

# A Minor Pray to Save The Children

"Every Child born Into The World Is A New Thought Of God And Ever Fresh And Radiant Possibility."

-Kate Douglas Wiggin

[American children's Author And Educator]

## Child Labour A Dreadful Overview

Child labour is perhaps the greatest barrier between a nation and its development. It is one of the greatest dark spots on the face of humanity. Child Labor in India is human right issue for the whole world. Small children are made to work in factories, units and even the hazardous fire cracker industry with their small hands. According to the Indian Gout, there are 20 Million child labors all over the country while other agencies claim it to be about 50 Million.

Child Labour is conspicuous problem in India. Its prevalence is evident in the child work participation rate which is more than that of other developing countries. In most cases POVERTY is the main reason behind child labour.

Bonded Labour traps the growing child in a hostage like condition for years. This not only poses as a barrier in the mental development of the child but also causes great harm to their fragile health. The importance of formal education is also not realized as the child gets absorbed in economically beneficial activities at a young age. Moreover, there is no access to proper education in the remote areas of rural India for most of the people which leaves the children with no other choice.

The Indian Government has tried to take some steps to alienate the problem of child labour by making the employment of children under 14 years illegal except in family owned enterprises.

**BUT ARE THESE REALLY IMPORTANT?? The Answer is a Big NO!**

### Some Case Studies

A Live Example., which proves the disability of our government's implementation. Meet Rumita Tudu... A ten year old girl working in a snack shop below a bustling flyover of Kolkata. Talking to the girl we came to know something like this: Her father is a small farmer in the outskirts of Kolkata. Evidently it was poverty that made her father force her. Sitting in front of the hot oil she said she wants to be an art teacher but has only managed an education up to the second grade. Asking about how she chases her dream, she bore a rather forlorn look and all she said was "I don't know".

### The Story Of Shefali-A Dream Entrapped In A Shack

Shefali a Girl of 11 is here in Kolkata to help her "so called" uncle with his shop and is a dropout from the first grade. She dreams to be a doctor but the shack store is creating deep cracks in her dream. We asked her how will she reach her dream? She only replied, "Dream, What Dream? I Don't Know!"

### What should be done?

Domestic help is a big No-No. Education a must. Dreams-made to be followed. Nutrition-proper-Result-NATION'S PRIDE!

However, only discussing and writing on such issues is not enough. The zeal will only be attained when we take practical steps towards the cause. And it's high time we do so.

# JAAGO INDIA JAAGO!!!

Rishav Mukherjee, Ritiman Mukherjee, Siddhart Ghosh Hariyana Vidya Mandir Class-XI, Sec-B1

# SATRANGEE 2010

As part of Prayasam's sustainable advocacy campaign in schools, an edutainment programme 'Satrangee', initiated to sensitize mainstream students, on the different aspects of child rights and enhance their perception of the social reality. Besides online newsletter writing and web-page designing contests, debate and poster and slogan development competitions were organized in the participating schools, in which students from class 6 to 11 participated. A brief introductory note by Prayasam, on the rights of children and its gross violations as seen today, not only amongst underprivileged children, but across a wide section of society, set the tone for the innovative session in which the budding citizens gave vent to their brilliant imagination and innermost thoughts and feelings, portrayed in their artwork and expressed their strong concerns through slogans, some of which blended perfectly with the themes. The students of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan not only participated in the pot painting session but spontaneously volunteered to raise funds for supplementing the education cost of the less advantaged girl child. Thus most of them decided to carry the earthen piggy bank home, instead of submitting it to Prayasam coordinators. In fact, the most powerful voices of the students community, silently protesting against the adult society's total lack of concern was evident in almost all the visuals portrayed in their artwork. In the audio session too, the students aired their views and voiced their concerns freely. A debate competition on Child Rights was organized at Delhi Public School, Newtown in which the students of class participated enthusiastically, the topic being 'Are

children in Kolkata getting their Rights?' The entire group of children comprised of students who played the role of speakers and responsible judges, in collaboration with a teacher who facilitated the proceedings for and against the motion. The timekeepers were also chosen amongst their peers.

Most of the budding orators, specially emphasized on the denial of protection rights of children and their exploitation by different stakeholders in society. But apart from relevant quantitative data and an overview of the situation of children in India and more nearer home, in the seemingly joyous city of Kolkata, the extremely intense words spoken by some members of the participating teams, could possibly indicate, a sense of responsibility as well as taking onus, by playing the role of positive advocates in generating mass awareness for bringing about sustainable changes in attitude, as a first step towards giving all children their basic opportunities.

