

SKILLS FOR FREEDOM

Newsletter from India

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This electronic newsletter from **PEACE TRUST, INDIA** is addressed to NGO's, Social Activists, Media, Opinion makers, Leaders and Bureaucrats for improving their understanding on skilling the youth for gainful employment and addressing social issues like modern slavery, child labour, migrant labour, un-employability of youth. We also send this to people who we believe are involved in improving the migrant worker's conditions. You are welcome to unsubscribe yourself, if you so choose.

-EDITOR

Peace Trust is a Non Government Organization working on Child Labour and Bonded Labour issues since 1984. It has also focused on Migrant workers rights issue since 1999.

- o Peace Trust's Skills for Freedom is the only solution to end Modern Slavery in Tamil Nadu. It is a joint effort for enhancing the employment opportunities of rural youth in Dindigul, Karur, Tiruppur Districts.
- o Reduce the risk for Young Workers - Beginning of this month Peace Trust has launched a new Initiative to "Support School Education, Health Protection, Livelihood Development and Skill Training for Gainful Employment among Vulnerable Young Population in Dindigul District".
- o SPSC Vocational Education & Employment Facilitation Centre provides access to vocational education and employment facilitation for rural poor youth in Nagapattinam, Thiruvavur District Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District, Puducherry.
- o Peace Trust also provides training for Quality Teacher Education and gainful employment to young women from resource poor families in Dindigul and Karur District.

The views expressed are not of the donors but a compilation of field realities for the purpose of sharing and action.

The Skills for Freedom e-newsletter is published by:



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Lifting up the least, the lost and the last.

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POOR POLICIES, NOT AUTOMATION, REASON FOR INDIA'S 'JOBLESS GROWTH': SHAW

By Express News Service | Published: 04th November 2016

HYDERABAD: Even as the economy's growth rate continues to be healthy, a huge gap exists between GDP growth and employment generation which has resulted in a slowdown in job creation and the inability of growth to boost employment opportunities.

Expressing concern over "jobless" growth in India, biotechnology entrepreneur Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has called for formulation of pragmatic and visionary policies to create new employment opportunities.

"Yes, we are witnessing jobless growth (in India) but that's not because of automation. It's because of poor industrial and agricultural policies that are not creating infrastructure development, manufacturing and services jobs," she said adding that unions are pushing back and governments are yielding. Until pragmatism is enforced we are likely to miss the opportunity of creating new jobs based on changing business models. One bright spark is the start-up culture.

Stressing that too many regulations are stifling growth as indicated by our poor showing on the world index of ease of doing business, she said that the country is seeing little or no improvement in dealing with construction permits, getting credit and other parameters.

"We need to formulate policies that incentivise private sector to invest in mega infrastructure projects. We need to focus on universal healthcare and education for all that will create a large number of jobs," Shaw said. Mazumdar also said that farm income in India obviously needs to go up, but technology would play a key role in this too.

MIGRANTS

NO WORK OR CASH: MIGRANT WORKERS LEAVE FOR HOME

AHMEDABAD: After the demonetization of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes the consequent cash crunch, many migrant workers have been left with no work forcing them to return to their native places. Rakhial in the eastern part of the city has over 500 garment stitching units, home to a thriving industry, now seems deserted as most units are either shut or working at partial capacity.

Workers from Bihar, who came to Gujarat for work some five years ago are the worst hit, as they cannot be paid due to the cash crunch. As many as 60 workers have already moved back to their native villages in Bihar. A few others who could not return to their villages, said they are left with no money and will have to return to an uncertain fate and most likely starve.

The owner of a garment factory in Rakhial, Sarf-e-Alam Shaikh, said half of his workers had to return to their native places because he was unable to pay them. "My business had fallen to 10% after demonetization. We are not getting orders, which is leading to a cash crunch. I am unable to pay my workers and 10 of them had return to their native Bihar," Shaikh said.

Mumtaz Mansuri, who hails from Sitamarhi district of Bihar and works in Shaikh's unit, said many people from his hometown returned as they could not sustain themselves here. "They

had money in Rs 500 notes, so they bought railway tickets and went home. I also want to go, but if I go empty handed, what will I feed my family of seven," Mansuri said.

Mohammed Tariq Mansuri, who owns a zardoshi unit in the same area, said his business is badly hit by demonetization. "Two of my workers had to return as I was unable to pay them due to the cash crunch," Mansuri said.

Nazar-e-Alam Shaikh, who is from the Muzaffarpur district of Bihar and works in a garment manufacturing unit, said, "We have been facing starvation as Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes were banned and our market is facing a severe crunch. Earlier, we would earn Rs 400 or 500 a day stitching clothes, now we could not even earn Rs 400 in two weeks. Our employer has been us giving us money for expenses for two weeks."

He said, "We came to Gujarat as people said it is a developed state and we can earn good money here. Now we are left with no option but to return to our native places. I cannot go because I do not even have enough money for that.

CASH-STRAPPED MIGRANT TEXTILE WORKERS HEAD HOME

SURAT: Large number of migrant workers employed in the country's largest man-made fabric (MMF) sector have started moving out of the city after the weaving and textile processing units drastically cut down production by almost 70 per cent due to severe liquidity crisis after demonetization.

Powerloom weavers claim that over 50 per cent of the workforce has left for their hometowns and those who had gone to their natives for Diwali vacation are yet to return. At present, the industry has less than 25 per cent workers, and they too are waiting to leave once their salaries are done before December 1.

There are 6.5 lakh powerloom machines in the city employing over seven lakh workers. There are around 400 textile processing units employing over 3 lakh workers. The daily production of MMF fabric is 4 crore meter.

The Rs 40,000 crore MMF sector in the city is passing from a tough phase after the government announced demonitisation of the Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes on November 8.

Industry experts said that around 95 per cent of the wages to the textile workers are paid in cash. Very few big units have opened bank accounts of their employees with the cooperative and nationalized banks.

As per the rough estimate, the textile workers remit over Rs 500 crore to their near and dear ones in their native villages in Odisha, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Usually, the family members of the textile workers back home keep the cash in their houses and do not invest.

"The situation is grim for Surat's textile sector. The industry's production capacity has reduced by almost 70 per cent since November 8. We pay the wages in cash but as the old notes have become invalid and cash supply is limited, we won't be able to cater to the workers by the end of November," said Jitu Vakharia, president of South Gujarat Textile Processors Association (SGTPA).

Ramnaresh Yadav, a labour contractor in Pandesara said, "Many units have paid advance wages to the workers. On daily basis, the workers are standing in long queues to exchange old notes. Once they get the money, they move out of the city, because they have to exchange old currencies at home as well."

Vakharia added, "The workers are leaving because they have to exchange scrapped notes lying in their native places. Those who had gone on Diwali vacation are yet to return. The industry has only 25 per cent workforce at present."

Leader of the weaving community, Devesh Patel, said, "Over a dozen of my workers left for their hometowns in the last three days. They had their life savings in form of cash in their houses. Since the old notes have been scrapped, they have rushed to exchange them with new currency. Now, they may come only after December 15."

Ashish Gujarati, president of Pandesara Weavers Association said, "We are running our units eight hours a day. Around 50 per cent of the weaving units are still closed as the workers are yet to return from Diwali vacation. We can't stop the workers from leaving the city due to the present situation."

AROUND 100 MISSING AFTER MIGRANT BOAT CAPSIZE IN MEDITERRANEAN: MSF

ROME: Around 100 people are feared drowned in the Mediterranean after a migrant dinghy capsized off Libya, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said Thursday, citing testimony from 27 survivors.

"The 27 men now on board the Argos were on board a boat carrying 130 people. They are the only survivors. This tragedy is just unbearable," MSF said in a tweet. Along with the 27 survivors the Bourbon Argos ship also recovered seven bodies.

Departures from Libya are continuing unabated despite worsening weather in the Mediterranean, with more than 3,200 people rescued from crowded and unseaworthy dinghies since Saturday.

The latest tragedy raises the death toll from migrant boat sinkings to over 340 people this week.

The Malta-based charity MOAS, which deploys two rescue boats in the area, said Wednesday that the true toll is probably much higher "as it is highly likely that many boats sink without ever being reported".

Over 1,67,000 people have been brought to safety in Italy since the start of the year, according to the interior ministry.

The figure has already passed the 153,000 number recorded in 2015 and is closing in on the 170,000 figure recorded in 2014.

FRENCH PRESIDENT: NO MORE MIGRANTS ALLOWED AT CALAIS CAMP

PARIS: French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday said migrants won't be allowed to resettle at a now-raised camp in Calais that had become a vast, lawless slum. Authorities cleared the last of the camp's makeshift shelters on Monday night after evacuating 5,000 migrants to temporary housing around France.

In an interview published in La Voix du Nord newspaper, Hollande was quoted as saying, "I promise (Calais residents) that there will not be a new settlement."

