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PRATIDHI

AFD-PRATIDHI

(A collaborative Society of Delhi Police and Association for Development)

PROTECTING CHILD RIGHTS THROUGH ADVOCACY & NETWORKING

ANNUAL REPORT

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R ADVOCACY

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACP	Additional Commissioner of Police
BBA	Bachpan Bachao Andolan
CIC	Crisis Intervention Centre
COP	Community Outreach Programme
CrPc	The Code of Criminal Procedure
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
CAW	Crime Against Women
CS	Chief Secretary
CPCR	Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act
DWCD	Department of Women & Child Development
DC	Divisional Commissioner
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection scheme
JJC	Juvenile Justice Committee
JJA	Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act
NIPCCD	National Institute of Public Co-operation & Child Development
PDS	Public Distribution System
RTI	Right to Information
SHO	Station House Officer
SJPU	Special Juvenile Police Unit
UTCS	Union Territory Civil Services (Directorate of Training)
VAP	Victim Assistance Programmme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Association for Development has been implementing the Project “**Protecting Child Rights Through Advocacy**” since the last 5 years. Over the years, the experience gained in the process has enabled the team to understand the dynamics of governance and improve the strategy to get better results.

Due to the high rate of attrition and new Programme Staff joining in, the expected outcome of the work done has not been satisfactory. AFD has had 6 people leaving during the last 1 year. This has had an effect on the work done with regard to the activities proposed.

The major focus of the organization has been engaging with the Government on improving governance on child rights issues. AFD believes that performance of any State on recognition of rights is linked to governance.

AFD’s RTI intervention along with engaging with stakeholders and media advocacy has been a major factor in making things move at many levels. The experience reveals that the working of the statutory bodies like the Child Welfare Committees (CWC), which is supposed to play a crucial role in deciding care, protection and rehabilitation issues, has improved considerably due to AFD’s intervention. (Details in the chapter -Advocacy on Child Rights)

Further, on implementation of Child Labour related issues AFD took up the matter of implementation of law by asking the Government to define the role of executive magistrate under section 21 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. AFD received a positive response in this regards since the Government is making considerable efforts and the draft notification has been sent to the Lt. Governor to seek his approval for the conferment of powers on the Additional District Magistrates. The notification is supposed to be issued as soon as the Lt Governor approves. This would be a stepping stone for the effective implementation of the said provisions.

Similarly other issues such as defining the role & qualification of labour inspectors deputed for child labour rescue operations and to organize training programme for CWC members & welfare officers handling child labour cases have been taken up with the Government and it is hoped that in due course of time things will improve.

Apart from this AFD, has undertaken the Bonded Labour study in states of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh to ascertain and evaluate the efficacy of the implementation of the centrally sponsored scheme that exists under which rehabilitation assistance is

provided to any bonded labour rescued and it is being logically taken forward. (Details in the chapter - Advocacy on Child Rights)

AFD's involvement in the Child Welfare Committee through the presence of the Project Director being the Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee, Lajpat Nagar has helped a lot to raise issues related to Child Rights from within the system and improve the working of the Juvenile Justice System in Delhi.

As a strategy, the Project and CWC took up common issues relating to the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and successfully impressed upon the Government to bring about legal reforms by way of issuing Circulars, Orders and amending the Rules. For example, on the Social Exclusion front, the prescribed format in the Delhi Juvenile Justice Rules, 2009 was amended by adding the social status of the Children. It has been a known fact that almost 90% of the Children who need Care and Protection belong to the Dalit, Minority, Tribal and OBC categories. But in the absence of columns such as the ones that have now been added, neither would the status be known nor would it be mentioned in the records so that these children can benefit from the schemes available for them. The challenge now lies in getting the CWC's to implement the amended provision. (Details in the chapter - Advocacy on Child Rights)

Further, being in CWC, the access to judicial forums such as the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Delhi High Court has been a facilitating factor. Several child protection related issues such as Implementation of Foster Care Scheme, Review of Pending cases of CWCs etc have been raised in these forums and correspondence have been persistently done to persuade the Government for making resources available and improving the Governance and the Government has responded positively.

In the Community Outreach Programme, the main objective has been to empower the members of the Community through interaction with the different target groups of children, adolescents, and women. Local groups of youth volunteers have been successfully involved who have been taking responsibilities of addressing issues which affect women and children in their community every day.

This group of adolescent volunteers, aged between 13-19 years has transformed lives of other residents of Trilokpuri through the use of the RTI Act in a big way. They have been negotiating with the local bodies and the Government agencies and others for improved services in the Public Distribution System, Sanitation, Education and Health. They have been helping people file RTI applications, conducting RTI awareness meetings and camps with the help of local NGO in the neighboring areas in every three months.

Many such examples are abound in Trilokpuri as they have helped many families in getting ration card that they had applied two years earlier & how they have helped Ram Murti and other such families to get the full share of the ration from PDS which they

were not getting until this group filed an RTI query on behalf of Murti and other residents and within three days PDS officers came to meet these women after listening to their complaint, the officers approached the errant shopkeeper and just a day later the shopkeeper rushed to apologize to these women. He pleaded with them to withdraw their complaint and promised to give full share of ration in future. The group from time to time has been also developing IEC material, organizing campaigns and street plays to educate the people about their legal rights, create awareness on social issues and encourage people to speak out against injustice. They are serving as the catalyst that has helped transform social problems of the community into revolutionary change. (For more details read the article by Governance now reporting the same in Annexures)

Moreover this group has gained immense confidence over the time and has been successful in grabbing a lot of media attention for the kind of work they are doing and acting as a source of inspiration for others. It is one of the major achievements of the project period.

Victim Assistance Programme is the third component of AFD. The concept of this programme was pioneered by AFD. AFD's sole intention was to provide direct assistance to the victims of sexual abuse and children in need of care and protection through counseling, medical assistance, legal advice, referral and vocational training aiming at their social, psychological and economic rehabilitation. It was in the year 1996 that AFD-Pratidhi were successful in institutionalising the model of Crisis Intervention Center with Delhi Commission for Women and Delhi Police.

The team of AFD through its project Pratidhi initially looked at 5 districts of Delhi - East, North East, North West, West and Central.

The enormous number of case referrals had begun to increase day by day which was taking a toll on Pratidhi. Presently, AFD-Pratidhi looks after the Crisis Intervention Centre (CIC) in East Delhi which is recognized by the Delhi Police and Delhi Commission for Women for responding to calls of sexual assault at the Police station to provided counseling and other support services to victims of Rape.

The focus has been primarily on the victims of child sexual abuse.

ADVOCACY ON CHILD RIGHTS

The shift from Service Delivery to Developmental Approach and from Welfare approach to Rights approach, Advocacy has emerged as an important tool to fulfill the organisation's goal of empowerment of the target population. Advocacy has been inbuilt in the program by AFD so that there can be significant impact on structures and systems that look at policy implementation and change at the policy level.

Advocacy has been used as strategy by AFD to usher positive and strategic social change by influencing attitudes, policies and practices of decision makers. While policy changes are one of the nodal points of advocacy, the goal is also to create a movement towards respect and realization of the rights of children.

Information is the lifeline of advocacy. Thus, the recently implemented laws- Right to information Act, 2005 and Delhi Right to information Act, 2001 have been extensively used to gather information and disseminate it strategically among all the main stakeholders. The impact has been tremendous. Quarterly Newsletters published by AFD has been very useful in circulating the critical information on issues affecting/ related to the rights of children belonging mainly to the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society.

The project has very successfully utilized print and electronic media to highlight critical issues affecting children's lives. This has been possible because of the authentic information gathered through use of The Right to Information Acts. We have filed around 50 RTIs in this process to obtain information.

During these last nine months, AFD has undertaken different Advocacy measures to improve functioning of Government Departments, Statutory Bodies so that they fulfill the rights of children, through the implementation of legislative, administrative, budgetary, judicial and other measures.

THE INTERVENTIONS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

AFD's major focus for Advocacy interventions in the Juvenile Justice System has been the working of the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs). The Child Welfare Committees should be as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act in every district of the country. The Child Welfare Committees are crucial for the care, protection and rehabilitation of children in need of these. This is an important body and matters for the millions of children in the country who are in need of care and protection.

Therefore as a strategy, AFD has chosen to intervene in Delhi and demonstrate that through CWC a lot can be done for Care, Protection and Rehabilitation of children as every district in the country has to have a Child Welfare Committee.

AFD through its project team and the CWC have been taking up specific issues within the JJ System for both legal reforms and effective implementation of existing legal provisions at the ground level so that the benefits of legislation reaches thousands of children who are in Need of Care and Protection.

Advocacy Interventions in the Working of the Juvenile Justice System/ Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act in Delhi

During the last year, AFD project team and CWC, Lajpat Nagar have strategically joined hands to bring about certain desired changes in the system. This has been possible due to the consistent and persistent efforts using both time- tested and newer strategies. The team has been also writing consistently to the Government officials of the Department of Women and Child Development(DWCD) about the non- implementation of various provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 and the Delhi Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Rules, 2009.

The crucial issues and activities which were taken up during the last one year are mentioned below-

WORKING OF CWC IN DELHI

1. CWC Chairperson's powers were not well defined earlier. The Project took initiative and persistent effort to bring about reforms in the functioning of the CWC has had the Department of Women and Child Development defining the role and responsibilities of the Chairperson. Earlier the working of CWC was very adhoc as there was no defined authority with the Chairperson thus resulting in no accountability.