The principal of the participating school, felt it was children's participation in the real sense of the term. And was particularly appreciative of the idea of students being seated in the judges chair, learning the different parameters of evaluating their fellow mates, along with the finer aspects of impartial judgment.

Similar edutainment programmes based on the theme of Child Rights., initiated last year in school level competitions has motivated the students to spearhead a lot of peer group activities like organizing football matches aimed at donating books to create a library, opening of a non-formal education center and the whole process is orchestrated by the young masterminds who conduct classes on a rotatory basis.



# Prakaar

## WRECKED INNOCENCE

From the desk of the editor

"Children do not constitute anyone's property: they are neither the property of their parents nor even of society. They belong only to their own future freedom." -- Mikhail Bakunin

Children are innocent souls. They do not belong in the harsh world created outside of them. They reside in their own world, full of innocence and nonchalance towards the realities of our world. But today we are destroying their innocence. We force them to work for our own selfish greed. Their families coerced by the vortex of incessant and continuous poverty force them to give up their spiritual freedom for something as cheap as materialistic welfare. Child Labour is by the far the worst malady that afflicts the world. A society that cannot take care of its own children cannot have any moral grounds for continuing its existence. And today we stand the risk of being branded a society not for its children. The increasing numbers of children coerced by poverty paints an alarming picture. And

this is not a problem that only afflicts developing or under-developing countries. It is a problem that plagues all countries across all income barriers. We are citizens of the world. But more importantly we are citizens of India. Our motherland is also a country that is becoming increasingly plagued by these problems. We as a country and a society have failed the millions of children who work in carpet and fireworks manufacturing units across the country. We have lost them to increasing ignorance and then bureaucratic red tape. The problem is not irrelevant. As fellow citizens of India, it is we who must step forward and take initiative to protect our children. More than Indians, we are the members of a free society. Societies that must in all cost protect the very pillars, the future of every democracy.

Megha Gadia, Deepika Sahay, Devvart Poddar from DPS Megacity

## Mass Awareness Campaign

During World Child Rights Week Prayasam coordinators visited the participating schools. While implementing the program the students displayed great enthusiasm and took active interest as a group as well as individually in the mass signature campaign and expressed their views and feelings in the sensitive write ups on tapestry. Though it was evident that they were less aware on the related issues concerning child domestic workers, they were well informed about the various facets of child labor in society and its ill effects. It was also their first hands on experience in expressing their solidarity on wall-hanging cloth. Most teachers were highly appreciative of this kind of innovative activity as they felt this would instill in them core values and make them more socially responsible. The more vocal students who volunteered to participate in the video jam were eager to give off their best, as wanted to be a part of a short film that would be developed thereafter. On hearing the perception of the students Prayasam coordinators were of the opinion that mainstream students deeply realize and regret the amount of time, and resources both material and financial that they often misuse.

As a prelude to the mass signature campaign conducted in RBS (Formerly ABN AMRO bank), a brief introduction of Prayasam was followed by a group discussion on myriad forms of deprivation and exploitation faced by children, as well as exploring ways and means mobilizing people across a wide cross-section of society to fulfill the basic rights of all children and play a positive role in their empowerment either directly or indirectly. Initially the innovative mass awareness campaign to ensure the right to education and development of child domestic workers brought some respite from the monotony and work pressures experienced by the corporate staff in their daily

schedule but it was also an eye opener for most of them as to how they too can be involved in the process of development and empowerment of children, besides fulfilling the objectives of the organization's corporate social responsibility.

The youth responded overwhelmingly, as was evident in enthusiasm and keen interest displayed by college students of Techno India College, in the brief session conducted simultaneously to involve both the junior and senior students. All of them were of the opinion, that though the process of sensitization was a gradual, it was not the sole responsibility of the government and everyone should take onus and responsibility of building human resources and ensuring the basic rights of all children and adolescents.

Many budding speakers came forward to express their strong concerns in the video jam Stand Up and Take Action, for the underlying theme: Say Yes to Education for Child Domestic Workers, while the more reticent students vented out feelings in sensitive heart rending messages to express their solidarity, alongwith their signatures on tapestry. T-shirts and pens imprinted with the above message were distributed to the best speakers and participants.

The Principal and college authorities have expressed their eagerness to partner with Prayasam and involve the first year students in the N.S.S. (National Social Service) scheme and were looking forward to the participation of their students in small programmes on a regular basis, besides mega events, as they would be sensitized progressively. A good rapport has been built up with the students during this short tenure which has created a significant impact on the minds of the college youth, as most wanted to join Prayasam as student volunteers.