He said more than 1,000 underage migrants now housed in containers in Calais will move within days to USdedicated centers" where British authorities can study their cases.

Hollande urged Britain to "do its share" to take in child migrants. Migrants fleeing fighting and poverty in the Middle East and Africa converged on Calais in hopes of reaching Britain.

IT'S JAIL OR DEPORTATION FOR 3 MILLION MIGRANTS WITHOUT PAPERS, SAYS DONALD TRUMP

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump will keep his campaign promise to deport millions of undocumented migrants from the United States, the US president-elect said in an interview to be broadcast on Sunday, declaring that as many as three million could be removed after he takes office. "We are getting them out of our country or we are going to incarcerate (them)," he said.

"What we are going to do is get the people that are criminal and have criminal records, gang members, drug dealers, where a lot of these people, probably two million, it could be even three million," Trump told CBS News. "We're getting them out of our country, they're here illegally," the 70-year-old business tycoon-turned-politician said in an excerpt released ahead of broadcast of the interview. However, House Speaker and top Republican leader Paul Ryan struck a different tone, saying that despite Trump's campaign rhetoric, lawmakers were not prepared to form a deportation force to round up and deport undocumented immigrants. "We are not planning on erecting a deportation force. Donald Trump's not planning on that," Ryan told CNN.

"I think we should put people's minds at ease: That is not what our focus is. We're focused on securing the border. We think that's first and foremost, before we get into any other immigration issue, we've got to know who's coming and going into the country," he added. During the election campaign, Trump had warned that he would stop issuing visas to citizens of countries which do not accept these illegal immigrants.

There are an estimated 11 million documented immigrants in the country. Several hundred thousand are believed to be Indian-Americans. The President-elect said he would take a call on the fate of the rest of the illegal immigrants after the border is secured.

"After the border is secure and after everything gets normalised, we're going to make a determination on the people that they're talking about who are terrific people, they're terrific people but we are gonna make a determination at that," Trump said.

"But before we make that determination...it's very important, we are going to secure our border," he said in response to a question.

Asked in the interview whether he would accept a fence instead of a wall with Mexico, as he vowed in the campaign, Trump said, "for certain areas I would... But certain areas, a wall is more appropriate. I'm very good at this, it's called construction, there could be some fencing" Stay updated on the go with.

MEDITERRANEAN MIGRANT DEATHS IN 2016 HIT RECORD 3,800: UN

GENEVA: At least 3,800 migrants and refugees have perished this year while trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, the highest ever toll ever on the perilous route, the UN said on Wednesday.

"We can confirm that at least 3,800 people have been reported dead or missing in the Mediterranean Sea so far this year, making the death toll in 2016 the highest ever recorded," UN refugee agency spokesman William Spindler told AFP in an email, as the figures passed last year's mark of 3,771.

The sombre milestone was reached despite a significant decline in migrant crossing this year compared to 2015.

Last year, more than a million people reached Europe via the Mediterranean, but crossings so far this year remain below 330,000.

Numbers began dropping dramatically following a March deal between Turkey and the European Union to stem the migrant tide on the Greek islands.

The most dangerous route has been between Libya and Italy, where the United Nations has recorded one death for every 47 arrivals this year.

For the much shorter Turkey to Greece route, the likelihood of perishing was one in 88, UNHCR said.

The agency explained that death rates have spiked despite nearly a two-thirds drop in total migration because smugglers are "often using lower quality vessels -- flimsy inflatable rafts that do not last the journey."

Smugglers also appear to be packing increasing numbers of people on boats, possibly to drive up profits, UNHCR further said.

Shipwrecks involving more people have reduced rescue rates, the agency added, also noting that several disasters this year have been linked to bad weather.

FRANCE BEGINS DEMOLITION OF 'JUNGLE' MIGRANT CAMP

CALAIS: Workers escorted by scores of French police officers moved into the "Jungle" in Calais on Tuesday, demolishing shacks and tents emptied of migrants who were being bussed to shelters around France.

The demolition work began on the second day of a massive operation to clear the squalid settlement in northern France, where an estimated 6,000-8,000 migrants, mostly Afghans, Sudanese and Eritreans, have been living.

"The start of the clean-up operations sends a sign that La Lande camp is really over," said Fabienne Buccio, head of security in the region, using the official name for the camp known as the Jungle.

The finality of the operation was driven home by the demolition operation, as mattresses, blankets, clothes, pots and suitcases left behind by the migrants were piled on top of the wood and plastic sheeting used in their shacks.

Wearing hard hats and orange overalls the workers used electric saws to take down wooden shelters and earth-moving equipment to clear debris from the site that has for years been a launchpad for attempts to reach Britain.

Riot police carrying shields sealed off the area.

Beforehand, aid workers and officials had gone tent-to-tent to ensure the area had been vacated.

Since Monday, around 2,700 people have been transferred to shelters around France while around 600 unaccompanied minors have been moved to a container park in the Jungle where families had been staying, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said.

Others, including a number of Afghans, are waiting until Wednesday, billed as the last day for bus transfers.

Ali Othman, a Sudanese 18-year-old vowed he would not leave voluntarily.

"They can detain me, jail me, throw me out on the street. I still want to go to Britain." he said, smoking a cigarette outside his tent.

But the sprawling shantytown, one of Europe's biggest slums, was rapidly becoming a ghost town.

"It makes me sad to see the camp in this state," said Marie Paule, a charity worker who started volunteering at the Jungle last year.

"I have a heavy heart... but it's the best solution for them."

The migrants face a choice between requesting asylum in France or being possibly deported.

Earlier Tuesday, hundreds of anxious minors queued to be interviewed by French and British officials who will decide their fate.

The Doctors Without Borders (MSF) charity accused officials picking those who will be accepted into Britain of excluding a number of children by selecting on the basis of appearance.

Cazeneuve said all unaccompanied minors "with proven family links in Britain" would eventually be transferred and that London had also committed to reviewing all other cases where it was "in the child's interest" to settle across the Channel.

Britain has taken in nearly 200 teenagers over the past week. Hundreds more are waiting for a decision.

British Interior Minister Amber Rudd pledged to bring eligible children from France to Britain "as quickly and as safely as possible" in the coming days and weeks, without specifying numbers.

Located on wasteland next to the port of Calais, the four-square-kilometre (1.5-square-mile) Jungle has become a symbol of Europe's failure to resolve its worst migration crisis since World War II.

More than one million people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Asia and Africa poured into Europe last year, sowing divisions across the 28-nation bloc and fuelling the rise of far-right parties.

Calais has long exerted a pull on migrants who try to board lorries or jump onto trains heading across the Channel to England, where they believe their job and integration prospects to be better than in France.

Over the past year, police have battled near-nightly attempts by migrants to climb onto trucks bound for Calais port -- a perilous pursuit that has cost dozens of migrants their lives.

Calais Mayor Natacha Bouchart said seeing people queue to leave the camp was "a great relief."

But many locals fear more camps will sprout up in the area once the Jungle is razed.

Around France, the resettlement of asylum-seekers has met with a mix of hostility and solidarity. Villagers in the wine-making hamlet of Chardonnay gave two dozen Sudanese youths a chilly reception on Monday while Paris and Nantes saw small pro-migrant rallies.

Back in the Juno togle, Arbat, a 25-year-old Sudanese migrant, said he was ready to move on. "I know my future is no longer here," he said in good French, adding that he wants to marry a French woman.

"They tell me they are all beautiful. Is it true?" he joked.

TRAFFICKING

CHILD TRAFFICKING RACKET BUSTED IN KARNATAKA, EIGHT ARRESTED

Private maternity homes targeted street children and unwed mothers



End of ordeal: The Bapuji Children's Home where the rescued children have been housed.

The Mysuru district police have unearthed a major child trafficking racket involving private maternity homes and rescued 17 children, who had been "sold" to childless couples in different parts of Karnataka and Kerala. The police said the racket could have ramifications beyond the country as well.

What began as an investigation into the abduction of a nine-month-old son of a beggar, from the pavement in Nanjangud town in April this year, led to the busting of the child trafficking racket involving not just street children but also babies born to unwed mothers in Mysuru hospitals.

Eight persons, including nurses and lab technicians of two hospitals, and middlemen, have been arrested.

"The children were rescued from caretakers in Mysuru, Madikeri, Mangaluru, Shivamogga, and even Kerala. The number may go up to 25 as we are continuing our investigation on those trafficked to Kenya and the U.S.," Ravi Channanavar, Superintendent of Police, Mysuru district, told The Hindu on Friday.

He said the accused targeted unwed mothers approaching the maternity homes for abortion, and convinced them to stay in a rented place nearby and give birth to the baby in the interest of their own health, while assuring them that they would take care of the child. The accused would, in the meantime, strike a deal with childless couples and create fake documents, including birth certificates, with the name of the “purchaser” as parent. The rescued children, sold for prices ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh, have been separated from their caretakers and handed over to the district Child Welfare Committee.

Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit

‘Cost to bring all children to primary schools worldwide is just four and half days of global military expenditure’

*Nobel Laureate **Kailash Satyarthi** recently announced a global initiative: Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit. To be inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee next month, the summit will bring to Delhi a bevy of Nobel Laureates from around the world. With 168 million children engaged in labour worldwide and 5.5 million in slavery, Satyarthi spoke to **Himanshi Dhawan** of ToI arguing that a serious moral deficit and a lack of political will underpins the failure to end the problem of child labour.*



What do you hope to achieve with this Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit?

The core objective includes creation of a moral platform to influence public opinion as well as state and international policies in favour of children. So the issues of the most neglected and most deprived children should come to centre stage and be prioritised in terms of laws and policies as well as the budgetary allocations at the national and international level.

Laureates and LEaders rights and issues like child labour and education are under-funded in most countries. How do you plan to change that?

That is right. The world’s annual military spending is \$1676 billion. What we need to bring all children to primary schools is \$22 billion, that is just four and half days of global military expenditure. And if we consider bringing all children up to the age of 15 years to school, then we need \$40 billion which is again less than 9 days of global military expenditure. This is just one example to show that children are not our political priority. Over the last 36 years of our experience as an activist i realised that in spite of laws and Constitutions and good words and big promises, it becomes rhetoric for politicians because there is serious lack of moral will at all levels in society.

To address it, i felt let us ignite a strong moral voice, create a platform where from an ordinary common man to politicians, corporates, will listen to the voices of the moral leaders. I am sure this will grow exponentially once it is launched in India and we gather more support. There has been a serious vacuum of this kind of thing and I am trying to fill it.

The response so far has been very encouraging. That is why i say let India be the leader in the 'globalisation of compassion' movement.

How is this campaign expected to expand?

We expect the campaign to be taken up in 20 countries by the end of the first year and then spread to 100 countries over a period of five years. Eventually we want 100 million young people to become champions of change and work for the cause of the 100 million neglected children. This youth to youth connect, this youth engagement is the creation of a new culture in the world. This is the culture of a global citizenship, of mutual responsibility and respect which is lacking in the world today.

India continues to be on the US executive order 13126 for using child labour for industries like carpets, cotton seeds and garments. What can be done to end this?

India has made remarkable progress in reducing child labour and so has the world. Only 15 years ago the number of child labourers were 260 million in the world. Now that has come down to 168 million. But i am very impatient. I cannot tolerate that even a single child is trapped in slavery or is being exploited. Though the number has gone down everywhere in India and the world, much more is needed. I am trying to find every possible way to do it. Laureates and Leaders is one such big initiative. I don't want to lose this opportunity that India has got through me.

How much support are you getting from the Indian government? Will PM Modi be attending the event?

We have invited him and hopefully i will meet him soon. We are in touch with several ministries for their participation. We would like to engage with the Indian government but also with governments of other countries. We would like them to partner with us in the future through sectors like education, labour and others.

CHILD LABOUR

OPERATION MUSKAAN: GURGAON COPS 'INFLATE' CHILD RESCUE NUMBERS



Children at a night shelter. Activists say a child goes missing in India every eight minutes

For the past two years, Gurgaon police have been earning plaudits for rescuing a record number of “missing” children and rehabilitating them, saving them from a harrowing life of exploitation and abuse.

But a Hindustan Times investigation found gaps in the police records and procedure, indicating the campaign may have been stage-managed to inflate numbers.

Police in this burgeoning city of multi-national company offices, factories, high-rise houses, villages and slums say they rescued 1,500 kids since 2015 under Operation Muskaan, a nationwide programme to rescue and rehabilitate missing children.

The district child welfare committee (CWC) fears the numbers are exaggerated to meet targets.

When HT visited the addresses of 27 “rescued” children, all of them turned out to be fake entries. Some of the families in those addresses said they were living there for two decades. Others said they had never heard or rented their properties to anyone with names that appeared in the police records.

Sample this. Police records show a 13-year-old boy was rescued near Wazirpur Chowk in Gurgaon. The entry says his home is under Dwarka’s Palam police station.

An old couple said they have been living there for 20 years and didn’t know any boy by the name that HT found in the police records, or his father. None of the neighbours recognised the child or the family.

Another entry reveals a Muslim boy was rescued by Kherki Daula police station on July 8, 2015, handed to the CWC, and restored to his parents the same day.

When HT visited the house, the family residing there for the past 10 years denied knowing any child by that name, let alone being rescued by police.

“We are a Hindu family but the name given here is of a Muslim boy and we have never rented this house to anybody with the given name,” the home owner said.

Also, HT found that police didn’t record first information reports in any cases of child labour, as required by law. Neither police nor the CWC conducted any inquiry about the rescued children.

Gurgaon police dismissed the allegations, saying all guidelines were followed during the operation.

“Those rescued were working as child labourers. We have not picked any child. Why will we do such unethical work?” said assistant commissioner of police Anil Kumar, the nodal officer for Muskaan.

But the state crime branch had also questioned Gurgaon police’s account.

KP Singh, then director general of police (crime branch), wrote last year to the Gurgaon police commissioner, objecting to the false information furnished by the district police.

He asked the police commissioner to take immediate action and prepare a report of the units involved in the wrongdoing, especially uploading fake information on the police website’s “Track the Missing Child” platform about missing children.

“The wrong practice has corrupted the whole data and has created doubt about the excellent honest work done by some of the units. I am afraid the government of India will not attach credence to any such corrupted information uploaded on the portal,” says the letter from Singh, who is now the director general of police, Haryana.

Singh defended the police operation when HT sought his response.

“There was a misinterpretation by Gurgaon police units working on the operation regarding missing children found in the railway station and other places. It was later explained to them and was rectified on the portal. There is a gap between the CWC and police data as they don’t compile data for the operation whereas the police do.”

Former police commissioner NS Virk, who is now IG Rohtak, was not available for comments.

The Union home ministry launched Operation Muskaan in July 2015 across the country after a similar month-long campaign, called Operation Smile, in January to rescue and rehabilitate missing children.

Haryana police claimed to have rescued 4,824 children under Operation Muskaan in July last year, of which Gurgaon police topped the list with 1,057 rescues. That means 5.35% of the 19,742 children rescued in the entire country under Muskaan were from Gurgaon.

People questioned Gurgaon police’s methods and intent of the operation.

Activists, who don’t wish to be named, said the ineffective tracking of children, lack of follow-up, poor database and gaps in records have hurt the overall fight against child trafficking and exploitation.

They said a child goes missing in India every eight minutes and rescuing children is of primary importance, especially in a situation where several agencies fighting for child rights lack coordination.

Some of the children and parents alleged kids were picked up randomly from parks, bus stands, even shops near their houses and shown as missing.

A 13-year-old boy said he was picked up in front of his slum near Kanhai village, taken to the Sector 40 police station, detained for a few hours and then released after his father paid a bribe of Rs 2,000.

The district CWC said police made no reports of the rescued children, a requirement under the juvenile justice act. It corroborated allegations about a huge variation in the number of rescued children in police records and those produced before the committee.

Details of the rescue weren’t maintained in the general dairy of police stations.

“A number of cases brought to us as child rescue were returned as these did not meet the norms stipulated by the government,” CWC chairperson Shakuntala Devi said.

The CWC alleged none of the 177 child labourers that police said to have rescued last year were produced before state authorities. Police also did not provide details of the rescue.

Devi said children were picked up randomly as police wanted to record the highest number of rescues in India. “I would not call it Operation Muskaan, there were only tears among the children and parents.”

The rescued children were not evaluated for vulnerability, even if they were from other states, and were handed to parents in a hurry, another activist associated with Muskaan alleged.

Another anomaly listed by the CWC was that police didn't take any steps to book alleged employers under the anti-child labour act.

Also, case-specific information wasn't allegedly shared with the deputy labour commissioner of Gurgaon to recover compensation stipulated by law for the rehabilitation of these children.

Efforts to contact Gurgaon labour commissioner Pankaj Agarwal for his comments proved futile.

“Sensitising and training personnel involved in the rescue and rehabilitation process is also extremely crucial in providing a safe environment to these children,” said Soha Moitra, regional director (northern region), Child Rights and You.

Reports show many police personnel didn't receive adequate specialised training to deal with children rescued from the streets, factories, bus and train stations and parks.

According to the National Human Rights Commission, up to 40,000 children are abducted in the country every year, of which at least 11,000 remain untraced.

The Muskaan initiative was to stop a chronic menace in the country. Thousands of missing children are often drugged, beaten and forced to beg every day on the streets, in what has become a multi-million rupee industry controlled by human-trafficking gangs.

