

Give Girls a Chance - End Child Labour

To mark the World Day against Child Labour
on 12th June 2009, at New Delhi, NCPRC

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The child , especially girl child i.e. from zero to eighteen years of age, is the future of our country. If India is targeting to be superpower then it is important that inputs to end child labour should not be treated as expenditure but an investment. The sure way of putting an end to child labour is focusing on issue that child should be no where but in school. For this not to just remain rhetoric and translate to reality it is important to bring out convergence of various schemes of government to ensure education to child. The schemes of not just infrastructure for the school and having teachers but to converge schemes related to scholarships, uniforms, books availability, providing cycle to girl child to even having crèche in school premises to encourage young girls who do not come to school to care of there of there siblings are to converge at the execution levels.

The focus that child should be nowhere but in school will ensure that everything else like preventing trafficking, child labour, malnutrition etc.. falls in place. The argument that the child labour is apprenticeship and hence to continue, but to ensure better future of child, it is important to define conditions, number of hours put in and age. Under 14 no child be allowed to work and beyond 14 till 18 some of the works can be identified to make them productive adults.

The resource convergence to ensure education is an investment to mean businees to get the child to school. Doordarshan look forward to provide platform

to such efforts being made by individual girl child or institutions. The like NCPCR, ILO and UNICEF have rightly provided platform to trigger the efforts rightly reflected in the Constitution and policies of Government.