Let me start with a brief introduction of myself. My name is Sapta Rishi Bannerjee and I am a resident of Salt Lake City and currently a first year law college student. For quite sometime, I was looking forward to work in a social development organization, in order to gain experience in diverse working conditions. On hearing this I started talking to my seniors in order to learn whether I could work in my home city, Kolkata and which would be the ideal learning platform

for a mutual sharing of knowledge and skills. Almost all my seniors had given me the same advice-to work with a NGO which actually works. Thus I started to search for NGOs in and around Kolkata. I soon learnt that a NGO named Prayasam and located in Salt Lake, was engaged in empowering both mainstream and denied rights children, in West Bengal. The prospect of working very near to my home was very exciting for me. I started contacting Prayasam, if they would give me the opportunity to work with them. On receiving my request, the Prayasam team had replied back, I will not be allowed to do so, until I submit the proper documents. It gave me a feeling that this organization although existing in the social development sector, which to many of us brings a bad taste in the mouth, is actually a very professional one.. I was proved right upon my arrival. Seeing the various reports and talking to the development professionals and volunteers who have been associated with Prayasam since a long time, I soon learnt that they are indeed very committed about their work and are actually trying their level best to bring about some change and generate awareness in the hearts of the residents of not only Salt Lake and its adjoining areas, but also in local areas of several districts in West Bengal. On realising this, my heart was filled with respect and changed a lot of my views about the functioning of NGOs. Prayasam runs a large number of either self funded or non-self funded activities to provide basic needs such as education to the children in different field areas. They even implement activities to ensure that the present generation is well aware of the condition of children, deprived of their basic rights. Many development organisations stress upon the fact, that the children have to be given money, clothing, toys, etc, but Prayasam firmly believes that children have to be taught to think independently and stand on their own feet. The dedicated team believes that all children have immense potential and talent, which

have to be utilized in the best possible way. Spreading awareness on education and health among the children is the main focus of Prayasam's work. Its self funded projects such as Sahaj Path, Ekjot, Nirman, etc are specially meant for children of various age groups, in some of the most difficult areas in and around Kolkata. The children here are not tutored by adults, but only guided in the learning process. Sakha: is a program, which pairs an adult volunteer from the mainstream, with a child/adolescent (ages of 14-18 years), who may be at risk or from a vulnerable background. The objective of the program is to help the adolescent/child, who may be at risk or vulnerable, make the transition from an institutional support care system to an independent living environment. One-to-One mentoring can prepare and help the child/adolescent positively cope with challenges of daily life, difficult living conditions and learn to make critical decisions in life as he/she enters adulthood. Salt lake which is an area having people of various backgrounds starting from the rich industrialists to the extreme poor. Thus it provides us with ample opportunities to utilize the Sakha Program and helps us to reach the different sections of the society. Working in Prayasam has taught me a lot about the functioning of different NGOs and how a bunch of people can make a huge difference. Through the guidance of our honorable directors and the entire dedicated staff, I have learnt how to spread awareness and teach children in the most fun manner possible. Upon entrusting me with the responsibility of gathering information about how much the people of Salt Lake youth, age, professions alike are aware of the different social evils such as Child Labour still prevailing in the adjoining areas was a great learning experience for me. Not only did I learn how much the people are aware but also I got a chance to interact with a large population of interesting and wonderful people, some eager, some in a hurry, some totally ignorant and unaware. The fact that I most appreciate about Prayasam is how dedicated the entire team is towards their line of work. They seem to cross every hurdle in their path and continue in their venture to spread awareness among the people, the way the team handles the different problems, always keeping in mind the rights of the children, is truly appreciable. Thus as I can say I have got what I bargained for and proudly claim that, "yes I have done my duty to the society and have tried to provide as much as I could to the society owing all to PRAYASAM." This is the International year of the youth which will culminate on the 12th of August 2011. Thus I would urge all my fellow youth to rise up and take a stand to contribute as much as possible to the development of the society by organizing awareness campaigns, indirect help through networking is more than enough and will be highly appreciated by all. If I can work indirectly through networking, many of you are residing in and around Salt Lake can contribute in a much larger way, by getting involved in a wide range activities and innovative ventures, by sparing some of your valuable time, here at Prayasam.

Sapta Rishi Bannerjee, FE Block.

# Salt Lake

**I try to play my role in helping people get aware of the evils such as child labour. I have worked at NGOs and have worked with children from the most poverty stricken areas of the state. I love teaching and have always considered education the best way to spread awareness. I have even conducted a number of surveys in different areas of Salt Lake to determine the number of people who are actually aware of such persistent evils. It seems you have done a lot but have you got any positive results? A coin always has two faces. I have seen people absolutely mend their ways and have started helping the children by either teaching them or trying to get them admitted in the different government sponsored education centres. They have even become more polite and kind to the children. But on the other hand some people just have continued with their ways. Its a pity really to see grown up adults lacking the essentials required to separate us Humans from the beasts. I hope one day these disgusting people will understand and mend their ways. But I don't see that happening in the very near future. What at your opinion is our rightful responsibility? The only responsibility is to impart awareness and education. With these two tools one can achieve the tallest of mountains and can cross the deepest of seas.**

Have you ever witnessed a child being abused or forced to work?