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

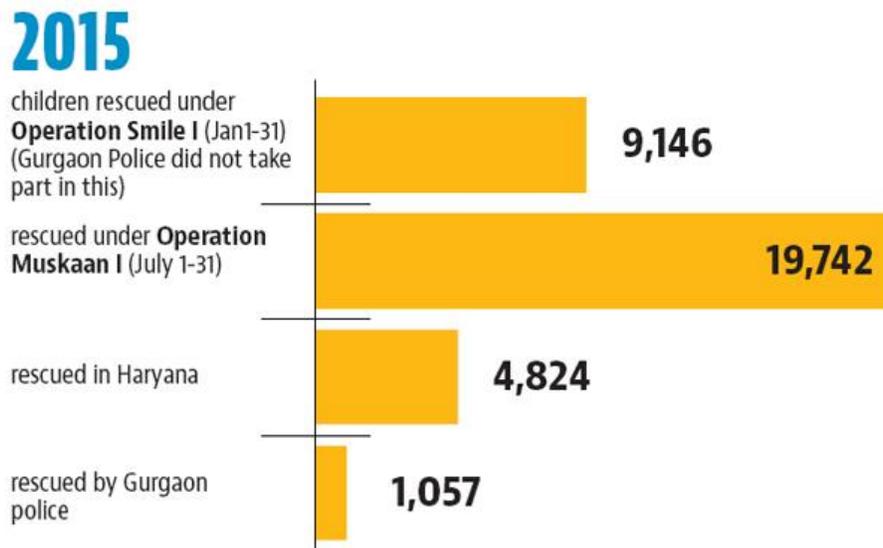
The Ministry of Home Affairs had launched a country-wide one-month long campaign called ‘Operation Smile’ in January 2015 to rescue and rehabilitate missing children. Another dedicated campaign, Operation Muskaan, was launched across the country in July 2015.

MUSKAAN GROUND RULES

Once the child was rescued by the police/childline/voluntary organization/citizen following steps were to be taken

- Registration of FIR in under sections of kidnapping and abduction, considering it a cognizable offence
- Child should be produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)
- If parents not found or during the pendency of inquiry, the CWC should place the child in a children's home/shelter home
- CWC should generate a report over the vulnerability of the family to the inquiry

- All efforts must be made to restore the child to his/her family 6 Rehabilitate the child



2016

Operation Smile II (Jan 1-31) 146 children rescued by Gurgaon police

Operation Muskaan II (July 1-31) 524 children rescued by Gurgaon police

(*Govt yet to compile all-India data for 2016)

TALES FROM POLICE RECORDS

40,000 children are abducted in the country every year

11,000 remain untraced (National Human Rights Commission)

According to data tabled in the Lok Sabha in May, over 22,000 children went missing in Delhi in the past three years. Thousands of missing children are often drugged, beaten and forced to beg on the streets, in what has become a multi-million rupee industry controlled by humantrafficking gangs.

PREM

Age: 13 Rescued: July 19, 2015 As per daily diary (DD) entry no. 16 at Sector 10 police station, Prem was rescued from Wazirpur Chowk, Gurgaon. Police records say the child went missing from Mahavir Enclave, near Dwarka. When HT went to the address, an old couple who was living there for over 20 years denied knowing any kid of that name. Neighbours also said that no child of the description lived there.

RAHUL

Age: 14 Rescued: July 19, 2016 As per another entry under DD entry no. 16 at Sector 10 police station, the child – a resident of Palam – was rescued from Wazirpur Chowk. Police said the child was produced before the child welfare committee and reunited with his family. HT did not find any family or child of the description given by the police at the address in Palam.

ATIQUE

Age: 13 Rescued: July 8, 2015 As per the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Gurgaon, the child – a resident of Kanhai village – was rescued from Kherki Daula and reunited with his family the same day. When HT visited the address, House no. 102, Kanhai village, the family living there denied that they know anybody of that description. They said they were permanent residents and had never rented the house to any family.

ARJUN

Age: 11 Rescued: July 11, 2016 As per the DCPU, Gurgaon records the child was rescued by the Sector-5 police from Old Gurgaon. When HT visited the address, the family said their neighbours who live in the lane behind them were the family mentioned in the case. The child said a team of men in police uniform took him to the police station when he was playing near his house and then to the CWC. The child told HT he was handed back to his mother later in the evening.

ASEEM

Age: 13 Rescued: July 2015 As per police records, the child was rescued from a slum opposite Kanhai village by Sector 40 police. When HT went to the slum, the child said that he was picked up by the police and taken to police station from near his house. He said the police detained him for a few hours and took Rs 2,000 from his father before releasing him.

BEHIND THE GLITTER OF LAC BANGLES IS THE LABOUR OF TRAFFICKED CHILDREN



Children are employed in the weaving sector because of their nimble fingers. Last year 839 child labourers were rescued from Jaipur police district.

For 15-year-old Sunil Kumar (name changed), the only world that he had seen was that of life in Baliari, a village in the Patna district of Bihar where he lived with his parents, who earned their livelihood as daily wage labourers.

That was until a local ‘seth’ contacted the family a year ago and convinced his parents to send him to Jaipur.

“The seth told us that I will be able to study as well as earn and my parents felt that it will help improve our financial condition,” said Kumar, who has never gone to school, owing to extreme poverty.

For the next one year, the only world that Kumar would get to see was that of a narrow room inside a house in Ramganj, where he worked for 18 hours a day making lac bangles.

The children, some aged as young as five, were not allowed to go to school and rarely saw the world outside the room, where they worked, ate and slept.

Kumar is now staying in a children’s home in Jaipur after he was rescued by the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Rajasthan police in September along with 25 other child labourers, all of whom were trafficked from states such as Bihar and Jharkhand.

In recent years, Jaipur north has become synonymous with the menace of child labour with children being regularly trafficked from other states to work.

According to data available with police, the number of such cases in Jaipur has doubled in the past few years, with maximum concentration being in localities situated in northern part of the city such as Ramganj, Bhatta Basti, Galta Gate and Shastri Nagar.

The number of such cases reported in Jaipur during 2014 was 71 which increased to 164 in 2015 and 130 cases have already registered till September.

Almost all the children, who are trafficked to Rajasthan, are brought to the state through a well-managed network of agents, whose job is to convince their families.

“The bangle factory owner would often scold us. The room where I along with six other children lived was not enough for all of us. We were also not allowed to go outside,” said 16-year-old Girdhari (name changed), who is from Iguna village in Bihar’s Gaya district. In the children’s home, kids are being given lessons in English and Hindi before sending them to their parents.

“I like it better here at the home than in my village in Bihar. I have learnt to write my name in English and want to become a soldier when I grow up,” said 10-year-old Ramesh (name changed), whose carefree life of playing and occasionally watching Bhojpuri films was turned upside down by perils of working as a child labourer.

The police data showed that 720 child labourers were rescued in 2014 in Jaipur with the number of children increasing to 839 in 2015.

‘Lack of cooperation from local police’

“Most of the work that has been done in this field is by the AHTU with little help from police. In spite of the fact that increasing number of child labourers are being employed in the bangle-making and jewellery industry, police stations rarely take any action in their own capacity,” said child rights activist Deshraj Singh.

The anti-human trafficking division has one unit each in every district in Rajasthan. Each unit has nine policemen.

Singh said lack of coordination among departments involved such as the department for child rights, the labour department and the social justice and empowerment department at times make things more complex.

“Once the children are rescued, we contact the child welfare committee in their home states after which officials from those states come to Jaipur to take them back. It is their duty to follow up the matter and see that the children are rehabilitated and are not trafficked again,” said NL Meena, the director of the directorate of child welfare.

The police say that in most cases the agents along with the people who employ child labourers are from other states such as Bihar and Jharkhand.

“We rely on a network of informants in order to track places where such trafficked children have been employed. During a rescue mission, representatives of NGOs also come along with us to help and counsel the children,” said head constable Arvind Kumar Kumawat of AHTU (north).

Kumawat, who is credited with rescuing more than 1,100 child labourers, was recently given a gallantry promotion owing to his substantial work in the field.

Additional director general of police (anti-human trafficking) TL Meena said efforts were being made to put more focus on anti-human trafficking operations during training of police officers.

“Training is being given to police officials on effectively handling trafficking cases. They are also being imparted knowledge on various laws related to children,” said Meena.

ENVIRONMENT

AMONG 11 METROS, CHENNAI MOST EXPOSED TO CLIMATE HAZARDS: STUDY

Which city will wilt under the effects of climate change first? For a clue, there is nothing in the answer for Chennaites to rejoice. Chennai is more vulnerable to climate hazards compared to metros such as Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru and Delhi, mainly due to high population density and built-up area, an IIT-Bombay research paper has said.

