CHAPTER - V

PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS TO ERADICATE CHILD LABOUR

NGOS FOR THE ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR:

Non-governmental organizations are playing vital role in the task of elimination of the child labour at Markapur. On request by the ministry of labour (of the government of India) a multi-crore project was designed by the ILO for the Markapur region with the activities as follows. a) To identify the children of age between eight and fourteen years, employed in all sectors of slate activity namely in mines, quarries and slate factories situated in and around Markapur area and to remove children from the more hazardous areas of work. b) To rehabilitate these children by evolving a constructive programme such as providing non-formal education and vocational training and other support activities such as nutrition programme, healthcare etc. There was also an attempt to give income generating schemes beneficial to the families of the children. But this scheme was never implemented due to political and social reasons. To implement this scheme some societies like Jagruthi are formed with district collector as chairman and the government recognised the necessity of involving NGOs to ensure implementation of rehabilitation projects. Consequently the responsibility of Jagruthi in implementation
was given to NGOs like Assist India while the financial aspect is continued to be looked after by Jagruthi itself.

**JAGRUTHI SOCIETY, ASSIST INDIA, CALL SOCIETY:**

Jagruthi society was registered under 1860 societies act in 1988 under chairmanship of district collector of Prakasam district, with the members as district officers of different organizations like SC/ST/BC welfare associations, district education officer, revenue divisional officer of Markapur, NGO representative nominated by collector (which is Assist India). The activities are given below.

1. To implement the activities planned for child labour rehabilitation. 2. To take all the steps to prevent and eradicate child labour. 3. To coordinate and see that services meant for child labour reach the goal. The advisory committee will meet once in three months and review the activity.

The project staff is assistant director and two field officers and other office staff. The activities are: (1) To make survey of child labour in hazardous occupations. (2) To conduct awareness generation programs. (3) To conduct the programs and establishment and manage the special schools of National child labour Project. These functions are assisted by Assist India (an NGO). (4) To propose to start new programmes on child labour project with the aid of world- bank. (5) To implement the DFID (Department for International Development) and ILO project for child labour rehabilitation in Markapur area. (6) To initiate income generation
programs and employment generation schemes to the families of child labour.\textsuperscript{46}

**ASSIST–INDIA:**

Assist India is an NGO organization registered in 1985. It is actively involved in the programs of government in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh with headquarters at Chilakaluripeta which town is at 150 kilometers from Markapur. On November 1988. Assist India was entrusted with responsibility of implementing the ILO funded project. This organization was assigned immediate targets like, conducting base line survey, creating community organizations, establishment of special school for child workers, initiation of income generation programs and employment generating schemes to the families of the relieved child labour.

During the first phase of its operation Assist India has started base line survey. Before that survey the Assist India has attempted to create awareness and consciousness among villagers and motivate the slate workers to send their children to school. Assist India has promoted non-formal and vocational education by taking over a special school started by Jagruthi society. The school is of residential type which is at a distance of eight kilometers from Markapur on Ongole road. The survey conducted by Jagruthi–Assist spotted many children in twenty six villages and admitted them in the residential school.

\textsuperscript{46} Jagruthi society- Activities at Markapur and out line of ILO-OPEC action program, position paper- District collectorate, Ongole-1999.
Assist India day school centers (mid-day meal schools) were started for the children, who could not be accommodated in residential school. The children in these schools were given learning material and books freely. The mid day schools are started at following main villages, Ragasamudram, Kaluzuvalapadu, Garladinne, Mekalavari-pally, Buddapalli, Surepalli, Tummalacheruvu, Jagannadapuram, Pedayachavaram, Moddulapalli.

Assist India child care centers are started in Markapur area to create an attitude among children towards education at a very early age. In villages children of age three to six are taken during the day-time when the parents go to mine work. The children in these centers are helped to develop their senses by way of songs, games, story telling and other visual aids and by providing supplementary nutritious diet.

This has become an essential pre-requisite preventing them from going to work in the slate industry along with their parents. In order to create awareness among the villages, Assist India has conducted health camps like TB camp and eyes testing camps. In addition to this they have encouraged the adult education programs in the evening.