**Yes on many countless occasions. It fills me with disgust to see or hear of such atrocities. Children are like flowers, they have to be nurtured regularly to help them bloom in the future. But people today consider children to be mere articles of use. They tend to use them as much as possible and then throw them out. They Don't even consider what happens to the poor child. Children need to play, study, learn but are forced to give up all of this just to earn the merest of wages.**

What do you think is your responsibility as a citizen?

**My responsibility is to spread education among the children so as to at least they can fight for their rights which have been guaranteed by the Constitution and the U.N. every day their rights are violated, they are abused and exploited beyond our imaginations.**

Do you know that the Government has planned to eradicate poverty and spread free and compulsory education around the country within 2015?

**Yes I have read such an article.....if I am not too wrong these are two of the 8 millennium goals of the government. But I hardly think it will be possible to reach these goals in about four years to come considering the fact that we are almost on the edge of entering 2011.**

Do you Consider the work being put in to eradicate and prevent child labour in Salt lake enough?

**The amount of work being done in Salt Lake is hardly sufficient. A lot more work has to be put in. At present I think only 40% of the total population is aware of such evils and are working to help the children. A number of Blocks are playing their parts by starting free schools and providing the children with food, clothes, books and toys. But everyone has to be made aware.**



Indrani Choudhuri, AL Block



Shubrajeeet Bhattacharya, Purbachal Housing Estate

## Prakaar

## KAJER DURGA



A Mass Awareness Campaign was launched by Prayasam in collaboration with Save the Children during the pujas for generating awareness amongst the block residents of Salt Lake City, to educate and empower Child/Adolescent Domestic workers in the different pandals has impacted the minds of the residents to a great extent. Many residents spontaneously volunteered to participate in this novel advocacy campaign by conducting the drawing and painting sessions specially organized to include all children and adolescents both mainstream and those deprived of their basic rights. Most school children took the lead for the cause, when they also brought along the child who helps in the household chores at home.

Parents and guardians were keen to know and understand about the kind of activities implemented by Prayasam and the issue of child abuse because now a days it is a big social concern. The team tried to orient them during this brief time on the necessity of education for all children irrespective

of their situation and social status and what role they can play in the process. At the end of the program many of them expressed their willingness to join Prayasam.

In this context, the concept of responsible citizenship and individual social responsibility was also shared with the several Block officials, including the President and Secretary of each block.

Most employers are not aware or concerned about the rights of child domestic workers. Thus Prayasam started a new initiative to mobilize and create awareness across a wide cross section of society towards being responsible citizens.

As the festive occasion is an appropriate time to disseminate vital information since people respond to even serious messages heartily and are unconsciously sensitized in the process. A drawing session for all including working children/adolescents, engaged as domestic helps, in the different blocks of Salt Lake City, was specially organized for this purpose in six blocks.

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Save the Children www.prayasam.org Prayasam

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কাজের  
লক্ষ্মীকে  
এবার সরস্বতী  
হবার সুযোগ  
করে দিয়েছেন,  
এখন আপনার  
লক্ষ্মীর পালা।

সুসু, আমাদের কাজের লক্ষ্মীকে এবার মতো নিরা

Save the Children www.prayasam.org Prayasam

কাজের  
সরস্বতী  
এবার শুরু করছে লোমাপাড়া,  
'দাদা বৌদি'র নজরে শুভ হল ওর  
নতুন ভবিষ্যত গড়া।

চন্দু, কাজের সরস্বতীরে শুভের দোরগোড়ায় পৌঁছে দিছি।

Save the Children www.prayasam.org Prayasam

মিসেস চান্দাজীর  
কার্তিক এবার  
গণেশের মতো  
ভোকেশনাল  
ট্রেনিং নিচ্ছে,  
আপনার  
কার্তিককে  
পাঠাচ্ছেনতো ?

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Save the Children www.prayasam.org Prayasam

Keeping in view the above issues, the information disseminated through the different IEC materials specially developed for the biggest festive occasion, called upon the employers/residents of Salt Lake to take the onus of fulfilling their right to education and developing their skills. The unique and thematic "Kajer Durga" series, portrayed real children whose names were associated with Goddess Durga and her children symbolizing their right to protection, education, empowerment for development and income generation, all encompassing the basic rights of all children and adolescents.