The paper, 'Assessing socio-economic vulnerability to climate change: A city-level index-based approach' by IIT-Bombay professor Trupti Mishra and PhD student Krishna Malakar, published earlier this year, attempted to develop indices, indicating the vulnerability to climate change and environmental hazards. It covered 11 Indian cities in different bi-climatic zones.

This index, the authors said, could assist in urban planning and effective disaster management. The indices helped rate the cities' ability to cope with a natural hazard in the context of its infrastructural, technological, social, financial and spatial aspects.

Among the five parameters, Chennai fared well in infrastructure, technology and finance but was the weakest in the social and space aspects. The social index, as defined by the authors, referred to the inequity in society populations belonging to weaker sections of society who either had little access to resources or were restricted by their physical incapability. They remained vulnerable due to the city's social structure, the authors said.

The space index looked at builtup area. The greater the builtup area, the more would be the economic loss due to damage and the higher the population density the more the competition for resources after a disaster. The paper said greater built-up area might lead to 'poor run-off in case of floods and hence is an important contributor to a city's vulnerability.'

Open spaces or lower built-up area 'can help in water percolation and can facilitate ground water recharge.' The CMDA would soon identify areas in the city vulnerable to flooding, said K P Subramanian, former professor of urban engineering at Anna University.

"They are studying catchment areas and lowlying areas through scientific mapping, taking into consideration rainfall, past flooding, run-off, topography, soil and other factors," he said. He said henceforth development regulations should stipulate that 'un-built areas should be maintained as parks, playgrounds and open spaces.'

Jayashree Vencatesan, co-founder of CareEarth, a Chennai-based biodiversity research organization, said, "The city of Chennai is more vulnerable to natural calamities compared to Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune or for that matter Mumbai simply because of its geographical location on the east coast. The city faces the more warmer sea, the Bay of Bengal. So, naturally, Chennai is vulnerable, which is not the case with Mumbai."

The vulnerability coincides with the north-east monsoon, which occurs between the months of October and December. This is a regular and recurrent feature. In the past few years, the buffer present in the inland areas had been compromised and structures had come up. This also added to the problem, making the city more vulnerable to such natural calamities, she

said. Environment journalist Gopi Krishna Warriar said between the 2001 and 2011 census, Chennai city recorded the highest growth in urban population in the country. Much of this new population had inhabited the low-lying areas of South Chennai, where the IT infrastructure developed in the past decade. These developments choked the water channels and storage tanks of the city, making it more vulnerable to natural disasters, he said.

MEETING OF THE NHRC'S CORE GROUP OF NGOS

The National Human Rights Commission held a 13th meeting of its Core Group of NGOs on the 9 August, 2016. Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC chaired the meeting. He emphasized that the feedback and complaints of human rights violations received from the NGOs are useful to the functioning of the Commission towards the promotion and protection of human rights. He said that it will be ensured that their meeting is held at least twice a year to know about issues, which require the attention of the Commission. The NHRC Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Secretary General, Shri S.N. Mohanty and other senior officers were present. Some of the important issues discussed during the meeting were as under: (1) Reviewing the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers, 2016: (2) Undertaking and Promoting Research through NGOs on Jajamani System and other 'hidden' violations: (3) Introducing changes to avoid possibilities of delays in complaint handling: (4) Human Rights Defenders and implementation of the recommendations of the UNSR on HRDs addressed to the NHRC and SHRCs and the role of the NHRC in monitoring and implementation of the CEDAW's recommendations, July, 2014: (5) Periodicity of meeting of the Statutory Full Commission of the NHRC along with all its Deemed Members: (6) Need for urgent amendments to the PHR Act, 1993: (7) Use of provisions of the FCRA Act, 2010 and FCRA Rules 2011 against a host of Human Rights Defenders across the country: (8) Referring of complaints filed in the NHRC to the SHRCs using its power: (9) UPR III by UN Human Rights Council etc.

SKILL INDIA - THE NEXT AGENDA

By Gayathri B. Kalia

Growing the economy through job-oriented skills and catering to global workforce demand will be the growth engine of the Indian economy for the next 10-12 years.

Since its launch in 2009, the Skill India Mission has taken many strides forward in establishing the foundational architecture for Skill Development in the country. With a vision to Skill India at scale, speed, high standards and to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, the mission of the program is to impart skills to 400 million youth by 2022, as articulated in the National Policy on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (NPSDE), 2015. To achieve its mission, India has established a robust institutional framework with a range of models designed at addressing the skill and employability requirements of the youth of our country. These include the Prime Minister's Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) which provides major grants based skill development to all youth of the country, Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY) which is uniquely focussed on inclusive skill development in rural areas as well as venture funding initiatives led by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) that aim to catalyze a market-led model for skill training,

in the country. While programs like PMKVY and DDU-GKY address the employability needs of the deprived rural and urban populace who have been constrained to drop out of education due to social and economic barriers, there is also a parallel and concomitant commitment to building skills in convergence with the education system, in the form of vocationalization of higher education. The coupling of education with applied skills has an immense potential to significantly transform the competencies of our young people in the country and more importantly in building much needed esteem, prestige and appreciation for skills, at the societal level. All of the above skill development initiatives are unified through a nationally recognized National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) that is based on accredited National Occupation Standards and Qualification packs, that identify industry relevant competencies, which in turn become the basis for skill training, assessment and certification. Today, we have over 4600 unique NOS identifying competencies for job roles across 33 sectors. The Indian Skill agenda has also contributed to the growth of an entire industry of skill providers estimated to be an approximate number of 2000 organizations with over 10,000 training centres, excluding ITIs. It has also excited the imagination of the world with the scale of its ambition and the pace of its work and is now seen as a sunrise area of investment for many global experts in the field. This is the first time in the history of civilizations that the world is witness to such an ambitious target. While India has consciously embraced it and has set its mission to serve as global soft power through its skilled people, the future focus is on the following 6-point charter to enhance outcomes



1. Privileging Sustainable Jobs Apart from regular industry- skilling linkages, we need to focus systematically on ensuring that every infrastructure investment plan is converged with a skilled labour plan. Both the industry and government need to take strong steps to privilege skills in recruitment and procurement policies. A first step in this direction has been taken by Govt. of India (GoI) in the recruitment of “Barefoot Technicians” for its workfare program, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), where skill certification is the basis of selection. Similar efforts are underway in developing masons for rural areas. However, these efforts need further scale –up and expansion within industries and private sector

2. Provision of Migration Support Job-related migration in India accounts for most of the internal migration and tends to be pre- dominantly from rural areas to urban centres. While

migration data from 2011 census is yet to be published, the 2001 census data places internal migrants at 28.5% of the population which is estimated to be higher now given the pace of urbanization. In comparison, global migrants account for about 3.3% of the total global population. Skill development too, especially for wage employment, engenders migration. This is because of the geographical spread between supply and demand for labour. In fact, for rural youth taking up skill training, almost 90% of placement tends to be outside of their place of familial residence and at least 50% outside of their states. This is an extremely significant phenomenon for young men and women of the country akin to perhaps the Biblical parting of the Red Sea. Sensitive, ample and well-resourced internal migration support centres and policies are very crucial to support such migrants as well as their families, at both source and destination. A policy on this has been established within DDU-GKY and also to support overseas migrants and is expected to be operational soon.

3. Investment to catalyse Training of Trainers The trainer is the one critical resource who pulls the investment in skilling together. The trainer is an investment multiplier. Taking into account a pending target achievement of 37.1 crore trainees by year 2022, the requirement for trainers is estimated at 5.75 lakh in the country, assuming a 3-month skilling course which are the average norm at present. There is a woefully large shortage of qualified and inspired trainers. Laudable efforts are underway to co-opt exservicemen as trainers. Such efforts could also be extended to tap the skills and capacity of returning emigrants. In addition to such efforts, the need of the hour is investment that stimulates the market to build quality trainers. This is an emerging area of opportunity in the skill development sector.

4. Internationally benchmarked assessment and certification Given India's demographic profile amidst the global demographic context, India sees an opportunity to serve the skill needs of the world. To this end, India has also embarked on international agreements that promote mutual recognition of India Skill certification, while at the same time investing in skill development that meets international benchmarks. The Ministry of Skill Development and entrepreneurship have embarked upon transnational alignment of its competency norms while also aiming to promote internationally recognized assessment and certification. This again provides immense scope for global collaboration with certification bodies.

5. Focus on Transverse or Employability Skills Industry leaders highlight the need for strong training in such transverse skills that are seen as essential cross cutting skills across jobs that ensure retention and growth. A CEO of a retail group, in his conversation on DDU-GKY alumni working in his outlets, noted that metros like Bangalore are hubs for pan-Indian and international professionals. Therefore, it is not enough for a sales associate to be proficient only in the local language. English speaking skills and inter-personal skills are key to the modern work place. DDU-GKY particularly mandates training in such foundational skills but there is more to be done across the eco-system to standardize training content and training delivery approaches to have predictive and benchmarked learning outcomes. Given the Prime Minister's vision for Indian youth winning the hearts of people the world over through their skills, and the mandate under Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana, such a focus on transverse skills that empower youth to be part of a global workforce is inevitable.