**Limitations of Jagruthi-Assist India:**

The success of Assist India programs on child labour is dependent on the compensating the family income lost by removing the child from work. Thus Assist India announced the schemes of bank loans and monthly stipend of Rs100/- to the families. However these were not
implemented due to banks insisted on security. The programs by Assist India were not encouraging. The children are dropping out of schools, after admissions. Interviews with the children and villagers brought out that existing financial and other infrastructure facilities are inadequate. The experiences of the children who come out of the school during the initial stages seems to have been harsh. There were unhygienic conditions at the residential hostel by which children were affected by diseases like scabies. Girl children were made to do extra work like cleaning vessels, fetching water, cleaning rooms etc. The children have reasons for dropping out such as ill health, no proper facilities, no proper teaching and economic reasons. Many officials have complained about inefficient operation by the Assist India. Also the Assist India runs the school with some students of whose parents are not slate workers.

**CALL Society:-** Call society stands for Community Action for Literacy and Livelihood Society. This is another NGO which has been active by participating in various development and awareness generation programs at Markapur and surrounding villages. CALL Society pays special attention to the economic uplift of the backward community.\(^{47}\)

\(^{47}\) Chandra Bose, coordinator (Education) CLAP- Formal and non formal education in Markapur -Special schools and their impact on child labour- Published by ILO area office-1994.pp.13-19.
**The International Initiatives:**

The International labour organization has launched the global project; International program on the elimination of child labour (IPEC). The main objective of IPEC is to contribute for effective abolition of child labour. The NCLP–Markapur was one of the projects started by ILO. The immediate objective is to remove the child worker under the age of fourteen years from the slate industry. The agenda for action program covered four major areas.

1) Regulation and employment. 2) Employment and income support. 3) Compulsory universal primary school education and non-formal education. 4) De-bureaucratization and community wise involvement.

The IPEC integrated area specific approach has worked on the target groups to achieve elimination of employment of child labour in hazardous work. Child labourers in the identified hazardous work in the mines of Markapur would be provided with education, skill and training. Families of Child labour would be helped to upgrade their income levels.

The National childlabour project society (NCLPS) has been involved in implementing this project. The out puts from this project are as follows. 1) Reduced child labour in the Markapur slate Industry through an Active Tripartite Forum. 2) Survey to identify the childlabour in hazardous work in Markapur. 3) 2000 children of age group of eight to twelve years are with drawn from hazardous employment and provided full time education. 4) Skilled training program is provided to
children of age group thirteen to sixteen, who are withdrawn from hazardous work. 5) Community supported drive to the children of age group five to eight years and are enrolled in school. 6) Government institutions mobilized and strengthened towards the prevention and elimination of child labour in Markapur. 7) Mothers of child labour are organized as self-help groups and provided the income generation opportunity. 8) Community awareness is mobilized to prevent and eliminate child labour in Markapur. 9) Community level support structures are created in Markapur. 48

UNICEF and labour Department on Childlabour:

UNICEF has brought several departments of the government, starting from labour inspectorate to Factory inspectorate, Women and child development, Social welfare department, Judiciary, Trade unions and NGOS, to work on the same issue of child labour and achieve convergence among them. The labour department in association with the UNICEF is bringing several publications on child labour eradication.

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE ON CHILD LABOUR (NRCCCL):

NRCCCL is the main cell established at V.V.Giri National labour Institute in March 1993. It develops the capabilities of individuals,

48 NCLP, Markapur-Sensitization program on child labour problems- NCLP, Rayavaram, Markapur.
groups and organizations working towards the elimination of child labour with financial support from the ministry of labour, government of India and UNICEF. The functions are given as below.

a) Documentation and disseminations of information on child labour of Markapur.

b) Research activities to upgrade the existing information about child labour.

c) Publication of information on different aspects of child labour.

d) Training program conducting for in-charge officers.

e) Workshops and seminars for the child labour project authorities.

f) Technical support to various trade unions, NGO’s, academic institutions.

g) Prepare Networking with international agencies, state labour institutions, NGO’s, Trade unions, Employee organizations and judiciary.

NRCCL has conducted many work shops at Markapur for eradication of child labour\textsuperscript{49}

\textsuperscript{49} Naidu D.A.P.—NRCCL paper, Elimination of child labour-VVGNLI- 1993.
**Trade Unions – their role:**

Trade unions can act as the eyes and ears of the government’s enforcement machinery, because they are much closer to the grass roots reality. They can also take up action oriented rehabilitation projects and programs for the rehabilitation of child labourers. The trade unions are performing the following important roles for the elimination of child labour.

1) Organization and mobilization of the public for creation of awareness and congenial climate for mass movement against child labour.

2) Building pressure on the employers to replace child workers with adult workers.

3) Ensuring proper and effective enforcement of legislation relating to child labour.