The differential treatment meted out towards real, deprived working children was particularly brought into focus, at the same time glorifying deities with identical names.

Short rhymes were also composed on the related rights, urging all employers to be more responsible and play a key role in realizing the rights of this most deprived and exploited, invisible workforce. Kiosks were also set up at the venue.

On Mahalaya day, Prayasam first launched the Kajer Durga awareness program through drawing session and display of IEC materials, at FD block and Labony Housing Estate. The entire event was covered by Salt Lake Telegraph.

These two blocks, host the most famous Puja pandals in Salt Lake and are well known for their innovative pandals in Kolkata too, attracting a lot of visitors every year. Thus the unique and thematic Kajer Durga series aimed at sensitising employers to empower their domestic helps, reached out to a large section of people both within Salt Lake and outside.

# Speaks

**W**e have to understand that children are the most important resource of the future. Our country's future is the children. We should all stand up against evils like child labour and exploitation then only some thing can be done.

What are the proper ways to spread awareness at your opinion?

The Government and the various Ngos working in the respective fields have to cooperate with each other and start implementing steps. To me this is very essential for the social welfare of the state and the nation. Education has to be spread without which awareness is useless. Education is the strongest weapon in the our arsenal at this present moment. Through education the children can grow up knowing their rights and can fight for them through awareness and education.

How long do you think it will take us to make the people aware?

It will take time.....a lot of time but I think people will become aware slowly and steadily.....as I said the faster the Ngos and Government start working hand in hand the faster we will see the awareness and education spreading. I consider that even a single piece of act can make a huge change.....but someone should have the courage to go out of the line and do something so that people can be inspired to follow. Together the three sectors {Government, Ngos and the citizens} can give the childhood that all children deserve.



Anuradha Das Adhikari, AE Block

Have you ever come across any child who was working in any shop or house instead of going to school?

Yes I have seen plenty.....and reminds me of the days when even I used to work like this.....we are facing much better times after my husband got a much good job. I was afraid that even I will have to force my young boys to start working in order to earn money instead of going to school

Now my eldest son is going to a proper school while I am preparing the youngest to sit for the admission tests in the coming education session.

Do you think the child who is working has the right of education even if his parents can't afford it?

Definitely.....Every child has the right to learn and play.....even if his parents are not able to afford it, the government has to sponsor that child.....

Do you think the mainstream kids and the underprivileged ones should be taught together.....or treated the same by everyone?

I think so.....they are mere children.....why should anyone see any child as different.....all children should be taught and educated together then only will the sense of unity, find place in their hearts.

What in your opinion is the reason for parents to force the children into labour?

Has to be poverty.....I least I remember my parents sacrificing my education and forcing me to get into work because of our state of poverty.....even with what I earned we could only afford one meal a day.....but I had decided that I will never let the same thing happen to my kids.....and thanks to God I did not have to see that day.



Nilima Mahapatra, Domestic Worker

Child Abuse, Child Labour or Child Exploitation-Which to you is more hideous?

Your asking whether the murder has been committed with a kitchen knife, a table knife or a paper knife. The fact is the murder has been committed and the victim is dead. In the same way I see no difference in these three evils. In all three of them the sufferer is the child, the victim is the child, and the criminals are murdering the childhood of the child.

What to you is the ideal punishment that should be given to such criminals?

Death! They should be hanged till death!

Why such a harsh punishment?

Why? Doesn't a court give death sentences to the actual murderers then why can't the same punishment be served to the murderers of the countless childhoods of the poor souls.

Who to you is to blame for all of this?

The Government, the corrupt officials as well as the corrupt NGOs. These corrupt officials gulp down the welfare money that is essentially needed for the children, for their educations, for ensuring their childhoods. A Number of NGOs today make blank promises during fund raising occasions just to see that their bank accounts get filled with all the different currencies around the world. The loans that the government takes from the international sources promising social welfare is spent on the ministers welfare only. When will people learn.....when will they rise against the corruption.

Which is more important to you education or awareness?

Both! but of off course! They should go hand in hand else it's a lost cause. The children have to be educated to spread awareness.....



Arnaja Chakrabarti, AE Block



## Prayasam Puja Platter



# Pukaar

Due to lack of submission of original write ups, Prayasam has decided to award the first and second prizes only, for the school newsletter competition.

**First - DPS Megacity**

Megha Gadia, Deepika Sahay, Devvart Poddar, Class-XI (Com.)