This issue was taken up since in the absence of the Chairperson no Member had a defined authority which meant that the many children who come to CWC everyday for their care, protection and rehabilitation would be devoid of all that eventually just because there was no Chairperson. AFD's intervention has led to the Chairperson now having the authority to delegate powers to a competent Member of CWC.

2. Working of the CWC has now become more official. The Government was forced to take notice of the casual approach of the CWC as even single member passed orders for Care, Protection and Rehabilitation of Children contrary to the law. Through RTI

several such documents was obtained. Further, representation to the government helped in conveying the irregularities of the CWC orders. As a result of this intervention Government has amended the rule.

3. It was also observed that members were casual in attendance and many times reported very late or left early adversely effecting the work of CWC. Project team took this issue up through RTI and representations which in turn pressurized the Department of Women and Child Development/ Competent Authority to look into this. As a result of this **Bio- Metric system** of attendance has been introduced in all the CWCs. This will ensure that the Children in need of care and protection benefit and orders are passed in accordance with the law
4. The other issue which has been taken up by AFD persistently is the selection of Members and Chairpersons in the Child Welfare Committees. Earlier the Selection Committee existed only for the name sake. The Government officials had their way and managed to induct retired officials belonging to the Department in the CWCs. Majority of these retired officials were least interested in the work of CWC as such. They were only interested in a post- retirement assignment. These people were not in the least sensitive to the needs of the children whom they handled in the CWCs. Our RTI intervention to know the selection criteria adopted, qualification-eligibility criteria of the candidates selected along with seeking the Minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee of Chairpersons and Members have to a large extent helped in improving the system in Delhi. Post our RTI intervention, this matter was taken up through correspondence and even complaints have been made against responsible top officials which has worked as a deterrent and now positive developments have been seen that are also being implemented interms of the criteria of selection etc.
5. Similarly, meetings with the Minister in charge of the Women and Child Development, Government of Delhi, on the failure of the Government to review the pendency of work of CWC yielded positive results. For the very first year, the Government has started reviewing the work of Child Welfare Committee and in the process has had to address the difficulties CWC face in the absence of resources.
6. It was observed that majority of the children who were in need of care and protection belonged to the lower social strata of the society, mostly Dalits, OBCs, STs. Earlier the **Form IV** i.e. **Social Investigation Report and the Form X- Order of Short term Placement Pending Inquiry** did not have specific column for identifying the social status of the children. This also resulted in no data being available of how many children were being affected and need care and protection esp. being from the lower strata of the society. Through the different channels of

advocacy that AFD has adopted, DWCD has finally taken cognizance of this concern and incorporated columns mentioning the caste of the child in these forms. This has resulted in inclusion of the children belonging to the lower strata and them having a better access to schemes meant for them.

7. **Training Programme for CWC members & welfare officers handling child labour cases** – It was learnt that Child Welfare Committees are not implementing the recent High Court Order which has enhanced their powers to provide immediate relief and rehabilitation of domestic child workers because of lack of understanding and ignorance. Hence, AFD took up this issue and have written several letters to the Director, Department of the Women & Child Development, to conduct training programmes for the CWC members and welfare officers. Further with several reminders & RTIs filed in the Department, serious efforts are being made in this regard by the Government. The matter is presently being followed up with the concerned authority ie. National Institute of Public Co-operation & Child Development (NIPPCD) & Directorate of Training UTCS in this connection. AFD is very hopeful that due to our interventions soon such training programme will be conducted in the capital.
8. One of the important changes that have been brought in because of our effort is the change in Rule 26(1) of the Delhi JJ Rules, 2009. The Rule earlier mentioned that ***“the quorum for the meeting shall be three members attending, which may include the Chairperson”***. This was not followed by the CWCs as had been found out through RTIs filed and only 2 members attended the sittings outside CWCs on most occasions. As a result of our intervention to bring transparency and accountability this provision of the law was amended by the DWCD and now the Quorum comprises of 2 members. The Rule 24(6) of the Delhi JJ Rules had a provision for full day sittings of the Chairperson and Members of the CWC. The Rule says ***“Every member of the Committee shall attend a minimum of six hours per sitting during the official working hours which may be extended by the State Government depending on pendency of work.”*** Now half day sittings of Members and Chairpersons with a payment of Rs. 500 have been incorporated to discourage casual approach within CWC. This was having a direct implication to the rehabilitation of the thousands of children who came to the Committee each day in search of their rights and better future.
9. Section 33(3) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 says ***“the State Government shall review the pendency of cases of the Committee at every six months, and shall***

direct the Committee to increase the frequency of its sittings or may cause the constitution of additional Committees” This review wasn't being done by the DWCD as per data received through RTI. Through our representation, the Minister of Women and Child Development took cognizance of the matter and now Pendency review is being done as per law.

10. Foster Care is one of the forms of Alternate Care for Children without support systems of their own. It has been incorporated in the Juvenile Justice Act in India. The Section 42 of the JJ Act, 2000 and the Rule 34 of the Delhi JJ Rules, 2009 which talk about the Foster care scheme haven't been implemented till date. AFD has taken up this issue with the Chief Minister, Minister for Women and Child Development, Finance and Planning Department of the Government of Delhi, Department of Women and Child Development, and has been advocating for implementation of this provision in the best interest of the Children who are devoid of families to support them.

REGISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS HOUSING CHILDREN

Registration of Children Institutions is an issue of great importance especially with regard to the safety and well being of the children staying in these institutions. According to Section 34 (3) of The Juvenile Justice (Amendment) Act, 2006: *"Without prejudice to anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, all institutions, whether State Government run or those run by voluntary organizations for children in need of care and protection shall, within a period of six months from the date of commencement of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006, be registered under this Act in such manner as may be prescribed."* The Rule 69, 70 of the Delhi JJ Rules, 2009 also has elaborate provisions to support the same.

A number of child abuse cases have sprung up in Delhi recently. The children living in institutions meant for them were abused sexually by the staff of these homes. Interestingly, these institutions were found unregistered and unlicensed. Arya Orphanage and Drona Foundation were two such institutions. Media reported consistently of the pathetic situation of children in these homes due to the abuse. The media also reported about a few cases of deaths in these institutions. And since they were not registered under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, CWC had no authority to intervene. Cases of child abuse are not limited to the unregistered and unlicensed institutions only. A staff member in an orphanage in Allahabad, notified & run by the State Government was found sexually abusing 3 minor girls recently. The

Orphanage for children below 10 years of age failed to be monitored by the State Government.

AFD has been following up and actively trying to monitor how many children homes have been registered since the last 3-4 years. On 4th September 2009, the then Secretary, DWCD wrote to the Commissioner of Police to know the status of registration and licensing of homes in Delhi. But the Delhi Police has been till date struggling to find out the number of institutions keeping children in Delhi till date.

AFD has been constantly trying to find out the situation in Delhi with the intervention of the Project Director through Child Welfare Committee, Lajpat nagar. The homes run by a Special Commissioner for Juvenile Justice, appointed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights were also found to be unregistered during inquiry by the CWC. In this case, AFD very successfully used the CWC platform in the Juvenile Justice committee constituted by the Delhi High Court for raising crucial issues like existing & mushrooming of unregistered and unlicensed institutions.

As per the information available with us through RTI, till date only 61NGO run institutions have got themselves registered with the state government. The Government also has 14 institutions of its own out of which 1 wasn't registered.

It was only when AFD intervened repeatedly that the Government notify the Village Cottage Home.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

AFD partnered with HAQ: Centre for Child Rights to organise a one day Round Table Discussion (RTD) on the 10th March 2012 at the Indian Social Institute. The main discussion during the RTD focused on the issues of registration of institutions, different laws on registration of institutions, monitoring of institutions, standards of care and accountability of the management of the home. Relevant sections of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and Rules were also discussed.

The discussion also focused on the desired Amendments in the JJ Act, 2000. The group discussed consequences/penalties of non-registration of institutions and also if the institutions fail to provide adequate standard of care. The participants in RTD were Chief functionaries of Institutions run by the Government and Non- Governmental Organisations, Child rights Activists, Senior Government officials of the nodal Ministry, Lawyers and Subject experts.

PROTEST MARCH AGAINST CHILD ABUSE CASES IN INSTITUTIONS

The representatives of 26 NGOs and 7 networks including AFD and CACT Delhi of which AFD is the convenor, affected families, children and concerned individuals had come together to protest against the recent cases of child abuse in institutions meant for child

protection and care and to assert zero tolerance towards any form of child abuse. The protest march took place in Jantar Mantar on 12th March 2012. This protest march was in specific concern of the Arya Orphanage case. The Non-negotiable put forth were- CBI Inquiry of Arya case, Setting up an alternative management committee in consultation with civil society organisations for appropriate functioning of the orphanage, Immediate dissolution of the Management and fixing a criminal liability on it.

AFD was successfully able to generate media attention for this protest march.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

AFD has been connecting with the stakeholders in Delhi and outside and sharing with them the positive changes happening in the JJ System in Delhi.

AFD's experience in the JJ field has immensely helped in the Handholding programmes for CWCs in Jharkhand and Rajasthan. This has led to better functioning of the CWCs and sensitization towards the children in Need of Care and Protection. Similar to the issues we have raised in Delhi have been raised in Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh where AFD has provided crucial information in the form of Government Circulars, Notifications, Minutes of Juvenile Justice Committee of the Delhi High Court.

These reference materials have helped the stakeholders- NGOs, Government officials, UNICEF representatives take up with the respective state Governments for bringing about desired changes. The Project Head has been invited by the State Governments, Police and judicial Academies for holding Capacity Building programmes for JJ functionaries, Police and Judicial officials. The details are attached in the Annexure1.

