

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

Press Note

National Consultation on Right to Education and Child Labour

In view of the growing concern about prevalence of child labour, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is evolving recommendations for policy and legal changes concerning right to education and child labour. A series of consultations have been held to discuss changes in laws and policies towards this end, with multiple stakeholders. One of the major consultations is round the corner and is going to be held on August 8, 2008 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Participants in the consultation will be Principal Secretaries and Commissioners of Labour from all the State Governments and Union Territories of India.

Prof. Balkrishna Mungekar, Member of Planning Commission will be the chief guest in the consultation. Smt. Sudha Pillai, Secretary Labour and Employment, Government of India will do the key note address. Member of the NCPCR Ms. Dipa Dixit who heads the working group on Child Labour and Dr. Shantha Sinha, Chairperson, NCPCR will also address the participants.

Overarching focus of the consultation will be on Right to Education and Child Labour. How attainment of right to education will play key role to emancipate out school children and child labour. The Commission will draw feedback from this consultation before making recommendation to the Government of India to bring changes in laws and policies to make child labour a history and complete realization of right to education. This change is of paramount significance, when the country is witnessing an explosive demand for education from poor people. Changes are required to ensure that laws and policies abet situations favorable for poor children. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan has played a vital role in creating demand for and fulfilling the demand for education of children. However, there are millions of children still out of school and need to realize fundamental right to education. These children are found in some form of child labour. Education is the right response to this. Policy and law need to take note of this and this consultation will create a climate for building momentum to dialogue and discuss for such change.

Members of electronic and print media are requested to give wider coverage to this event.

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