**Second - Hariyana Vidya Mandir**

Rishav Mukherjee, Ritiman Mukherjee, Siddhart Ghosh, Class-XI, Sec-B1

## Winners!!!

Calling upon all students, teachers, youth, homemakers and professionals of Salt Lake to pen down their perceptions for publication of the second issue of Pukaar in March, 2011. Kindly send your original entries to [prayasam1996@yahoo.com](mailto:prayasam1996@yahoo.com) within January 31, 2011.

**Together, we can create equal opportunities for all children!**

I have heard a lot about your NGO, as it has been actively participating with a number of events with our college, but I have not got the opportunity to work in any of those events till date....

Have you heard of the 8 millennium goals, that our government has promised, to achieve within 2015 ?

I am a very active reader of the daily news and remember reading it in one of the newspapers..... but I doubt they will meet the deadline seeing the condition today..... The year 2010- 2011 has been declared as the International Year of the Youth by the U.N. Do you think that the youth can play an effective role in initiating action oriented programmes?

The youth are making immense progress in every field .....The youth today now have a voice....people just can't ignore them, just because they are inexperienced.....the aged people now learn a lot more from the youth today. To me youth is an essential section of the society as they are aggressive.....tenacious.....open hearted and frank.....and our country today needs such citizens to make progress.....



Rahul Basak, FD block student of Techno India



First let me tell you that there is a solution to every problem, however big or small the problem may be and problems such as child labour can be appropriately dealt with.....but with assistance from the government....NGOs.....media and citizens.

Are you satisfied with the working of the government in this sector?

Well no matter how badly we blame the government for the lack of children's education or problems such as child labour, the fact is the main culprit are their parents. Firstly with their unplanned births.....secondly sitting hopelessly thinking that the govt or a NGO will one day burst through their front door and help them out of their miseries.....

Have you seen or heard any housewife like yourself employ children as domestic helps?

Earlier it was a trend to hire children to work day and night for the lowest of wages.....kids turn out to be the best domestic helps as they act obediently to the commands of their masters.....Thus yes I have seen a lot of housewives engage children for domestic work, but now it has reduced a lot.

Do you consider poverty being the main cause of child labor?

It is one of the main reasons definitely, but as I mentioned earlier, I consider the parents to be the main culprit.

Any word of advice to the youth of the nation as the UN has declared this year to be the Year of the Youth.

Youth is the main force that is driving our country ahead.....I would ask the youth to provide at least sometime, from their busy schedules to be associated with any awareness programs or NGOs .....with their aggression and passion they will not only become more aware themselves but will help to create awareness in society.