THE INTERVENTIONS IN CHILD LABOUR/ BONDED LABOUR ISSUES

- **Conferment of power** - There are various provisions under the Bonded Labour Act which are not being implemented by the Government such as Section 21 which talks about the conferment of power under which executives magistrates will have the powers of judicial magistrates. This matter has been taken up and letters have been written to the Chief Secretary (CS), Divisional Commissioner (DC) and Joint Registrar, Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) to pressurize the Govt to issue proper notification conferring powers on an executive magistrates, the powers of a judicial magistrate of the first class or of the second class for the trial of offences under the Bonded Labour Act. Further several meetings have been held with the Addl. Secretary (Revenue) regarding the same and AFD has

received a positive response as the Government is making efforts and the draft notification has been sent to the Lt. Governor for seeking his approval for the conferment of powers on the Additional District Magistrates.

- **Centrally sponsored scheme for the rehabilitation of bonded labour** – With a view to supplement the efforts of the State Governments; a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour was launched by this Ministry in May, 1978. Under the Scheme, State Governments are provided Central assistance on matching grants (50:50) basis for the rehabilitation of bonded labour. The said Plan Scheme has been drastically modified in May 2000 to provide Rs.20, 000/-per identified bonded labour. As per the information received from the RTI office it came to notice that Sub-Divisional Magistrate are not implementing the said scheme because *there was no specific Head of Account in the Office of Deputy Commissioner in respect of Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for the rehabilitation of Bonded Labour issued by Ministry of Labour, Govt of India*” The matter was taken up with the Divisional Commissioner regarding the decentralization of rehabilitation fund under the Bonded labour scheme. The letter was sent and after several meetings with the Addl. Secretary (Revenue) Mr. Kuldeep Singh Gangar, it resulted in allocation of funds to all the 9 districts for the payment of rehabilitation grant to the bonded labourers which is a remarkable achievement as the children will now be able to get the benefits they are entitled to with under the said Act.
- **Qualification of labour inspectors deputed for child labour rescue operations** - Similarly, the qualifications of the labour officials involved in the rescue operations is not clearly defined as they do not have the required qualification and experience to carry out the rescue operations. A RTI filed by AFD-Pratidhi where we had sought information about the qualification and experience of Labour Inspectors. The information obtained revealed that majority of the Labour Inspectors are just 10th & 12th Pass. There are hardly a few in the lot who hold a LLB degree. It was surprising to learn that officers involved in the rescue operations do not understand the basics of law but still have been deputed by the Labour Department to carry out child labour rescue operation. Till date AFD have been successful in drawing the attention of the Labour Department through our letters and RTIs to take measures to depute inspectors who are well versed of the rules for child labour rescue operation. We have initiated the process and simultaneously coordinating with other stakeholders such as BBA working on this issue to pressurize the Government to make certain policies level changes but again it is a long battle and will happen in due course of time.

- **Bonded Labour Study in West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh** - The Bonded Labour study was proposed with the aim that the representative data could be collected from the children who have been rescued in Delhi and restored with their family. This study aims to ascertain and evaluate the efficacy of the implementation of the scheme that exists, under which a sum of Rs 20,000 is given as rehabilitation assistance to any bonded labour rescued and what is their state now, whether they have returned back to working as bonded laborers or are going to school, etc. The study was successfully conducted in Bihar and Jharkhand last year and a replication of those studies being conducted in West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh is also complete. We are working on the report and it is anticipated that the research report will be prepared & released shortly.

No. of RTIs Filed	Subject Matter taken up
13	Child Labour and Bonded Labour related matters
30	Juvenile Justice and Vigilance of the Delhi Government related matters

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME



The core mission of the Community Outreach programme is to inspire the adolescent and young children for the social action among community through voluntary participation in Street plays, Bal Manch and camps, and public education campaigns.

This programme is designed to bring young people of different backgrounds together, establish their awareness of social realities, encourage them to make the connection between themselves and the larger world around them and finally, inspire them to get involved in citizenship action. By immersing themselves in social and philosophical issues, AFD-Pratidhi volunteers develop the sense of personal responsibility they need to embark on a journey of self-discovery that ultimately leads to active citizenship.

This programme is run in a resettlement colony in east Delhi i.e. Trilok Puri. The best part of the



programme is that all the issues are resolved by the volunteers who are very committed and fully devoted.

AFD-Pratidhi only facilitates them and arranges logistics for their programmes like workshops, street plays and other activity. All in all, this initiative have been taken up because it is analogous to the organization's vision & mission ie. to work for the marginalized sections of the society along with their

Activities of COP

1. **RTI Camp:** Pratidhi organized RTI camp in association with Aident, SOSVA Gender Resource Centre were organized. RTI activists such as Ms. Santosh from Parivartan & Ms. Rekha Koli were invited to aware the Community people about the use of RTI Act. In the camp people from community and other NGOs participated. They were given knowledge on the procedure of filing RTI applications, framing questions as well as information of concerned departments to whom RTI should be addressed.

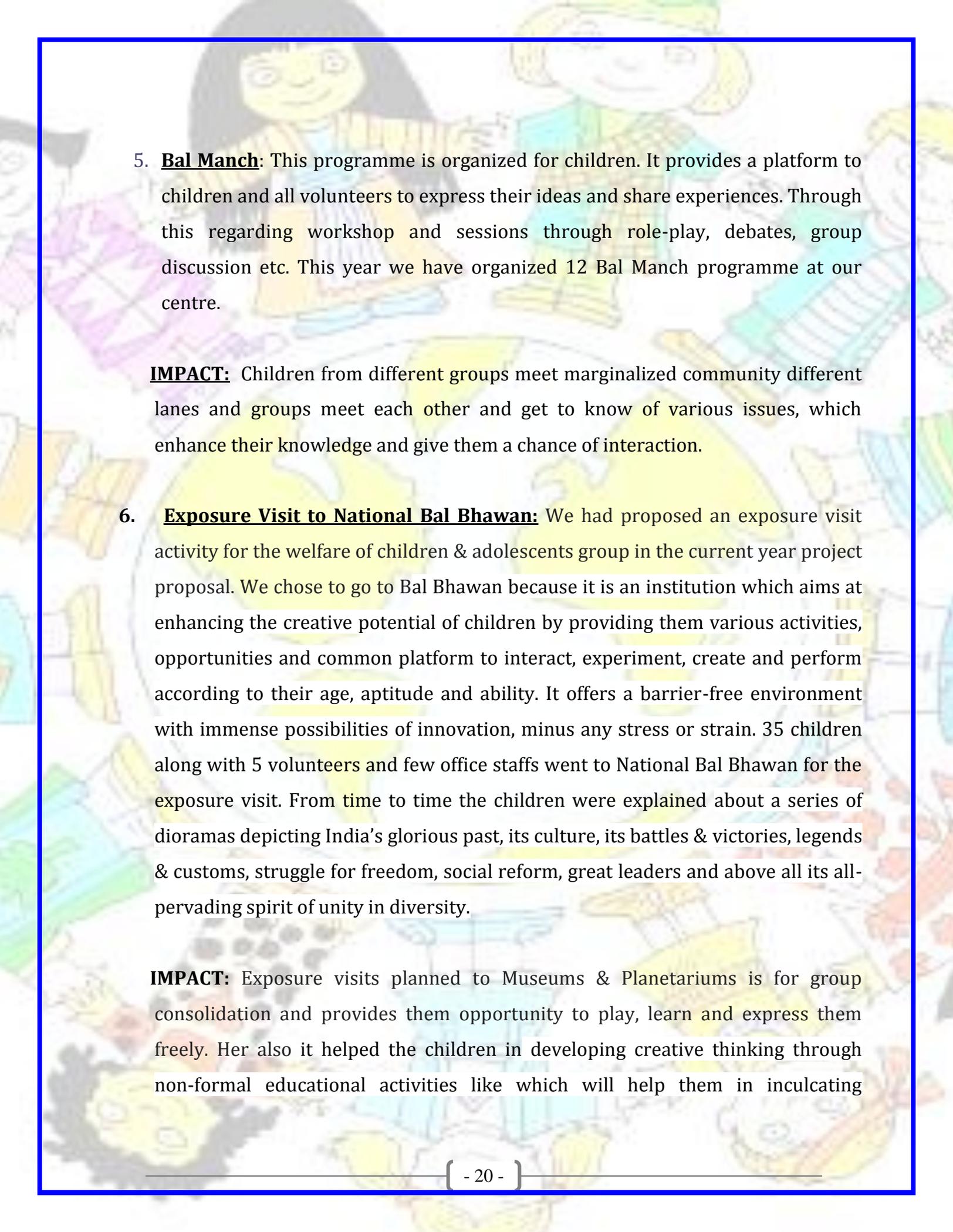
IMPACT: Apart from the local community, the RTI training was also provided to other NGOs. After our RTI camps, some people came out and took the initiative to file some RTI applications regarding daily-life issues such as sanitation, *rashan (PDS)*, etc and they were given follow-up assistance regularly. In the year 2011-

12 the volunteers have helped community people file more than 20 RTI applications.

2. **Street play:** The 12 street plays organized in Trilokpuri area to aware community people about sexual abuse, PDS, child rights and many other issues. Eleven street plays were organized. These plays were organised in collaboration with different NGOs in their respective communities and in Government School basically to aim at preparing children to raise voice against child abuse and alternatives available to them. School teachers and staff also benefit in getting sensitized for sensitive handling of students to protect their rights.

IMPACT: Information, Education and Communication (IEC) is an important strategy to enhance knowledge, create positive attitude that lead to change the behavior pattern of the community in a rational way. Under the IEC the role of the street plays has been highly effective as these are designed in local language, theme, culture and also using local talent. This has helped in making them more aware of the issues as well as sensitized the community to know their rights.

