

D.O.No.6/NCPCR/2008/CLPRA Amendments(Prog)
2008

October 7,

Dear

Subject: **Policy Document on Abolition of Child Labour & Making Education a Reality for Every Child As A Right**

We are submitting our policy document on the subject, along with proposed amendments to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, for your perusal and support. This is based on a series of consultations that the Commission held with Government officials in all its State visits, testimonies and public hearings in which children, parents and NGOs participated, recommendations of the Working Group constituted by NCPCR on Child Labour and Education and also, research and secondary source data on the said issue. In its recommendations, the NCPCR has highlighted the following:

- The need to have an inclusive definition of child labour and abolish all forms thereof. For example, the existing Act does not consider the work rendered by the child in one's own household as prohibited. The Act does not prohibit children working in Agriculture and allied activities. Our findings have shown that substantial number of working children, especially girls, children of SC/ ST, Muslim and other backward communities, fall under this category. The Commission has also found that with growing informalisation of the workforce, children are preferred as they are a source of cheap labour, who could be compelled to work for long hours and are malleable.
 - To expand the definition of 'child labour' to include children in the age group of 14 to 18 years. Unfortunately there is no policy or legal framework that provides support and protection to children in this age group. Several of them are either non-literates or school, drop outs even before they have reached primary school. Ignoring or excluding them from the purview of 'Child Labour' as currently defined in the Act and several other legislations, has and will continue to marginalise them for life!
 - Ensure that all children out of school are identified and rescue them from the labour force, to enjoy their right to education. The Commission has detailed the process in its report.
2. We look forward to your response and continuous support for protection of children's rights.

With

Yours sincerely,

(Shantha Sinha)

Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
Prime Minister's Office,

7, Race Course, New Delhi.