Jharna Ganguly, FE Block

## Your Heart Has The Power To Beat Child Domestic Work

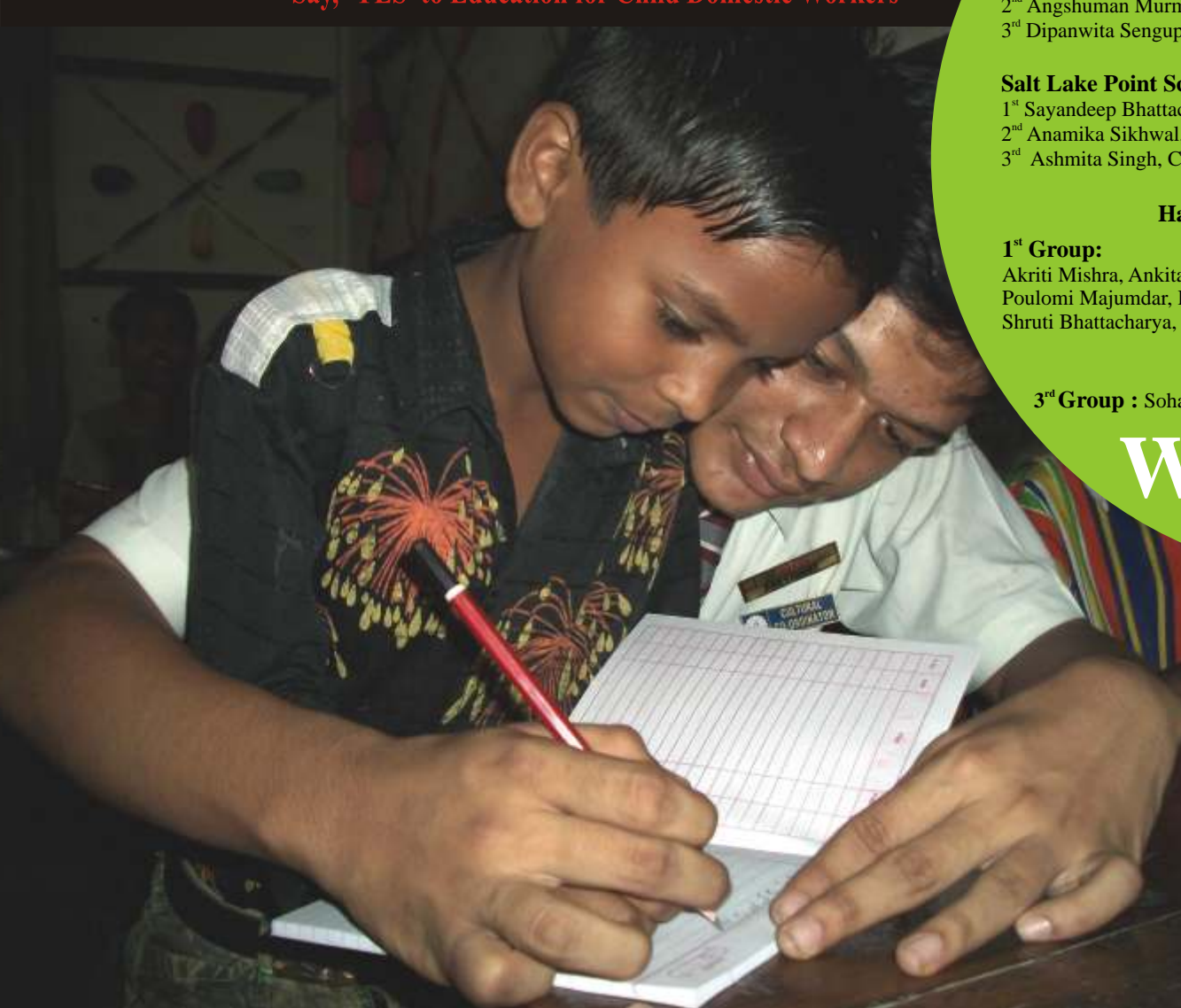
How To Stand Up, a video Just A Minute has started from 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in different schools, blocks, market areas, shopping malls, bus terminus, banks, government and non-government offices, institutions in and around Salt Lake City. From this year across Salt Lake City events will be organized of all types to bring attention to the worldwide problem that we all know - child labour. Our pledge - Join The Movement and get active on [www.prayasam.org](http://www.prayasam.org). This kind of mass awareness and mobilization campaign enables all constituencies and anyone

wanting to be a part of the mobilization to organize and participate in a wide range of events, relevant actions and initiatives to show their support for the Anti Child Domestic Worker Movement. We are encouraging people and their organisations to continue to incorporate the **Stand UP** moment and pledge reading into their events and where relevant and possible to invite media to cover their events and initiatives. Together, we can make child labour history. Join millions worldwide to 'STAND UP and TAKE ACTION' today!



Salt Lake City come together to  
**STAND UP & TAKE ACTION!**

Say, 'YES' to Education for Child Domestic Workers



**Bondhu School Award** - In a first time initiative, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School, Salt Lake, served as a drop-in centre for local children from the surrounding areas, with the assistance of Save the Children. This was a novel concept, first posed by the students of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in its effort to help these children with their studies, as well as, teach them handiwork and other skills. Many of these children are underprivileged, domestic workers, and school dropouts. The students raise funds in their school and use this money to run the weekend programme. In the eight months the programme has been running, there has been a Significant increase in enrolment, signaling the peer to peer attraction by these disadvantaged children.

The Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program is Prayasam's initiative to impact children using a peer to peer method. As suggested by its name,

PAL helps children become aware of issues and their effective solutions in the community by interacting with children of other communities. The forming of groups within PAL is essential for its longevity. PAL is an ideal example of Prayasam's belief of "each one, teach one".

Bandhu School is Prayasam's attempt to raise awareness on domestic child labour by recruiting children from higher income group schools and requiring them to teach child labourers within their own communities by using their school as a drop in center. The students teaching at the Bandhu School raise funds within their own school and use it to impart education regarding the rights of children on the child labourers. The Bandhu School concept not only helps the child labourers become aware of their opportunities, but the students teaching at the school also help their families become aware of the issue, and possibly prevent future escalation.

Youth should be given a chance to take an active part in the decision-making of local, national and global levels. Welcome to the website developed and managed by the youth. Here you will find information on events planned throughout the year, as well as suggestions on how to get involved and participate. If you are holding an event in celebration of the International Year of Youth (IYY) and would like to register it on our calendar of events, please let us know. Everyone is invited to promote the ideals of peace, freedom, progress and solidarity towards the promotion of youth development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We have received a large number of emails from youth informing us of the activities that you are planning to celebrate the Year. We are thrilled about this enthusiastic response and encourage you to keep up the creativity! This Year is about YOUTH. We support and encourage such endeavours where the need for dialogue between youth and other generations as well as among youth in different parts of the country can start rolling. It is up to you to make use of this opportunity and make your voices heard. The progress achieved during this Year in each of these areas will lay the foundation for further work in youth development, including the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

A new website for ALL!!!