3. **Children/Adolescent meetings:** These meetings are aimed to share the knowledge and to build up the prospective on the issues which are closely connected with the children like child. More than 145 session center and lane meetings were organized with adolescents (girls and boys) on child marriage, water utilization, time management, our rights and other social problems.
4. **Domestic Violence Case:** We handled total 13 new cases and done follow up in 7 cases of domestic violence from June – March 2012. In some cases required only counseling and in some cases were transferred to Delhi Commission for Women for the legal action under Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

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5. **Bal Manch**: This programme is organized for children. It provides a platform to children and all volunteers to express their ideas and share experiences. Through this regarding workshop and sessions through role-play, debates, group discussion etc. This year we have organized 12 Bal Manch programme at our centre.

IMPACT: Children from different groups meet marginalized community different lanes and groups meet each other and get to know of various issues, which enhance their knowledge and give them a chance of interaction.

6. **Exposure Visit to National Bal Bhawan**: We had proposed an exposure visit activity for the welfare of children & adolescents group in the current year project proposal. We chose to go to Bal Bhawan because it is an institution which aims at enhancing the creative potential of children by providing them various activities, opportunities and common platform to interact, experiment, create and perform according to their age, aptitude and ability. It offers a barrier-free environment with immense possibilities of innovation, minus any stress or strain. 35 children along with 5 volunteers and few office staffs went to National Bal Bhawan for the exposure visit. From time to time the children were explained about a series of dioramas depicting India's glorious past, its culture, its battles & victories, legends & customs, struggle for freedom, social reform, great leaders and above all its all-pervading spirit of unity in diversity.

IMPACT: Exposure visits planned to Museums & Planetariums is for group consolidation and provides them opportunity to play, learn and express them freely. Her also it helped the children in developing creative thinking through non-formal educational activities like which will help them in inculcating

confidence, self reliance, and love for values that, in turn, will make our nation stronger.

11. **Exposure Visit to CWC:** The objective of the exposure visit for the adolescents group to Child Welfare Committee in Delhi was basically to make them aware about the functioning of child rights bodies for legal awareness. Further, reading through the comic handbook on JJ, 2006 (Protecting Children) developed by Butterflies and having session with the SJPU social workers Manoj & Mohini of east district to understand the role, responsibility & powers vested with CWC to take decisions regarding the children in need of care and protection. They are curious to visit the children home and see the proceedings and the decisions taken by a proactive committee for legal awareness so that even they could even find ways of promoting and protecting children's rights, especially of the most marginalized and vulnerable children of their community, with emphasis on empowering children. Hence the group visited CWC Mayur Vihar and met the chairperson who facilitated them through a proceeding and addressed their queries.

A statistical report of the activities in the Community Outreach Programme is attached in Annexure 2



VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME RAPE CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTRE

Rape Crisis Intervention Centre is one of the most sensitive programmes which require immediate action. Keeping in the view it is handled very carefully on the urgent basis. First objective of the programme is to reduce trauma and provide counseling help to the victims, families and the immediate attached community, to provide medical help where required, particularly for treatment of victims and to help in the rehabilitation of the victims.

As cases come to us taking it on the priority basis these get registered in the concerned police station and facilitated to the victims and families throughout the whole legal and non-legal procedure. Time to time follows up and counseling is done in each and every case so that victim can come out from the trauma. Moreover, financial assistance is given according to their economical condition so that Victims and families can continue their fight in accessing the justice. If victim needs rehabilitation counselor finds out the safe accommodation also. Counselor always attends the court hearing, keeps the tracks also. Victims are informed about their hearing in court and coordination is done with public prosecutor and police personnel for each case. And if counselor finds any irregularity in accessing the justice, it is brought in the notice of the higher authorities through representation, meetings and media advocacy if needed.

Counselor is playing different role i.e. facilitator, legal counselor, mentor in some cases and which is like a key person, who assisting victims and families in approaching police, judiciary and other relating agencies and making the system smooth, transparent and accountable for victims.

BACKGROUND

CASE STUDY-I

Brief History of the case:

Sania (name changed) was from Bengal. She came to live with her Aunt (*Bua*) in New Delhi, while her parents stayed back in village. She and her aunt worked as maids in houses. Her aunt's husband was a daily-wage laborer. he had been physically exploiting her and raping her since one month. Sania reported that her uncle on the pretext of medicine used to give sleeping pills to her *bua*.

When Sania's brother-in-law came to meet her, she told him about the incident. He helped her take an action against the accused, her uncle, and then a case was registered.

Intervention/Assistance

- Since it was an incest case, a lot of counseling input was provided to victim and her mother. There was lot of emotional disturbance in the family due to the incident. There was pressure by family members on the victim's mother to compromise. After counseling victim's mother was convinced and wanted the case to be registered. Counselor also asked SHO for filing the case against accused on victim's statement. And thus the case was registered.
- The victim was not able to understand what had happened and was in dilemma as she believed that she is responsible to send her uncle behind bars and the family is suffering in the society because of her. It was difficult at this stage to make her realize that she is not responsible for all this. In order to make her feel better about herself and free her of any kind of guilt she was given proper

counseling and also made aware of various vocational courses that she could engage in. There was visible change in victim as she was engaging in day-to-day activities and started interacting with others.

- Had counseling session with victim's parents regarding the health of victim as she was suffering from internal injuries.
- Accompanied victim to Child Welfare Committee (CWC) - a statutory body under the Juvenile Justice (care and Protection) Act, 2005 for dealing with children in need of care and protection to record her statement regarding the incident (*as per the Hon'ble High Court guideline*).
- Discussed the case with investigating officer.
- Provided legal information regarding the various provisions of proceedings in the case i.e. In Camera Trial/164CrPC statement and about the role of Public Prosecutor.
- Accompanied victim to court to record her statement of 164CrPc statement.
- Emotional support was given to victim's family and they were ensured that Pratidhi would help them at every step of their case.
- During the course of time the victim and her father were visiting Pratidhi office. So the travel expenses were reimbursed to them.
- Currently, case is under trial proceeding and it is being followed. Any required assistance at court level is being provided to victim and her family.

CASE STUDY-2

Brief History of the case

Three-year old Fatima (name changed) and her brother Yusuf (name changed) live with their mother and father. On 22nd April, 2010 both the children went to the third floor of their building to play in a man named Abdul's house, their father is a daily-wage laborer and was away at work while their mother was at home. At around 1 pm mother heard

the scream of her daughter and rushed upstairs. She saw that accused (Abdul) took off Fatima's clothes and was on top of her. On seeing her, he put on his clothes and ran away; her mother could not stop him.

When Fatima's father returned in the evening from work, the mother did not tell him anything about the incident because of shame. On 23 April'10 evening, when her husband came back from work, he saw his daughter crying due to pain below the stomach. So when he asked her, she told him about the whole incident. Victim's mother said that she had washed her daughter's clothes she did not know that it would be necessary for evidence. Victim's father reported it to the police. Case was registered.

Intervention/Assistance

- Gave counseling session to victim and her family members to make them understand the legal proceedings.
- Regular visits to assess the needs of the victim and her family were made. Also, emotional support was provided them to overcome the trauma.
- Victim was suffering from internal injuries due to the incident. Medical assistance was provided to victim and victim's mother was guided to understand the proceeding of hospital and to help her daughter overcome the pain both physical and emotional.
- In this case *Hon'ble* Judge passed orders for Counselor to ask the questions from victim to record her statement of 164CrPc due to her age. This is not the legal practice, it is again due to our rapport with the Judiciary that some special provisions were made.
- Accompanied the victim to the court for in camera Trial and facilitated victim's mother during court proceedings. Due to our interventions, victim was able to report the incident appropriately in the 'In Camera Trial'

- Discussed with public prosecutor and police officials regarding the case as per requirement.

Impact

In most of cases it has been seen that now victim and its family has reduced the trauma and living a normal life and system specially police personnel became much aware and sensitized about the issue and now they treat the victims in very friendly manner. In child abuse cases police does the prompt action and calls our counselor.

The details of the month- wise sexual abuse cases handled by AFD through its project Pratidhi, Financial assistance provided, Follow-up done in the cases reported is attached in Annexure 3

GENDER TRAINING PROGRAMME WITH POLICE

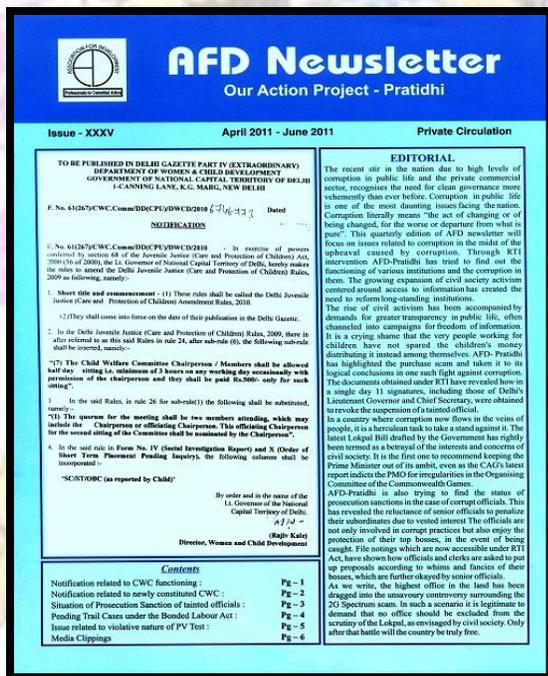
Delhi Police took initiative and launched 'Gender Sensitization Programme for police personnel. Pratidhi is playing a crucial role in planning of this programme and maintaining coordination between NGOs and Police. A need for Gender Sensitization of police was felt as policemen were found to be insensitive and having little or no knowledge on issues related to women which makes difficult for a women victim to approach police for any assistance.