6. Building Esteem and Prestige for Skill Development Today in India, as in other parts of the world, skill training is seen as a poor cousin to higher education. This is a phenomenon visible even in countries like Germany, with today's youth. In this context, there is a great

need to continuously build the aspirational status for Skills. India has taken steps in this direction through celebration of events like “World Youth Skills Day”, participation in World Skills International and through launch of national reality programs on Skills. There is a need to step up such efforts taking a leaf from programs such as Master chef, to transform the branding for Skill India nationally and internationally. As we see, there have been significant achievements by the Skill India Mission. This gives the country a strong foundation to continue to build on. The above charter aspires to now capitalize the institutional framework to achieve the best under Skill India mission for India and its people.

Mrs. Gayathri B. Kalia is the Chief Operating Officer of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, a job- linked skill development program of the Government of India, uniquely focussed on skill development for rural, socially and economically disadvantaged youth in Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The design and implementation of DDU-GKY is recognized as a model for inclusive skill training linked to job outcomes. Mrs. Kalia in leading DDU-GKY, comes with richly diverse experience of over 25 years that spans work in the areas of public finance, institution building and public service delivery, in the Government of India, multilateral aid agencies, NGO as well as the private sector. She can be reached at cooskills[at]gmail[dot]com or at gbkalia[at]yahoo[dot]com [Disclaimer: The views expressed above are the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the views of the government or the Department]

DISCUSSION ON FCRA:TAMILNADU NGOs MEETING

Sri.K.Govindarajan of SEVAI has taken leadership for arranging a meeting to discuss about the Trend of Foreign Contribution for the past one decade and also planning for the next decade. Many senior NGO leaders attended and shared their experiences and the list is attached. They met at Kalai Arangam, Trichy on November 19. (Dr.J.Paul Baskar, Chairman PEACE TRUST spoke on civil society being regulated in Southeast Asian Countries mainly to give a free hand to corporate to exploit human and natural resources. However he appealed to NGOs leaders to use all opinion to explain to the Government our difficulties and constraints. He also said most NGOs in the region are involved in Clean India, Climate Campaign and Strengthen Government initiatives.



Shri.K.Shivakumar, Chartered Accountant explained detail about the present trend of foreign contribution and flow and salient features of the act. The notification by the ministry dt. 3rd March and 6th April 2016 and the reasons behind the cancellations were explained. The various show cause notices given to organisations were discussed and the following precautionary measures may be taken to comply with the rules

- The organisation should have clarity about the purpose for which the amount is received with the detailed letter from the donors and project reports and no point of time the funds received for one particular purpose should be utilised for any other purpose even if it is permissible and other laws and objects of the organisation. There are many areas pointed out since there is a lack of definition about economic and social activities. The show cause notices given to organisation indicated that organisation has been registered to undertake activities under nature of education but funds were utilised for social activities.
- The utilisation under administrative expenses should not be more than 50 % of Foreign contribution without the specific approval of the ministry.
- FC received should not be transferred to unregistered entities, if they are owned by same chief functionaries and in the same premises utilising same staff and infrastructures and other resources used interchangeably.
- Foreign contribution amount should not be transferred from designated account to domestic account and vice versa which is liable to be treated as mis-utilisation of foreign contribution.

- The foreign contribution money should not be used for personal expenses of the functionaries which is construed as using the FC for the purpose not authorised as per provisions.
- FC funds should not be transferred to separate trust with different PAN number or sister institutions which is a violation.
- Any amount of FC utilised for the staff who were working on secondment should be disclosed and any will full suppression and non disclosure and non reporting details in their returns is construed as violation.
- The closing balance declared for any year should become opening balance for the subsequent year and the amounts represented in respective heads in the receipts and payments account should tally with Income and expenditure account subject to adjustment in the provisions.
- There should be proper synchronisation as the purpose for which the funds were received should be recorded and reflected in books of accounts and any variations should be reported to ministry.
- FC receipt should not be utilised as payment for remuneration as remuneration for government servants for quasi government servants.
- Foreign contribution money should not be transferred to any other country as grant or should not be utilised for organising conferences in foreign countries.



We suggest all the show cause notices available in MHA website and may be downloaded. The meeting also discussed about LOKPAL & LOKAYUCT ACT. In the case of organisations who are receiving FC contributions more than 10 lakhs have to comply with the rules. The details of Form and members who have to comply is available with MHA website and the details have to be published before 31st December'2016. The draft appeal proposal was discussed and with suitable modification, the appeal may be sent to the minister so that the government may reconsider its decision.

SPSC-VEEF

Tasty Event 'BIRIYANI MELA' 2016:

Fairs become an integral part of Catering Service's day to day business. Food Fairs have turned to be very popular. Recent Biriyani Mela at SPSC VEEF was one such occasion which was noteworthy.

For Dine-outers, whether vegetarian or non vegetarian, it was a rare chance to taste delicious Biriyani of various kinds. Knowing the scenario, SPSC VEEF conducted a Biriyani Mela in our SPSC VEEF Campus on 17-11-2016.



Experts from Karaikal and Nagapattinam were invited for the Demo and Practical training of making Biriyani to the students of Catering Department.



The students who are studying in catering technology (Food and production) were in need of a real practical training and marketing the food to public. Before the Mela, the Instructor of Catering Department gave a preliminary training to students 'how to make Biriyani'.

The students' contribution was amazed owing to their being interested to make Biriyani though they had been under supervision by a professional who was called to assist and guide. However, the preparation work was assigned a master to supervise them whether they make practically the food.



With the intention of showing varieties both Chicken and Mutton Biriyani was made with the lip smashing side dishes of Chicken 65, Gulob Jamoon and Onion Raitha. Combo M Pack

consist of Mutton Biryani, Chicken 65, Gulab Jamoon and Onion Raitha & Combo C Pack consist of Chicken Biryani, Chicken 65, Gulab Jamoon and Onion Raitha.

To have made glorious the function, we invited some. guests to colour the event along with all staff members

A home delivery arrangement was also set up as part of the BIRIYANI MELA at no extra charge.



Project had successfully reached the goal and marketed the food, any way; we are very much enthusiastic as we have trained the students a real project titled above.



Young Workers Project:

VILLAGE LEVEL LEGAL AWARENESS.

Young Workers Project has conducted legal awareness programme on 19.11.2016 at Vedasandur. Awareness programme was jointly organized by Vedasandur Law Association and Panchayat Union. Young workers Field Coordinator Mrs.Nagalakshmi, has welcomed all the participants. Mr.Mathava Ramanujam Head & Sub Judge for Vedasandur Taluk legal Committee has headed the awareness meeting. Dr.J.Paul Baskar Chairman, Peace Trust, Programme Manager Mr. A. Srinivasan, Mr. Joan Peter, Head Master, Panchayat Union Primary School, members have participated in the meeting. Ranjetham Ward member has delivered felicitation address.

Mr.Nallusamy, MrTheivegaraj, Lawyer Association and Mr. R. Ramadoss have given input on the legal entitlements of the citizens. Participants were made aware of the ways to get the old age pension, ration card etc. They were also educated how to prepare a petition and to approach the government office for assistance and laws related to women , Children, Dalith, Workers and pointed –out that enforcement of these laws benefiting them is possible only when they seek justice through prepare channels as early as possible. There is need for Para legal workers who could contribute to their communities legal awareness and the volunteers, workers of this project cam fulfill this need in future .People here to know about the judgments of national importance and on issues related to their interest. They have to know media reports and read newspapers daily for this purpose etc. Young workers, teachers, and field coordinators participated in the programme. Mrs.Buvaneshwari, Field Coordinator has proposed the vote of thanks.

Awareness on Sumangali Scheme for School Children;

Young workers Project has conducted awareness sessions on the impact of Sumangali scheme to the school students of Government Higher Secondary School, Devanayakkanpatty, Government Middle School, Minukkampati, Government Middle School, Senankottai, for imparting awareness on Sumangali scheme. Overall 475 girls were made aware of the dangerous practices of the Sumangali scheme. Staff members have spoke on the slavery conditions of the adolescent girls under the scheme and highlighted the major issues of the young workers exploited in the scheme such as long work hours, very low wages, occupational hazards, health effects etc. Project team motivated the children to continue the education and plan a right career for bright future. This programme received overwhelming response from the children as well as the school authorities.