Map Your Difference

is a Web site for all that encourages them to dream real for their community and Denied -Rights friends and to express their ideas while interacting with each other.

Happy Surfing...  
Www.prayasam.org



Save the Children

Prayasam



Prayasam's campaign, **Let's UNITE to create a tapestry of People's Solidarity** is to Create Opportunities for Working Children is a poignant movement that will involve and include the schools and colleges as well as other professional outfits to celebrate and commemorate the support of the entire society towards eliminating child labour. To participate in this campaign, one is not required to be an artist or a creative person. All one has to do is choose to create a panel of the quilt together. Each panel must be measured 4ft x 6 ft. Simultaneously, Prayasam will be making a digital on-line version of the quilt and list the contributor's name and school on the website, **Map Your Difference**. One can choose to use paint, scraps or sew an embroidery in the most effective design, theme and story on Create Opportunities for Working Children. The entire process, we hope, will be a powerful tool to reach out to more mainstream students and their teachers with the aim of raising awareness on the plight of the Child Domestic Workers and be a drive for change.

## Satrangee 2010

### Sri Aurobindo Institute of Education :

- 1<sup>st</sup> Suman Dutta, Class IX-A
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Angshuman Murmu, Class X-A
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dipanwita Sengupta, Class IX- A

### Salt Lake Point School:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sayandeep Bhattacharjee, Class VIII-B
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Anamika Sikhwal, Class IX (Com)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ashmita Singh, Class IX (Com)

### Haryana Vidya Mandir:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Group:

- Akriti Mishra, Ankita Saha
- Poulomi Majumdar, Ritika Chatterjee
- Shruti Bhattacharya, Srabani Bhattacharya

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Group :

- Dhiraj Jalan
- Divyang Khemka, Kushal Thirani
- Mohit Sharma, Aman Bansal
- Raghav Chamara, Rahul Choudhury
- Keshav Bhauwala, Mohit Lalwani

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Group : Sohan Majumder, Debjyoti De, Gopala Agarwal, Vivek Jaiswal

## Winners !!!

## Interview with Principal of Vasishno Devi Academy on this campaign

**Q. What role can students play to create opportunities for working children especially, Child Domestic Workers?**

A. Mrs. Raha, Principal of Vaishno Devi Academy, is of the opinion that the school can be utilized as an advocacy platform and students can develop their own IEC materials, like poster-slogan, and comics and display them alongwith clippings of relevant news reports on the school notice board to create awareness amongst parents, students, staff and general public/visitors. Students can also express their thoughts, share personal experiences or some relevant messages, in the school assembly as well as put them up on the soft board in class. Mainstream children should also initiate the work amongst themselves by calling upon their friends at home during vacations and hold concrete discussions on how to generate awareness within the neighbourhood and involve other families and friends in the local areas. They can organize sports activities, entertainment games for all children by contributing their playing materials and encourage working children to participate in the games.

**Q. How can teachers also involve themselves and contribute effectively?**

A. Core group of teachers can be formed in every school, who will be responsible for delegating the work on a larger scale, by interacting with the Students' Council members and community at all levels including representatives of local clubs alongwith the students. Teachers can guide the students in developing thematic and issue based advocacy materials portraying the various facets of child domestic work, sensitize parents on the issues concerned. Everybody should realize that the student community must not only respond to the needs of their less privileged counterparts during natural calamities/disasters, but also on a regular basis.

**Q. Do you think it would be possible to open a drop-in-centre in the school premises?**

A. The possibility of opening a drop in centre can definitely be explored, but the implementation such a program should be in April/May, i.e. at the beginning of the new academic session, so that it can be included in the school routine, specially in the Work Education classes. We can then keep it rolling and gradually involve parents to become part of the faculty.

**Q. How do you think would it be possible to bring the children to the school platform?**

A. It is not easy, but if the effort continues, which would also probably be painstakingly difficult at times, to convince the children and employers, it would definitely be possible in the near future.

**Q. What is your opinion of the project 'Creating Opportunities for Working Children'?**

A. I personally believe that the student community has a vital role to play in raising awareness on the plight of their less privileged peers. They can generate awareness on upholding the basic rights of child and adolescent domestic workers, by organizing innovative programmes, expressing their views and opinions through different communication media like newsletters, using web technologies as well as directly involving themselves as peer volunteers. I congratulate your efforts for initiating the process, though it will definitely take sometime before all can realize the necessity of eradicating this unjust practise and empowering every child to attain his fullest potential.