AFD-Pratidhi is the nodal agency in east district and has conducted 7 trainings in different police station situated in east Delhi. Programmes were organized in the Police station premises. Pratidhi team members provided the trainings and conducted programmes. Initial planning and coordination meetings were done with SHOs and ACPs and review meetings were attended with other partner NGOs and Jt. C.P (CAW Cell).

Details of the Police Station

Date	Name of Police station
2 nd April, 2011	Kalyan Puri
23 rd April, 2011	Kalyan Puri
14 th May, 2011	Madhu Vihar & Preet Vihar
21 st May, 2011	Madhu Vihar & Preet Vihar
28 th May, 2011	Madhu Vihar & Preet Vihar
4 th June, 2011	Madhu Vihar & Preet Vihar
11 th June, 2011	Madhu Vihar & Preet Vihar

PUBLICATIONS



Newsletters have been the highlight of AFD's work always. The newsletters have helped communicate important information to our stakeholders.

The objective of the Newsletters is to disseminate information on AFD's activities, on important inter-stakeholder initiatives that are being organized or facilitated in the context of the various forums. Moreover it is best way to reach out the people and provide the information on Juvenile justice issues.

AFD's Newsletter no. XXXV was released for April-June 2011.

It contained recent notification passed by Department of Women & Child Development

regarding the sitting of the CWC. Apart from other information, it highlighted issues of the Pending trail cases under the Bonded Labour Act, situation of Prosecution sanction of tainted officials and that of the PV test or the Finger test.

Next, AFD came out with its Newsletter no. XXXVI for July- December 2011. This was shared with the stakeholders during the Round Table Discussion on the 10th March 2012. This Newsletter focussed on the status of implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 and on the Integrated Child Protection Scheme in Delhi.

The Newsletters have been an effective tool for communicating the situation as well as the need of the hour to not just the Practitioners, civil society organisations but also to the State Governments.



The stories done by media form another important part of AFD’s Newsletter. These are very helpful in generating attention to important issues related to governance, accountability and child rights.

MEDIA COVERAGE

WEB LINKS OF MEDIA COVERAGE

- <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/In-5-yrs-only-1-babu-convicted-for-graft/Article1-684937.aspx>
- <http://www.hindu.com/2011/06/28/stories/2011062862690400.htm>
- http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-06-19/delhi/29676532_1_child-trafficking-fake-placement-minor-girls
- <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/MCD-gets-notice-on-child-labour/Article1-751347.aspx>
- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/MCD-didnt-respond-on-child-labour-CWC/articleshow/10322567.cms>

Some Media clippings on the issues AFD has been contributing are attached below-

SEEKING ACCOUNTABILITY

5 adoption agencies asked for details

Nivedita Khandekar

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NEW DELHI: Following a complaint with the Central Information Commission (CIC) about non-compliance, the Delhi government has issued show cause notice to five adoption agencies across the city asking why they should not be de-recognised.

The department of women and child welfare (DWCD) of the Delhi government was asked — under the Right to Information (RTI) Act — to submit the number of babies received at the cradles put up by adoption agencies in the city and the number of police cases under relevant sections in these connections for each of the adoption agency homes.

Of the 11 agencies in Delhi, only six came forth with relevant data but despite repeated letters, the remaining five did not comply. Priyanka Sinha, working with an advocacy NGO in the field of child rights, had filed the original application under the RTI Act. After the department failed to

comply even after the first appellate authority's directions, she approached the CIC.

Sinha said she had filed the RTI queries as "my organisation wanted to know the working of adoption agencies. These agencies, which maintain adoption register, are directly answerable to the department of women and child development."

Sinha also said any discrepancy can lead to suspicion about child trafficking, so it is important to keep track of all data.

Of the five agencies, three are run by SOS Children Villages of India. Said an official from Udayan, one of the homes, they regularly send data to Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) and hence, had no problems with providing data to Delhi government.

With the agencies not complying after the show cause notice under relevant sections of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000, the department of women and child development now plans to meet them.

DELHI

THE HINDU • TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2011

Apathy shrouds bonded labour cases

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The data on cases registered by the police under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act in the Capital supplied under the Right to Information Act raises serious questions about coordination on the issue among various agencies.

The details were furnished following a directive to the Revenue Department by the Central Information Commission in connection with an application moved by Priyanka Sinha of non-government organisation Pratidhi about a year ago.

"The Revenue Department has provided the information. The Police Commissioner, the Directorate of Prosecution and Deputy Commissioners of nine districts have also given their replies. However, it is strange that the figures received from the Deputy Commissioners are quite high and don't match those received from the police," said Ms. Sinha.

The RTI applicant pointed out that according to the South Delhi police, four cases were registered from 2007 to 2010, whereas the Sub Divisional Magistrate (Defence Colony) states that 210 cases were registered, SDM (Hauz Khas) has given a figure of 239 and SDM (Kalkaji) of 99. "The South Delhi police does not have any data for 2011, whereas Deputy Commissioner (South) has given a figure of 114 cases registered so far this year," she said.

Ms. Sinha said the Outer Delhi police states that only two cases have been registered specifically under the Act. "There might be cases in which First Information Reports would have been registered under the Child Labour Act and the Juvenile Justice Act, but the same is not documented by the police," she said.

• RTI data shows wide disparity in figures from various agencies in Capital

• "States must confer powers of judicial magistrate on executive magistrate"

"The Directorate of Prosecution does not have any data on prosecution under the Act. District Deputy Commissioners are competent authorities for implementation of the Act, but the figures available with them do not match with that of the police that register cases. What is the purpose of having a penal law and registration of FIR if there is not a single prosecution in 35 years?" asked Ms. Sinha.

For their part, the police have provided details regarding the cases pending before the court. Four cases in South Delhi, one in South-West, one in North, five in Central, one in North-West, five in North-East, one in East, one in New Delhi, 10 in South-East and two cases in Outer Delhi are pending trial. Some Deputy Commissioners have also provided details regarding under trial cases.

For speedy trial

Ms. Sinha said under Section 21 of the Act, the State Government should confer powers of judicial magistrate on executive magistrates (SDMs) for the purpose of trial of offences, "An offence under this Act may be tried summarily by a magistrate. However, there is a confusion whether the powers have been notified to them or not and if yes, why it is not being enforced," she said, stating that it would result in speedy trial of cases and justice to hundreds of children declared as bonded labourers.

DSW staff takes RTI way against NGO

Nivedita Khandekar

nivedita.khandekar@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Life came a full circle for Rajeshwari Chauhan, a senior official from department of social work (DSW), because of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. However, now she is using it to defend herself.

Chauhan has filed an application under the RTI Act against an NGO that had used RTI as a tool to gather evidence and lodge a complaint against her with the anti-corruption branch of the Delhi government. The complaint had resulted in her arrest.

Chauhan, who is now out on bail, was arrested for her alleged involvement in a purchase scam dug out by the NGO Pratidhi three years ago, using a series of RTI applications.

What was the purchase scam?

IN 2008, the anti-corruption branch of Delhi government had registered an FIR against several officials of the department of social welfare for purchasing a number of items required at welfare homes run by the

department flouting norms. One common procedure was to go in for purchases only from certain identified agencies, which supplied goods at a much higher rate than the prevailing market price.

HTC, NEW DELHI

She has now filed an application under the RTI Act with the police's east district division and asked for every single letter/mail/fax written/sent by the NGO to anybody and everybody.

"It was Pratidhi's Raj Mangal Prasad, who had filed thousands of RTI applications with the DSW. I want to know what he asked, where else he filed RTI

applications and related information," Chauhan said. "I also want to know about his connections. How did he become the chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)?"

She questioned Prasad's locus standi: "Is it a police ka NGO (an NGO run by the police)?"

Prasad countered, "Although Pratidhi is headed by the joint

commissioner of police (New Delhi range), it is best described as a collaboration of police with the Association for Development (a registered group of social work professionals). We receive no funding from the Delhi Police."

Rajan Bhagat, Delhi Police spokesperson said, "Pratidhi has been identified as an NGO for east district just like there are NGOs in all other districts. These help police in counselling and rehabilitation of victims of sexual assault."

Trying to clear the air about his selection, Prasad said, "I was earlier a member of the selection committee for chairpersons of CWCs. It was only later that I was selected as chairperson of one such committee, that too, by a government panel headed by a high court judge."

DELHI

THE HINDU • SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2011

Delhi Police to probe domestic help agency's role in trafficking minors

Devsh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI: The Lajpat Nagar Child Welfare Committee has directed the Delhi Police Crime Branch to probe the role of a domestic help agency in alleged trafficking of minors for their placement as domestic helps in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. Two such girls, one of whom was raped, had recently managed to escape, leading to the arrest of the agency operator and two of his clients.

The victim, on whose complaint a case was registered at the Kalkaji police station on June 8, was brought to the Capital from Jalpaiguri in West Bengal by a woman named Asari. She was handed over to Ashtha Placement Agency, which placed her at

the residence of one Rajesh in Malviya Nagar.

A few days later, Rajesh allegedly sent the victim to his aunt's house, where she worked for over a year. She was then shifted to the house of Rajesh's friend, Ashish. The girl alleged that Rajesh raped her on several occasions during his visits and that she was kept in confinement.