Community Media:

PASUMAI FM AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Pasumai Community Radio and Akshaya Project (Reach) have jointly conducted an awareness programme about Tuberculosis on 30th November, 2016 in Sirumalai Pasumai FM Office. Pasumai FM radio jockey Ms. Vani has welcomed the participants. Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Officer in Dindigul Government Hospital Dr. Ramachandran has

presided the programme. Coordinator of Reach Mr. V. Ashok Kumar has conducted the programme. Dr. Ramachandran has provided various information on TB such as its spreading way, to identify TB, prevention method, the method to prevent TB for pregnant ladies etc. He also clarified the doubts of the participants. Nearly 50 people have participated in the programme. Mr. Madhimaaran, Station announcer, has proposed vote of thanks.



Peace ITI:

SKILL DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION

A various skill development competition among students were conducted on selective topics in Essay writing on 24.11.2016, Drawing on 24.11.2016 and Oratorical on 29.11.2016 in the presence of the Principal to promote the talents, self confidence and self awareness which will develop challenging attitude among the students.



Students participating in the Skill Development Programme

SINTHANAI MANDRAM

Sinthanai Mantram Session was conducted on 30.10.2016 in Peace Industrial School. This session was presided over by Mrs.P.Josephine Mercy, Principal of Peace Private ITI. The topic given for all MMVT students was “The cultural and heritage at Tamilnadu”. This Symposium showed their talents to be nurture and potentials to be explored. Finally, the Principal, Manager and Staff members commented their remarks appraised their talents. Then session came to an end at 1.05 PM.



Human Rights:

TAMILNADU STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION: TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS (PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION) BILL, 2016.

A meeting on the Tamilnadu State Level Consultation on Draft Bill: Trafficking Of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2016 was conducted in ICOSA, Chennai on 8th November, 2016. Dr.J.Paul Baskar, Chairman Peace Trust welcomed and outlined the purpose of interim working group and its initiative to gather Civil Society Opinion on the New Bill on Trafficking. Dr.Bala Murugan, Program Advisor, Geneva Global has proposed welcome address and explained the purpose of the consultation. Mr.M.A. Britto, Director, Vaan Muhil and Convenor, CACCS has provided a presentation on the Draft bill. Then Dr. Vidyasagar, Former Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF has facilitated about Identifying the gaps in the Bill.

Dr.J.Paul Baskar, Chairman, Peace Trust has facilitated about the strategic engagement with Policy makers and Media Houses on the Draft Bill. Formation of Interim Working group at state level on the Draft Bill strategies for lobbying at National level for the Winter session was discussed in the programme.

Mr. Deveneyan, Director, Thozhamai has delivered vote of thanks.



Dr.J.Paul Baskar, Chairman, Peace Trust facilitating the meeting

NGO Meeting:

KKS Project Partners Meeting of Indian & Nepal NGO's

KKS Project Partners Meeting was organized by KKID between 29th and 30th November 2016. Mr.Ralf Tepel, Executive Director, KKS from Germany presented the News and Views about KKS.

1. Mr. Ralf Tepel's presentation

KKS's contribution is for an integration of refugee's problem in Germany in the recent years and they run the refugee centers in various places. KKS has facilitated people to adapt with capacity building program for children and parents. KKS is to get the approval for ten year programme from the foundation council. The council consist different experts from various fields.

On this basis, KKS has been expanding their activities into Nepal and Myanmar due to natural calamities and child protection. This is the main focus of theme area. KKS will organize workshop on 'Financial Administration and Risk Management between 23rd and 25th January 2017 in KKID. German government has a bilateral agreement with India in the following areas and so, KKS also will focus on these areas.

1. Climate Change
2. Renewable Energy
3. Protection of Eco System

2. Presentation and Group Discussion

Nearly 16 presentations were made from different partners about the 'unique selling point of my organization'. Most of the presentations were in general, and a few were focusing real project objectives. The presentations that were done from different parts of the country showed the unique feature about need of intervention on different fields.

3. Filed Visit

The partners were grouped into two Dr.Paul Baskar visited to Kerala Agricultural University, Tiruchur, and Dr.Jayakumar visited SOS (Save Our Sole) Children village, Tiruchur.

In Kerala Agriculture University there was a presentation for focusing area of research and intervention in the country, such as Micro Irrigation System, Rainwater harvesting, Micro Credit, value added of agriculture products, fish Culture and organize Farmer's Producer Company.

The other group visited to SOS. The group came to know the factors and functions of SOS. The SOS focuses mainly on Family based programme. They have their own village, house, paid mother to be caring children those who were found to be completely orphaned and some those who aren't cared by their parents.

The concluding session were arranged by Fr.Loy Valtely in KESS (Kuriakose Elias Service Society) in Tiruchur. The partners expressed enthusiastically their feedback. Finally, Mr.Tom Jose delivered vote of thanks and encouraged the organizer and all partners.

3. Group Photo



The Project Partners Meeting was attended by Dr.J.Paul Baskar Chairman and Dr.Jayakumar, CEO of SPSC-VEEF.

Peace College of Education

Chairman cum Principal Dr. Paul Baskar honoured the NCTE representatives. Ms.Prema vice Principal, Staff and the students welcomed them. All of us assembled for the Prayer at 9.30A.M. The Students sang “The Tamilthai Valthu”. Dr. Savita Srivastava greeted the students and talked of Dr.Abdul Kalam’s quotes on “Duties of a Citizen”. Dr.Sushma Mishra spoke about the skills to be developed in Teaching Practice. The Prayer ends with the National Anthem. Dr.Sushma Mishra and Dr.Savita Srivastava was part of NCTE Inspection Team.

After the Prayer, the NCTE representatives went to the Office Room and checked the documents of infrastructure and various Registers. They visited each and every classroom and measured the size of the classroom, tables, benches, etc. Then they visited the multipurpose hall, staff room and checked the furniture’s. They inspected the canteen and checked the arrangement of tables and chairs. They enter the Girls Common Room and inspected the room. They went to Arts and Work Experience / Resource centre room and checked the various crafts prepared by the students. They entered the Seminar Room and checked the seating arrangements, LCD Projector, Computers, White Board and Black Board. They went to the Psychology Laboratory and inspect the various instruments, Test Battery, inventory Questionnaires etc. They entered the Library-cum-resource Centre and checked the Computer, Books, Xerox Machine, Internet connections, Printers, CDS, DVDS, Journals Seeks, Periodicals, etc.,

They visited Curriculum Resource Centre and inspected the various Specimens, Microscope, Charts, and Globes Etc. They also visited the Computer cum ICT Resource centre and

checked the seating arrangements, Computers, Internet Connection, Printer, and various Projectors Etc., They visited the Boys Common Room and inspected the room. They visited the Health and Physical Education Room and checked the list of items i.e, playing kids like volley ball, foot ball, etc., They went to the motor room, Store Room, Play ground, Garden and inspected. Then they have their lunch. After the lunch, they verified the certificates of Academic and Administrative staff. All the students and staff gathered together and took a group photo. The staff gathered and had a group discussion. Then the NCTE representatives met the students and discussed the merits and demerits of the college. Then they verified all the documents and prepared a report regarding the NCTE visits.

The visit was formal and official task on behalf of National Council for Teacher Education, the approval agency for conducting two year B.Ed Course.

Book Fair:

Peace Trust got involved in Dindigul Book Fair and a stall was booked. The stall will display all materials books for the one lakh Dindigul Book Readers who will visit the stalls for 10days. Pasumai FM provided a live broadcast from the fair. Dr.Paul Baskar also helped in arranging a special farmers session on the conditions of Gudaganaru River Basin and a special address will be delivers on 6th December by Dr.ThangaRaj, a Geophysical Scientist associated by National Geophysical Research Institutes Hyderabad and friend of Peace Trust for more than two decades in Water issues.

The following books are displayed at Dindigul Book Fair recommended for reading to Readers and Intellectuals to understand the issues of Modern Slavery its history. These books were made available in various book stalls and Peace Trust stall will facilitate the readers for reading and provoking them to act against Modern Slavery.

The book titled 'Appointments and disappointments' written by a high profile Police Officer and Former DGP Mr.VR LakshmiNarayanan was released by Mr.Chammanlal, Former DGP and National Human Rights Commission.

The first copy was received by former TamilNadu DSP Mr Selvin Thanathurai , a respectable, stalwart police officer of integrity, righteousness, known for his exemplary skills in investigation who served in CB CID for a long time.

The seminar Role of Police in the present context of changing scenario in India at VR Krishna Iyer Community Hall, Madurai on15th November 2016. The prominent Police Officers and NGO representatives like Dr.J.Paul Baskar Chairman Peace Trust, Mr.C.J.Rajan SAMAM social movement spoke on NGO-Police Cooperation in Protecting Human Rights of Young Workers and Migrant Workers.

