

Ending Child Labour is Everyone's Responsibility

'Children and Women' in especially difficult circumstances have been the focus of intervention as far as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd around the world are concerned. In accordance to the socio-economic, political, and cultural situations, the Sisters in each country have been evolving and using social intervention strategies, to ensure the rights of children and women. They make use of every opportunity to propagate the relevance and significance of upholding the rights of children and women. While working at the grass-roots levels, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd keep in mind the international instruments such as UN CRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ILO Conventions 2016, and the national-level, several laws such as the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2000, the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976, and national-level child welfare related policies and programmes that aim at upholding the rights of the children. In safeguarding the rights of children, they work closely with the Government Departments, the Non-Governmental Organizations and the Community Groups.



Mr. Syam Prasad, the Joint Collector of Palnadu District, Andhra Pradesh flags off a Rally for Stopping Child Labour Practice on 12th, June 2024, the World Day Against Child Labour

Observation of World Day Against Child Labour

As a part of their campaign against 'Child Labour System' still prevalent in Palnadu District of Andhra Pradesh in India, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd on 12th June 2024, the instant of World Day Against Child Labour convened a rally at the Palnadu District Collectorate,

Narasaraopet, Andhra Pradesh. As many as 168 persons from the NGOs, Government Departments and also members from the Media participated in the rally.



Good Shepherd Sisters, their Partners-in-Mission, and other Participants raised slogans took the rally from the District Magistrate Office to Zilla Parishad High School, Sankarabharathipuram, Narasaraopet.

Prior to fagging off the rally, Mr. Syam Prasad, the Joint Collector of Palnadu District addressed the gathering saying that from 1st June 2024 to 30th June 2024 the entire Palnadu district will continue to work with GOs (Government Organisations), NGOs (Non-Government Organisation) and the Department of labour will take the initiative to conducting a drive against child labor in Palnadu district. He assured that he would extend his full cooperation and support to all initiatives gaisnt the practice of child labour. In his talk he also said that it is the responsibility of everyone to take the responsibility to stop child labour. As an alternative, he said that all adult citizens should ensure that the children in their living area between 4 years to 18 years are in schools. He thanked the Children, Women, Government Officials, and Workers from ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) who had taken initiative to participate in this rally. Good Shepherd Sisters, their Partners-in-Mission, and other Participants raised slogans took the rally from the District Magistrate Office to Zilla Parishad High School, Sankarabharathipuram, Narasaraopet. Mrs. Umarani, Project Director of Women and Child Welfare Project appreciated the members from Government Department and the Non-Government Organizations who had taken efforts for organizing this rally. She had specially mentioned the efforts of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (Amaravathi) over the past 28 years in this region is remarkable and their commitment towards children and women is unmatched. Mrs. Dhana Lakshmi, the Assistant Commissioner of Labour in her speech said that the goal

before us is to protect child rights and their wellbeing. It is the duty of every citizen to ensure that all children are in schools and not employed or exploited. In this rally, Sr. Madhalai Vinnarasi, Director of Community Development Initiatives of Good Shepherd Convent, Amaravathi, Mr. Anand Benzimen, Director of Hands Up organisation, Mr. Sowrilu, the Palnadu District Child Protection Officer, Officials from the Department of Labour, ICDS supervisors, Staffs from CDPO, Narasaraopet, Scout Students, NCC students, Staffs from various NGOs staff and children participated.

Release of Poste on Child Labor

Earlier, on 11th June 2024, in 3 places, as a matter for campaign, a Poster on Abolition of Child labour was released at 3 Police Stations; the Police Station of Amaravathi in the presence of Mr. A.V. Brahmam, the Circle Inspector of Amaravathi, at Police Station of Krosuru in the presence of Mr. Mangarao, Circle Inspector, and at Pethakurapadu Police Station. Police Officers working in the different Police Stations, Sr. Vinnarasi, Director of Community Development Programmes, Sr. Gracy, Subsite Director of CHALICE Community and Child Sponsorship Programme, Staffs of Good Shepherd Convent. Amaravathi, and the media people. The principal idea of publishing the posters on Child Labour is to create awareness among the general public prior to observation of the International Child Labour Day.



Mr. A.V. Brahmam, the Circle Inspector of Amaravathi, and Sr. Vinnarasi, Director of Community Development Initiatives of Good Shepherd Convent along with Police Offials and their Partnerss-in-Mission Jointly release a Poster on Child Labour Elimination

Speaking to the gathering, Mr. A.V. Brahman, the Circle Inspector of Amaravathi appreciated the efforts of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in upholding the rights of children and women. He also said that he would do the maximum to eliminate the practice of Child Labour in Amaravathi circle. Police department has initiated the 'child labour elimination campaign' on 1st June and this will campaign will further be extended till 30th June 2024. The Police Team is visiting the small industries to check if the children are employed in such centres. Appreciating the very many efforts of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd he reminded the theme chosen for the International Child Labour Day 2024 which says "Let's Act on Our Commitments: End Child Labour!", Mr. A.V. Brahman said that it is the duty of every adult around the globe to work for the rights of children who are the future generation.



Mr. Mangarao, Circle Inspector of Krosuru, Sr. Vinnarasi, Director of Community Development Initiatives of the Good Shepherd along with Police Officials and their Partners-in-Mission releasing the poster on Child labour Elimination on 11th June 2024

Mr. Mangarao, Circle Inspector of Krosuru while releasing the poster on Child labour Elimination said that both Government Departments and Non-Governmental Organisations should collectively work to stop the practice of child labour. He assured of his support in every way possible. The theme of this year's World Day Against Child Labour says "Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!" which means that it is each one of our responsibilities to stop

child labour. Hence, let us come together and take stern action against those who employ children.

The posters released were later displayed on the public places in and around Amaravathi to educate the public on the problem of child labour and the roles and responsibility of every citizen. The messages in the poster were very attractive inviting everyone to take action against child labour.

Reflection & Conclusion

Child labour is a crime against the future generation. Despite strict laws declaring child labour a crime, it remains prevalent in India and other countries due to a lack of awareness among poverty-stricken families and unethical employers. Stopping child labour practice is a social responsibility and it a collective responsibility and the theme of this year of the International Day of Child Labour emphasises on it. It is happy to note here that parents, despite their economic disposition, the people of south India in general, have internalised the relevance and the significance of education for their children. Never before in the history, the girl children are largely enrolled in schools and this is a moment of happiness. This spirit must escalate and their rights to protection, development, and participation must be ensured at all costs and at all levels. As the theme insists, it must be the commitment of all citizens to ensure that the children who are the future citizens whose rights must be safeguarded for a bright future.

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