The second victim was also sent by the placement agency to Ashish's residence. When she offered resistance and informed her parents, he allegedly assaulted her. Both girls eventually managed to escape to Old Delhi railway station where they reported the matter to the police on June 8. Subsequently Rajesh, Ashish and the agency operator, Ranveer, were arrested. They are

presently out on bail and the fourth accused has been granted anticipatory bail.

Taking the issue seriously, the Child Welfare Committee (Lajpat Nagar), chaired by Raj Mangal Prasad, ordered investigations into the records of the placement agency and identification of all domestic helps placed through it. The Station House Officers concerned were also requested to verify their identities.

On Tuesday, the case investigating officer submitted before the Committee that details of several domestic helps, including minors, had been collected. He said the agency had placed domestic helps in different parts of the Capital, Gurgaon, Noida, Ghaziabad and some even in Punjab and Rajasthan.

Based on the findings, the

Committee concluded that it was "a clear case of trafficking which is spread not only in Delhi and the National Capital Region, but also in Punjab and Rajasthan" and directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to get the case investigated by the Crime Branch.

Seeking an action-taken report on the next date of hearing on July 19, the Committee also directed the investigating officer to submit a list of children placed as domestic helps and details of their employers. "A photocopy of the register containing details of the children should also be submitted," said the order. The four accused have also been issued summons directing them to be present along with the investigating officer on the next date of hearing.

CIC directive to Revenue Department Commissioner

To give information to an RTI activist on pending trial cases under labour Act

Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI: The Central Information Commission has directed the Divisional Commissioner of the Revenue Department to furnish information to an RTI activist regarding prosecutions, if any, conducted for violation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, for which she had filed an application almost a year ago.

Priyanka Sinha, a representative of non-government organisation Pratidhi, had moved an application in July 2010 seeking information regarding the present status of pending trial cases and decided cases under the Act.

The application remained in circulation from one department to the other but the applicant did not receive even a single response from the

public information officers concerned for 50 days.

The public information officer informed the first appellate authority that the Directorate had not come across any First Information Report registered under the relevant provisions of the Act exclusively.

After the hearing and subsequent order, the application was transferred to several additional and sub-divisional magistrates as also Assistant Commissioners of Delhi Police of various divisions.

The SDMs stated that according to their records, no cases were registered and therefore, the reply may be treated as nil.

The ACP (North) responded that seven such cases were pending and the ACP (South) said two cases were

pending before the court. "The applicant feels that the responses are contradictory and misleading. The applicant finds it strange that the Department does not have the data regarding cases when it is clear from the responses from the ACPs that FIRs have been filed," said the order.

Second appeal

During the second appeal on Monday, Information Commissioner Shailesh Gandhi said PIO/SDM (SV) had given eight instances of having discovered bonded labours since 2008. The Directorate of Prosecution PIO stated that no case had been referred to his Department for prosecuting anybody under the Act.

"About 11 officers representing various offices have come to the Commission but

no one seems to have any clue whether those accused of violating the Act are prosecuted or not. This appears to be a very serious matter and appears to indicate that though people are charged with having bonded labour, no prosecutions may be taking place. Alternately it means the prosecution is taking place by an agency which none of the officers appears to be aware of," said Mr. Gandhi.

Prosecution

The Commission directed the Divisional Commissioner of the Revenue Department to check if any prosecution had been conducted for violation of the Act and provide information to the applicant before June 10.

In case no prosecutions are being conducted this should be stated, he added.

RTI is child's play in Trilok Puri

A group of schoolchildren has nudged government departments into action and transformed lives in east Delhi – all thanks to RTI



Jasleen Kaur

Ram Murti was finding it exceedingly difficult to feed her family of 12 with just 15 kg of wheat that she used to get from the PDS (public distribution system) shop until a few months ago. With her BPL (below poverty line) card, the 70-year-old was entitled to get 25 kg of wheat and 20 kg of rice every month but the shopkeeper never gave her the full ration. "Humain kabhi poora ration nahin mila (We never got our full share of the ration)," she says, "Baaki haahar se khareed kar apne bachchon ko knilana padta thha (So we had to buy the rest from the market to feed our children)."

Murti, who lives in Trilok Puri, a re-settlement colony in east Delhi, was not alone in facing this problem. And just like her neighbours, she didn't know whom to approach for justice either. "This had been going on for years," she says, "Being illiterate we did not know where to go for help. We didn't have the courage to go to the government department concerned and demand our right."

But two years ago, Murti and her neighbours came to know about a group of schoolchildren who had been helping the poor in safeguarding their rights. "I did not know what they did. I just asked them to help us out because we were not able to buy food for our children," she says.

Murti did not know this at the time but the group she had approached was actually working actively to promote the use of RTI (right to information) Act. This group filed an RTI query on behalf of Murti and other residents and within three days PDS officers came to meet these women. After listening to their complaint, the officers approached the errant shopkeeper and just a day later the shopkeeper rushed to

apologise to these women. He pleaded with them to withdraw their complaint and promised to give them their full share of ration in future.

"Earlier, whenever we complained about it, the shopkeeper made excuses or even fought with us. But after we turned to these children for help, we started getting our full share," says Murti.

The schoolchildren, aged between 13 and 19 years, have similarly transformed lives of other residents of Trilok Puri through use of the RTI. Pratidhi, a non-governmental organisation, trained these children in filing RTIs, creating awareness about the legislation and dealing with community problems. This group of seven girls and two boys has been using the RTI since 2009 – in 2009-10 alone they filed more than 90 RTI applications. The group also organises campaigns and street plays to educate people about their legal rights, creates awareness on social issues and encourages people to speak out against injustice. The children work actively in 36 blocks, with nearly 500 families each, and organise awareness



These children are not only using the RTI but also popularising its use by the others in the community through street plays

camps every three months. Twice a month, they perform street plays on issues ranging from PDS and child trafficking to sexual abuse and hygiene. They also encourage and help people file RTI applications.

Initially, the parents were hesitant to let their daughters join this group and spend hours after school. "We had to make them understand that it will help these children grow," says Neeru Sharma, who has been a programme officer with Prati-dhi for the past five years.

Jyoti Gupta, the eldest in the group who has been a member since 2008, won her mother's approval when she helped her family in getting the ration card they had applied for two years earlier. "I never thought that a small application could be such a powerful tool," she says. "Within days of filing the RTI application, we got our ration card. Earlier, the officers used to ill-treat my father. But now, they called us to collect our card."

Gupta, who wants to become a social worker, says her parents have turned supportive ever since. "Now, if anyone in

Jyoti Gupta won her mother's approval when she helped her family in getting the ration card they had applied for two years earlier. "I never thought that a small application could be such a powerful tool," she says, "Within days of filing the RTI application, we got our ration card. Earlier, the officers used to ill-treat my father. But now, they called us to collect our card."

the locality needs help, my mother suggests they should come to us," she says with a smile.

"We wanted the residents of Trilok Puri to use the RTI for improving their living conditions and fighting for better facilities in government schools and aanganwadis," says Sharma of Prati-dhi, which has been working in this colony for the past ten years here.

Just like Jyoti Gupta, Arun, 14, too, used the RTI to get the APL (above poverty line) card for his family – something that his father had struggled for in vain for two years. "Whenever my father went to ask for the card, the officers told him that the card had not come. Sometimes they asked him for a bribe. We just did not have money to pay them," recalls Arun, who studies in class eight. When he filed the RTI application, the reply revealed that the card had been delivered to the local office. He then took the document to the officer concerned and a day later his father received the card.

Such examples abound in Trilok Puri. The Rajakiya Uchchmadhyamik Kanya



Jyoti Gupta (in light green pullover) and others in her group have become unlikely community leaders in Trilok Puri

Vidyalaya in block 27 had no classrooms until just a year ago. There were no toilets, drinking water or desks for the students. "Bahut gandagi rehti thhi school mein. Safai nahin hoti thhi. Hum log do saal baahar baith kar padhe hain. Machchar bhi bahut thhe jiski wajah se kai bachche beemaar hote the (The school used to be badly littered. There was no cleanliness. For two years, we studied out in the open and several students fell ill because of mosquitoes)," says Ruby, 14, who sought a reply from the education department. In her RTI application, she even asked about the number of desks and fans the school should have. Within days, she got her reply and suddenly things began to change. "We got desks, clean drinking water and toilets. The school building is also ready now and there are fans in every classroom," says the young girl who knows the RTI Act really well.

Reena Gupta, another member of this group, says, "There were so many things around us which we never thought we could improve. But with this tool we managed to do so." Garbage used to remain untouched in the area for days; the sweeper turned up once in a while. "We filed an RTI application to know where the attendance of the sweepers is marked," she says, "Earlier, the sweeper used to come once in two weeks but now he comes thrice a week. The roads are in a much better condition now."

With the help of local NGOs, the group also organises RTI awareness meetings in neighbouring areas like Mula Colony,



"We never got our full share of the ration. So we had to buy the rest from the market to feed our children. Whenever we complained, the shopkeeper made excuses or fought with us. But after we turned to these children for help, we started getting our full share."

Ram Murti
Resident, Trilok Puri

Shashi Garden, New Ashok Nagar, Kalyanpuri, Indira Camp and Vasundhara. "When we go to a department and ask for some information, officers ill-treat us. They do not talk properly. But through the RTI Act we get the information at our doorstep," says Jyoti Gupta, who also leads the group during street plays, "Slowly, of course, officers in various departments started recognising us. Now they do not behave the way they used to."