Environment: Extract of Book

Monograph
on

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT, MODELLING AND MANAGEMENT IN KODAGANAR RIVER BASIN, DINDIGUL & KARUR DISTRICTS, TAMILNADU, INDIA

by

M. Thangarajan



A general observation of the water level fluctuation suggests that the water level tends to rise during the monsoon time to reach the highest peak and starts declining from February onwards. Generally water level decline is noticed at many places in lower Kodaganr basin during 1994-1998. The rise and fall depends upon the amount, duration and intensity of the rainfall, thickness of weathering, specific yield of the formation and general slope of the aquifer bottom towards the drainage channel.

The highly favourable zones for recharge are the areas around villages of Kalavarpatti, R. Vellodu, V. Paraipatti, Vedasandur, Dharmathupatti and Sellamanthadi. These areas are characterized by bajada, shallow pediment, high weathered thickness (> 25m). The hydrogeological soil group 'A' is

with good infiltration characteristics and with slope of 3 to 5%. Moderate favorable zones are around the villages of Kovilur, Alagapuri, Sennamkottai, Silvarpatti and Attur. These zones are characterized by pediment, moderate weathered thickness (20- 25m). The hydrogeological soil group 'B' is with moderate infiltration rate and with a slope of 5-10%. The less favorable condition for recharge is the areas around Vadamadurai, Eriyodu, Usilampatti and Sukkampatti. These areas are characterized by less weathered thickness (< 20m), hydrogeological soil 'C' with slope of (<5%). The poor favourable zone for recharge exists only near residual structural hills and in certain areas of soil group 'D' which has poor infiltration rate and runoff (>130 mm) with a slope of more than 15%. These zones are shown in Figure 17 and it can be further investigated to implement the artificial recharge scheme.

The imaging technique has proved to be a powerful technique in the study of this type of groundwater problem. Electrical images provide a more detailed view of subsurface structure than can be obtained using other geophysical techniques and may therefore lead to a better understanding of the local hydrogeology. Siting boreholes on the basis of increased thickness of overburden should provide better yielding boreholes with a greater degree of sustainability, although it should be remembered that very often the geological situation might preclude any high yielding boreholes.

The electrical imaging over the contaminated areas, although providing interesting information, can only be interpreted qualitatively. As discussed in section 4, the interpretations are ambiguous and can only be improved with other control information from boreholes or chemical sampling. None of the five images measured across the contaminated sites show any strong lateral change in resistivity and it must be admitted that similar information could be obtained with resistivity sounding. A scattering of soundings over the area would quickly indicate where there is low resistivity regolith and heavy contamination was likely.

Numerical method was used to interpret pumping test data considering both pumping as well as recovery phase. The initial guess values of T and S were used to calculate time drawdown/recovery data, which were matched with the observed time drawdown/recovery. The values of T and S were then progressively changed to get a close match between observed and calculated time drawdown/recovery. The best match between observed and calculated time drawdown/recovery has resulted into representative aquifer parameters which has given in Table 4. The plot of best fit between observed and calculated drawdown/recovery for some of selected tests are shown in Figures 39 and 40. The contour values of transmissivity for different ranges are shown in Figure 41.

Out of total 28 pump tests, 10 tests (36%) show T value less than 50 m²/d, 8 tests (28 %) each between 50 to 100 and 100 to 200 m²/d, while one (4%) each for the range of 200 to 500 and more than 500 m²/d (Figure 42). Therefore, in general the transmissivity values have been found to vary from less than 50 to 200 m²/d.

The cation and anion concentrations of the water samples from Dindigul and its environs are as follows: Sodium is the dominant cation, with a concentration of 39-828 meq/l while Potassium occurs in concentration ranging from 3 to 399 meq/L. Among alkaline earth's Magnesium (Mg) varies from 24 to 156 meq/L and Calcium from 28 to 284 meq/L. Chloride is the dominant anion followed by Bicarbonate. The concentration of Chloride ranges from 46 to 1191 meq/L. Bicarbonate varies from 43 to 677 meq/L. Sulfate concentration varies from 6 to 313 meq/L.

A single layer phreatic aquifer (weathering part) was conceptualized and model calibration was done for both steady and transient condition. A number of assumptions were made due to lack of data, yet the model result shows a very reasonable comparison between the computed head and observed head values. There is a steady decline in the water level due to increased abstraction from the phreatic aquifer resulting in to dewatering at places. The computed water level contours indicate that the flow direction is towards river Kodaganar, which drains the entire basin. As given in section 7, the present model study has brought out explicitly that the phreatic aquifer can sustain abstraction only up to the mean dynamic reserve of $55 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ per year. During drought years, the situation becomes worse. It is, therefore, suggested that groundwater resources be augmented through artificial recharge methods. As a first step, the removal of silts in the existing irrigation tanks will considerably improve the vertical infiltration, and construction of check dams in the upland area will enhance the recharge. The present model also should be updated with more additional data as mentioned earlier and then evolve optimal utilization scheme.

Kodaganar River basin is characterized by frequent draught and scanty rains. The indiscriminate exploitation of groundwater for both agricultural as well as industrial purposes is constantly affecting groundwater resulting into depletion of groundwater potential and deteriorating groundwater quality. In view of continuing demand for groundwater, detail investigations and data analysis has been carried out and aquifer system in the basin has been conceptualized. The aquifer parameters have been estimated through pumping test. Various stresses on the aquifer system have been evaluated. Finally these inputs have been considered to construct mathematical model. The model has been calibrated against observed water level. The model is then used to predict the trend of water level in case the similar hydrogeological situations continued with the increase in abstraction rate. It has been found that the depletion in the groundwater will continue further. There are about 15 tanks of more than 40 ha ayacut and 2198 tanks with less than 40 ha ayacut (PWD, 2000), which could be used for increasing effective recharge in the area. Considering such an increase in recharge through the existing tanks, the model exhibits the arrest in the depletion of water level and at some places even rise in the water level.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the renovation of existing tanks, particularly those falling in the potential recharge areas as shown in Figure 17, should be taken up on priority basis, so that the groundwater condition in the basin can be improved and restored. It was observed that whenever Kodaganar reservoir gets filled up due to rain in the hill catchment area, the groundwater level in the surrounding area (with in 6KM on the Eastern side and 3Km on the Western side) rises very fast and providing very good water supply even though that area has no rainfall. The above phenomenon suggests that if a number of minor irrigation tanks that exists in the study area is filled up once in a year then due to vertical infiltration from the tank, the wells falling in the ayacut area gets recharge and thereby the water level rises very fast. Government can plan to bring water from River Cauvery during flood season and fill all important tanks in the study area. It is also recommended to close down all tanneries which are letting out untreated tannery effluents. Crops pattern should be planned to use only very less water.

About Dr.Thangaraj:

Dr. M. Thangarajan, Former Director Grade Scientist at National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), Hyderabad superannuated as Scientist-G & Head groundwater modelling group on 31st May 2002. He was born (15-05-1942) at Mathinipatty in a remote village, which falls in Kodaganar River basin in Vedasandur Taluk, Dindigul District (Tamilnadu) and completed his schooling at Vedasandur and obtained his Bachelors in Physics at The American College, Madurai and Masters in Physics at National College, Trichy (both were affiliated to Madras University). He obtained PhD in Applied Geophysics from Indian School of Mines (Deemed University), Dhanbad. For more than three decades, he has carried out extensive research work on the assessment and management of groundwater resources through mathematical modelling. Some of the important studies are Evolving optimal pumping schemes in Neyveli open cut Lignite mines and Shashe river valley well field in Botswana, Groundwater pollution studies in Upper Palar river basin, Pondicherry coastal aquifer and Kodaganr river basin. He had visited Germany, United Kingdom, Australia and Botswana. He had visited Botswana as modelling expert. He is the member of IAH, IAHS, AGID and Geological Society of India. He is the receiptant of “**Scientist with Humanitarian Vision Award**” by Dindigul chamber of Commerce, Dindigul. He is the founder of the Association of Global Groundwater Scientists (AGGS), India.



His research work and technical reports have been utilized for practical use in the assessment of groundwater resources, evolving optimal pumping schemes and quantification of pollutant migration in various projects in India and abroad. He has published over 125 research papers in National, International Journals and seminar proceeding volumes. He is the co-editor of three books.

Since his retirement from service (May, 2002) he had written two books one on **Regional Groundwater Modeling** and another one on “**Advanced Groundwater Modeling**” which is an improved version of the first book. He had edited a book on “**Groundwater**” which was published by Springer and well received by young groundwater scientists globally. He has edited a book on “**Groundwater Assessment, Modelling and Management**” along with Prof.VP.Singh was published recently by CRC Press, a unit of Taylor & Francis, UK

He had organised two International groundwater conferences one at NGRI, Hyderabad during 1989 and the second one at Dindigul during February 2002. He is the founder president of Association of Global Groundwater Scientists (AGGS), which has organised so far 5 International Groundwater Conferences (IGWC) and he is serving as the conference coordinator of all the six conferences and going to co-ordinate two more conferences during 2017 & 2019.