOOD STRUGGLING WITH CHILD LABOUR

Balaknama Reporter: Jahana

In Shakur Basti, located in the western part of Delhi, Balaknama reporter Jahana conducted a special visit to understand the real-life conditions of children living in the community. During the visit, she spoke with several children and local residents to learn about the challenges they face in their daily lives. During the conversation, it was revealed that many children in the area are forced to work at a very young age due to poverty. In this context, the reporter came to know about Mohan (name changed), a 13-year-old boy, who goes to work

every day in a factory that manufactures slippers. After learning about his situation, reporter Jahana met Mohan and tried to understand his circumstances in detail. The boy shared that his family's financial condition is very weak. His father is seriously ill and unable to work. The responsibility of running the household now falls on his mother, who earns a small income by doing domestic work. Because of the family's difficult financial situation, Mohan had to leave his studies at a young age. Earlier, he used to study in a nearby government school and was doing well in his studies, but due to the family's needs, he



was forced to start working. At the factory, Mohan works 8 to 10 hours every day, where he is involved in tasks such as making, assembling, and packing slippers. In return for this hard work, he receives very low wages, which barely help the family buy basic food and essential items. While sharing his feelings, Mohan said that he still wishes to go to school, study, and move forward in life. In the future, he dreams of becoming a doctor or a teacher so that he can help his family and contribute positively to society. However, because of poverty and circumstances, his dreams have remained

unfulfilled. Taking this matter seriously, reporter Jahana spoke with local social organizations, teachers, and parents, emphasizing the need to reconnect such children with education and provide financial support to their families. She also highlighted that according to child labour laws, employing children below the age of 14 is a crime, and strict action should be taken in such cases. Reporter Jahana believes that if society collectively works toward children's education, safety, and better future, many children like Mohan can transform their lives and achieve their dreams.

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