Gulafshan Khan, another member of the group, says people living in resettlement colonies usually do not know about their rights and face problems because of this ignorance. "We don't want this to continue for long," says the 15-year-old who has done her bit to improve the condition of aanganwadis in the area. She used the RTI to find out the facilities available for pregnant ladies, the amount of food served, the daily menu and other facilities available. Once they got the information, she and her friends went to the aanganwadi to see if all the facilities were available there. "There were a lot of things which needed improvement. Food was not of very good quality. But things are improving now," she says with a twinkle in her eye.

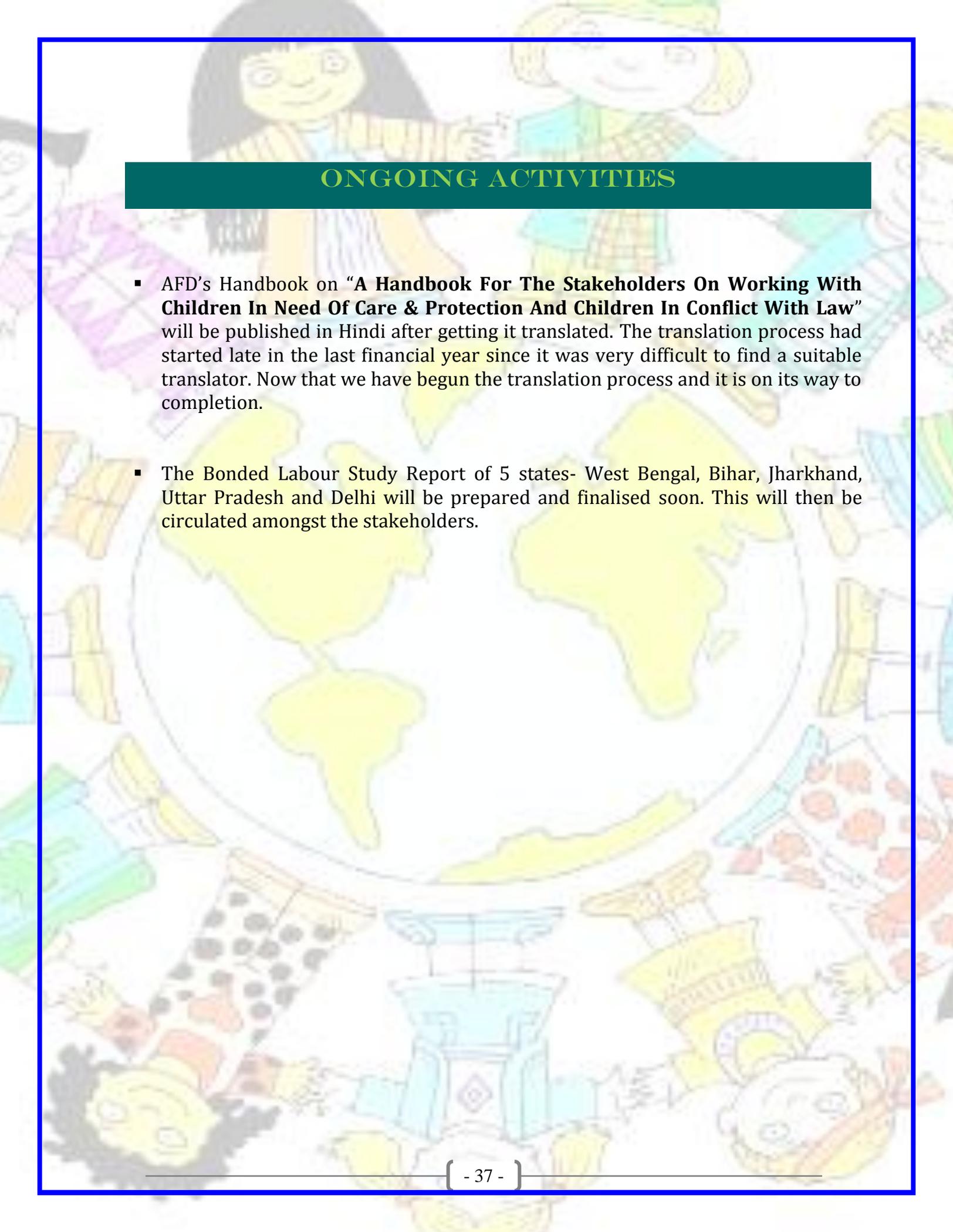
"It was not easy for us to convince people to use the RTI for their daily problems. But now when we show them the change we have been able to bring through the RTI, they understand it," says Aanchal, another member of the group.

Earlier, Jyoti Gupta says, they had to visit families asking them about their problems. But now people come to them with their problems and have started using the RTI to lodge their complaints.

As part of its learning process, the group regularly visits police stations and courts to get first-hand knowledge of laws and law-enforcing agencies. The members of the group also seek to encourage the other girls to exercise their rights more vigorously.

The tool for ameliorating the living conditions of a neglected community is therefore becoming an instrument of empowerment as well. ■

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The background of the page features a colorful illustration of children from various ethnicities holding hands in a circle around a globe. The globe is yellow and white, and the children are wearing different traditional and modern clothing. The entire scene is framed by a blue border.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- AFD's Handbook on **"A Handbook For The Stakeholders On Working With Children In Need Of Care & Protection And Children In Conflict With Law"** will be published in Hindi after getting it translated. The translation process had started late in the last financial year since it was very difficult to find a suitable translator. Now that we have begun the translation process and it is on its way to completion.
- The Bonded Labour Study Report of 5 states- West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi will be prepared and finalised soon. This will then be circulated amongst the stakeholders.

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1

A LIST OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY THE PROJECT DIRECTOR DURING THE PERIOD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION OF TRAINING</u>	<u>BENEFICIARIES</u>
12-14 May 2011	DELHI	Nodal Officers dealing with Labour Trafficking and Human Trafficking
7 June 2011	DELHI	Partners of Plan India on Child Sexual Abuse
13 June 2011	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESEARCH MUSSOORIE	Senior Officers from Rajya Sabha Secretariat
25 June 2011	JAGJIWAN RAM RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE ACADEMY LUCKNOW	Officer Trainees of Railway Protection Force
9 July 2011	National Legal Services Authority DELHI	Judges of the High Court, Member Secretaries of State Legal Services Authority Juvenile Justice Board members and Child Welfare Committee members

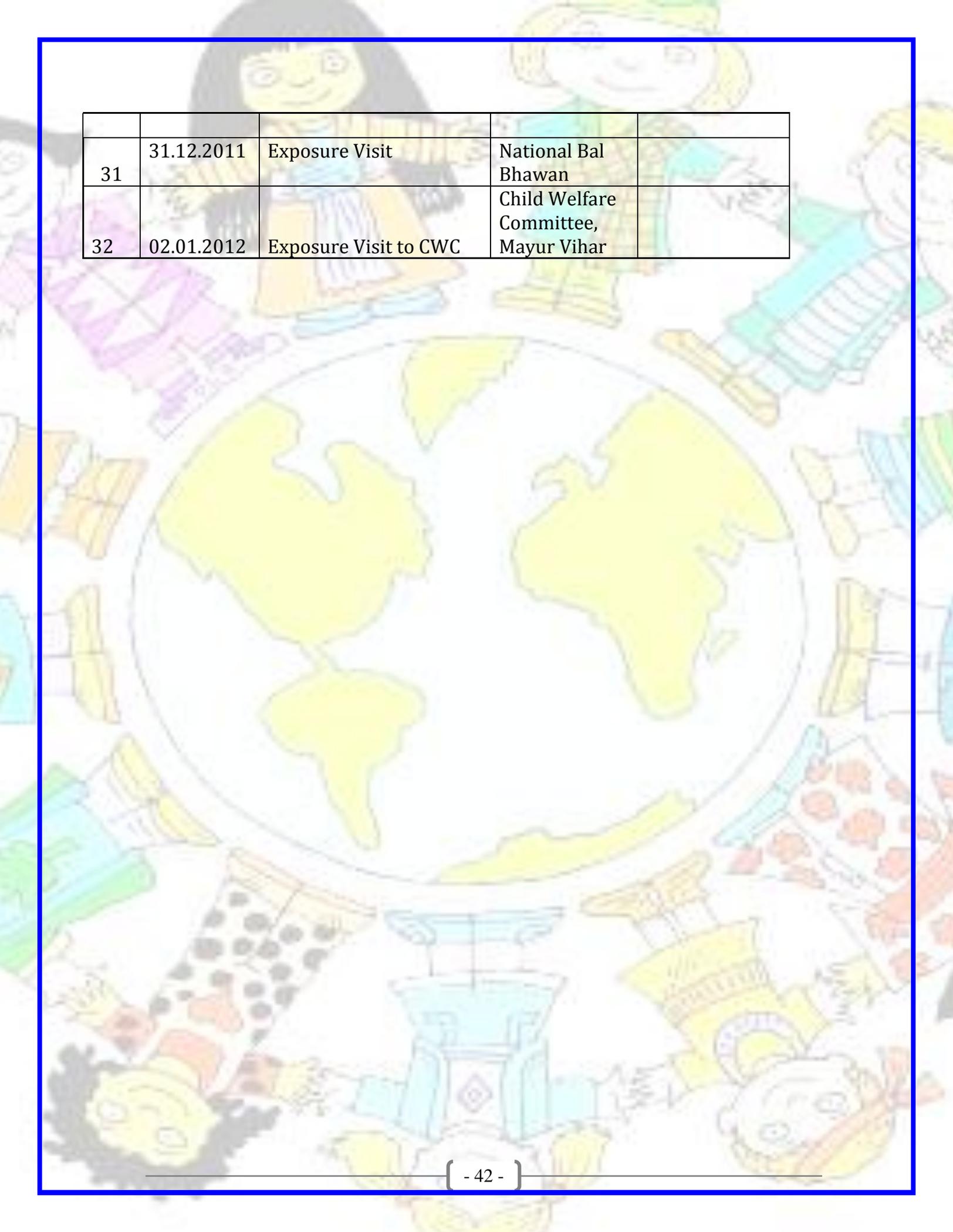
23 - 24 July 2011	RANCHI	Principal Magistrate and members of Juvenile Justice Board, Chairperson and members of Child Welfare Committee, other judicial officials/ judges, few advocates from and selected police officers
19 August 2011	DELHI	Academia, Government officials, NGO and INGO officials on ICPS
21- 24 September 2011	RANCHI	Child Welfare Committee in Ranchi and Jamshedpur
28 September 2011	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development DELHI	Police, Child Protection partners
16th November, 2011	JAIPUR	Development of District Implementation Plan
8-9 December 2011	RANCHI	District Social Welfare Officer and Probation Officer on the Integrated Child Protection Scheme and Juvenile Justice Act.
19- 20 December 2011	RANCHI	Child Welfare Committee members

