

## Concept Note on Child Labour Elimination Program (CLEP)

### Introduction to Hand in Hand India

Hand in Hand India (HIH India) is a registered public charitable trust dedicated to the development of disadvantaged groups, especially rural and tribal families in the states of Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and West Bengal, through grassroots action, research, and education. Registered in 2002, HIH India initially worked on child labour elimination, education and women's empowerment projects. Over the years, HIH India has evolved an integrated strategy to address the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment. It aims at building self-reliance amongst disadvantaged groups by alleviating poverty through sustained income generating programmes. Hand in Hand India is currently involved in implementing a unique Integrated Community Development model for poverty alleviation and creating jobs.

### Child Labour Elimination Programme (CLEP)

Our approach involves identification of children through survey, rescue, rehabilitation and mainstreaming of drop-out and out-of-school children. Other important components include awareness generation, education component, and enforcement of laws on child labour and convergence of various welfare schemes form important components.

Child Labour Elimination Programme (CLEP) has so far created 1068 Child Labour free Panchayats in six districts – Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore and Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu and Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh. It runs 8 Residential Special Training Centres (RSTC) and 1 Non-Residential Special Training Centres (NRSTC) for out-of-school children, 37 Transit Schools for young adults whose age is between 15-18 years and 369 supplementary Children Learning Centres (CLCs) for primary school slow learners in govt. schools.

### Residential Special Training Centres (RSTCs)

Community mobilization and emphasis on education for children with abolition of child labour being non-negotiable is a sustainable strategy to ensure a future free of poverty and deprivation for children.

The problem compounds when children stop attending school for months together or become engaged in bonded labour or other forms of labour. Not only is their physical growth, mental development and health affected, but they also lose crucial years of childhood that should be spent joyfully in schools and among family & friends. The suffering of these children, rescued from various industries like weaving, brick kiln units, rice mills, stone quarries, automobile repair shops and those dropped out of school due to migration, is largely unrealized as they are

not completely aware of what they are going through. When the field workers of Hand in Hand India identify such children, they are found to be far behind their physical age in terms of development, schooling as well as learning capacity.

The vulnerability and deprivation progresses geometrically for girl children as they are at risk of being married well below the legal age of marriage. In many cases they become child labourers, especially domestic work, face abuse or even trafficked in rare cases. The obvious choice of putting these children back to school fails because they can neither sit in a class with children half their age nor be able to keep up with their education in a higher class which is appropriate for their age. Much more than this, the untold trauma of lost childhood and feeling of insecurity is one which is very hard to overcome.

**The Residential Special Training Centre (RSTC)** then become the most appropriate place for such children, bruised by the world to heal, flourish and rediscover the lost joys of childhood, all over again. A RSTC targets children in the age group 6 – 14 years and focuses on bridging the difference between psychological, intellectual and physiological development of the child. This is done using special learning material designed specifically for children who have lost months or sometimes even years of formal learning in an empathetic, safe, comfortable, healthy and joyful atmosphere. The teachers and staff are also resident in the facility to take care of the children round the clock.

Hand in Hand India had so far run twelve such centres, the first of which was started in 2004, with the support of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All) a Govt. of India program. The children here are provided counselling, given healthy and nutritious food as recommended by the Govt. All facilities such as clothing, shelter, stationery, water and sanitation are provided. A medical check-up is conducted every month and individual health-cards are maintained. Children are taken on an exposure cum education picnic every year and monthly various competitions are conducted to hone their talents.

### **Teaching Methodology:**

Teacher-student ratio is maintained at 1:15, wherein teachers are able to give individualised attention to students. Teachers stay in the residential centre with children and are thus able to review the academic progress of every child on a day-to-day basis. Direct, one-to-one discussion helps children solve academic issues. Children are taught Tamil, English, Maths, Science and Environmental science, through Simplified Activity Based Learning (SABL) methodology and then on to Simplified Active Learning Methodology (SALM) as prescribed by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

**Milestones in CLEP**

Activities / Achievements	As on 1 May 2016
<b>Residential Special Training Centres (RSTCs) &amp; Non-residential Special Training Centres(NRSTCs)</b>	
No. of RSTCs	9
Children in RSTCs	498
No. of NRSTCs	1
Children in NRSTCs	22
<b>Transit Schools &amp; Children Learning Centres (CLCs)</b>	
No. of Transit Schools	42
Children in Transit Schools	648
No. of CLCs in Project Districts	204
Children in CLCs in Project Districts	4,725
<b>Other Centres</b>	
No. of centres	1
Children in Balwadis	28
Children in Mahatma Gandhi School	882
Children in MG Middle School	208
Children in Child Sponsorship Programme	65
<b>Total Children in Hand in Hand Schools</b>	<b>7,076</b>
<b>Children enrolled and mainstreamed in government schools</b>	<b>258,246</b>
<b>Child Labour Friendly Panchayats **</b>	
Village Panchayats	1,118
<b>Child Rights Protection Committees (CRPCs)</b>	
No. of CRPCs	1,017
Volunteers in CRPCs	16,191
<b>Project Districts:</b>	
Kancheepuram, Vellore, Tiruvallur, Thirupur (Tamil Nadu)	
Dhar (Madhya Pradesh)	

\*\* Child Labour Friendly Panchayats : A Panchayat / village commune where no child is in labour and every child is attending school