Annexure 2

STATISTICAL REPORT OF COP ACTIVITIES

SNo	Date	Activity	Venue	In Collaboration with
1	23.04.2011	Street play on Sexual Abuse	Mayur Vihar Thane	
2	18.05.2011	Street play on Public Distribution System	16 Block, Trilokpuri	
3	10.06.2011	Street Play on Public Distribution System	C-251, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.	Aident, GRC
4	29.07.2011	Street Play on Child Labour	Harijan Basti Dallupura	Aident, GRC
5	12.08.2011	Street Play on Public Distribution System	22 block, Trilokpuri	
6	29.09.2011	Street Play on Sexual Abuse	28 Block, Trilokpuri	
7	19.10.2011	Street Play on Sexual Abuse	New Delhi YWCA	
8	19.11.2011	Street Play on Child Labour	Near Maharaja Agrasen College Construction Site, New Kondli	Sadik Masih GRC
9	17.12.2011	Street play on Sexual Abuse	Jan Uttathan Kendra, shashi garden	SOSVA GRC
10	19.12.2011	Street play on Sexual Abuse	MCD School, 20 Block Trilokpuri	
11	23.12.2011	Street play on Sexual Abuse	MCD School, 32 Block Trilokpuri	
12	25.01.2012	Street Play on importance of education	Aident GRC	Aident GRC
13	25.02.2012	Street Play on Child	Pocket II	

		Labour	school, Mayur Vihar	
14	24.03.2012	Street Play on Child Labour	Aident GRC	Aident GRC
15	28.04.2011	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Centre	
16	27.05.2011	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Centre	
17	27.06.2011	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Centre	
18	22.07.2011	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Center	
19	19.08.2011	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Center	
20	06.09.2011	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Center	
21	21.10.2011	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Centre	
22	18.11.2011	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Centre	
23	24.12.2011	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Centre	
24	10.01.2012	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Centre	
25	14.02.2012	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Centre	
26	23.03.2012	Bal Manch	Pratidhi Centre	
27	30.09.2011	Theatre Workshop	Pratidhi Center	Mr Arthav & Mr. Varun from Jamia Milia Islamia Theatre Group
28	24.06.2011	Camp On RTI	Pratidhi Center	Aident GRC C-251, New Ashok Nagar
29	30.11.2011	Sensitization Programme on SJPU & CWC	Pratidhi	SJPU
30	14.12.2011	Camp On RTI	SOSVA GRC, Shashi Garden	SOSVA GRC

The background of the page features a colorful illustration of children from various ethnicities holding hands in a circle around a central globe. The globe is yellow and white, showing the continents. The children are depicted in various styles of clothing, including traditional Indian attire like saris and dhotis, and modern clothing. The overall theme is global unity and child welfare.

31	31.12.2011	Exposure Visit	National Bal Bhawan	
32	02.01.2012	Exposure Visit to CWC	Child Welfare Committee, Mayur Vihar	

Annexure 3

Month- wise Number of Sexual Abuse Cases Attended During the 2012-13

MONTH	MINOR	MAJOR
April	04	01
May	03	03
June	00	02
July	01	00
August	06	01
September	05	01
October	00	03
November	04	02
December	03	03
January	00	04
February	02	03
March	05	01
Total	33	24
GRAND TOTAL = 57		

Follow up cases- Month-wise

Month	Number of Cases
April	06
May	06

June	04
July	06
August	09
September	09
October	04
November	08
December	09
January	07
February	09
March	08

Total 85

Assistance Provided

April 2011- March 2012

Type of Assistance	Number of Cases
Subsistence	06
Medical	00
Travel	02
Educational	00
Total	08

Break-up of Visits made in follow up cases of Sexual Abuse

April 2011- March 2012

Visit Made	Number of visits
Hospital visit	04
Police Station visit	13
Court visit	15
CWC Visit	03
Home visit	08
Counseling session	32
Total	74

भारत में बाल श्रमिक समस्या सम्बन्धित कानूनी प्रावधान

- औद्योगिक अधिनियम 1948 की धारा 67 के अनुसार:
बच्चों के रोजगार पर प्रतिबन्ध :- किसी भी उद्योग में चौदह वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों का रोजगार प्रतिबन्धित है।
- मोटर परिवहन कर्मकार अधिनियम 1961 की धारा 21 के अनुसार:
किसी भी बालक का किसी भी क्षमता में मोटर परिवहन कार्यक्षेत्र में कार्य पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जाता है।
- बीड़ी तथा सिगार कर्मकार (नियोजन की शर्तों) अधिनियम 1966 की धारा 24 के अनुसार:
बच्चों के रोजगार पर निषेध – किसी भी बालक को औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में कार्य करने की अनुमति नहीं है।

धारा 3 के प्रावधानों के उल्लंघन पर यदि किसी भी व्यक्ति को बच्चों को कार्य पर नियुक्त करते हुए पाया जाता है तो धारा 98 के अनुसार 1 वर्ष की कारावास (न्यूनतम 3 माह) या 20,000 रुपये जुर्माना (न्यूनतम दस हजार रुपये) या दोनों का दण्ड दिया जा सकता है।

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कार्यालय :

प्रतिधि, बस्ती विकास केन्द्र, ब्लॉक 33,

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प्रतिधि

अपराध पीड़ितों के लिए

बाल मजदूरी

बाल मजदूरी (प्रतिबंध एवं नियन्त्रण) अधिनियम, 1986

क्या आप जानते हैं कि बच्चों से काम करवाना कानून अपराध है? बच्चों से काम करवाने वालों को सजा हो सकती है। कानून यह भी कहता है कि बच्चों से क्या और कहां काम करवाया जा सकता है। बच्चों से 14 साल से कम उम्र के व्यक्तियों से काम करवाने से संबंधित कानून है 'बाल मजदूरी (प्रतिबंध एवं नियन्त्रण) अधिनियम, 1986'। फ़ैक्टरी अधिनियम, 1948 ने फ़ैक्टरियों में बच्चों से काम करवाने पर रोक लगाई है। फ़ैक्टरी मालिक की यह जिम्मेदारी है कि किसी को भी काम पर लगाने से पहले वह उसकी सही उम्र का पता लगाए। कोई अगर बच्चों से काम लेने के जुर्म में दोषी पाया जाता है तो यह कहकर नहीं छूट सकता कि भर्ती करते समय बच्चे ने अपनी उम्र 14 साल से अधिक बताई थी।

14 से 18 वर्ष के बीच की उम्र के अव्यक्त बच्चों को फ़ैक्टरियों में काम करने दिया जा सकता है। परंतु उसके लिए मालिक को डॉक्टर से यह लिखवाना जरूरी है कि बालक की उम्र 14 वर्ष से अधिक है और वह शारीरिक रूप से काम करने के लिए तंदुरुस्त और स्वस्थ है।



2005 में संसद ने एक कानून पारित किया जिसे सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम के नाम से जाना जाता है।

सूचना का अधिकार हर नागरिक को यह अधिकार देता है कि वह—

- सरकार से कोई भी सवाल पूछ सके या सूचना ले सकें।
- किसी भी सरकारी दस्तावेज की प्रमाणित प्रति ले सके।
- किसी भी सरकारी दस्तावेज की जांच कर सके।
- किसी भी सरकारी काम की जांच कर सके।
- किसी भी सरकारी काम में इस्तेमाल सामग्री का प्रमाणित नमूना ले सकें।

यदि आप को राशन से सम्बंधित कोई समस्या हो तो सूचना के अधिकार कानून का प्रयोग करें।

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प्रतिधि

सशक्तिकरण हेतु सामुदायिक स्तर का अभियान

आम जनता की राशन से सम्बंधित समस्या

- सही गुणवत्ता का राशन न मिलना।
- राशन कम मात्रा में मिलना
- राशन समय पर न मिलना

प्रत्येक राशन कार्ड पर मिलने वाली राशन की मात्रा

कार्ड का नाम	चावल	गेहूँ	चीनी
APL	10 Kg	25 Kg	-
BPL	10 Kg	25 Kg	6 Kg
AYY	10 Kg	25 Kg	6 Kg

राशन कार्ड से प्राप्त अनाज का एक किलो का दर

कार्ड का नाम	चावल	गेहूँ	चीनी
APL	Rs. 10	Rs. 7	-
BPL	Rs. 7	Rs. 5	Rs. 13.50
AYY	Rs. 3	Rs. 2	Rs. 13.50