4) Ensuring payment of minimum wages to every worker and thereby remove the advantage for the employer to employ children.

5) Educate and inform the parents of the child labour about the consequence of child labour and importance of education.

6) Trade Unions are there to bring a significant change in the perspective and attitudes of the parents of child labour, since they have direct access to them.
The following major unions and their leaders are contacted for their views.

1) Indian National Trade union congress (INTUC):

2) All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).

3) Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU.)

4) Bhartiya mazdoor sangh (BMS).

5) Hind mazdoor sabha (HMS).

6) Design slate factory owners Association.

7) Mine owners Association.

The above people explained that all the unions combined and the following out-come has come out as action against child labour employment. 1) Setup coordination committees on child labour eradication. 2) Select one sector and area for concrete action against child labour employment in slate industry. 3) Prepared project outline. 4) Propagate convention no.182 on the worst form of child labour. 5) Set up steering committee of Trade Unions at state level.50

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50 Work shop on expected out come of the group work by the Trade unions, AITUC, CITU, BMS,INTUC,HMS,TNTUC—held at central court hotel, Hyderabad-29th January, 2001.
Workshop for National Trade Union Leaders on child labour and IPEC:

Workshop was organized in July 1993 at International conference hall of YMCA NEW-Delhi by National resource centre on child labour of National labour Institute, Noida in collaboration with Ministry of labour, Government of India and IPEC–ILO New Delhi.

Total of twenty seven national level trade union leaders representing the INTUC, BMS, HMS, AITUC and CITU have attended the workshop. The major themes covered are given as follows. 1).Overview on the nature of child labour in India. 2).The International Programme on Elimination of child labour (IPEC) and its relevance and scope in India.3) IPEC and the role of Trade unions.4) Area specified project based approach to eliminate child labour.

Overview of the problem was explained by Dr.Mahaveer Jain, coordinator, childlabour cell and IPEC, National labour Institute. He stressed that the problem was mainly due to more drop-outs from school going children. The drop-out is because of a) Lack of time to attend school b) Heavy work loads c) Utter poverty and hence need to work d) Non availability of school uniforms, text books etc. e) Dislike by others f) Lack of motivation by parents g) Less exposure to the family members h) Non existence of nearby school.
Knowing the above, the following strategies were stressed in the workshop:

a) The basic focus should be on the child. The Trade Unions can help in eliminating child labour in the sub-contracting activities in the urban formal sector.
b) Involvement of community in the process of elimination of child labour. The Trade Unions can undertake awareness campaign as they can create a favorable platform. The working children can be involved in this process.

c) The Trade Unions should make efforts to revise the existing school curriculum.

d) Trade Unions may involve themselves in the programs of ILO, research activities, action projects/programs etc.\textsuperscript{51}

\textbf{The IPEC and child labour:}

The workshop was addressed by shri M.P Joseph National coordinator IPEC-ILO area office New Delhi. He stressed on the concern of ILO about the minimum age of children for employment. Convention no 138 which was adopted in 1973 about minimum age was ratified by forty countries all over the world, but India has not ratified. However India was the first country to sign MOU to implement the IPEC with the ILO in 1992. National steering committee was set up on basis of MOU and this body was given the power to select the action program proposal.

\textsuperscript{51} Work shop for state level trade union action against child labour at A.P. Role of trade unions-ILO state based project-1999.
for funding by ILO in India. The IPEC in India has the following three main objectives. (a) The progressive elimination of child labour (long term objective). (b) Combining the child labour in all of its forms so as to lead to the progressive elimination of child labour (Intermediate objective). (c) Projection of working children (immediate objective).

The strategies developed under IPEC are Area/Target projects and have the involvement of NGOs. The IPEC encourages the project proposals by trade unions.52

**AITUC view on child labour:**

The present change in the socio-economic conditions of India has brought more miseries to children. Under these circumstances, child labour should be eradicated totally. Therefore primary education should be made accessible, attractive and compulsory as thereby employment of children under age of ten years will be eliminated. Social attitudes as mentioned below must be changed a) Parental attitudes of considering it as the duty of the child to work and support the family and their right on those earnings. b) Public attitude that child labour is inevitable as long as there is poverty. c) Employer attitude, of charity and a feeling of goodness in employing children and saving their lives, has to be charged. Payment of the prescribed minimum wages has to be ensured

to working parents along with credit facilities so that they do not fall into
debt-traps which lead to pledging of them selves or their children.

**INTUC view on child labour:**

Matter of minimum age of employment must be uniform. Despite of several legislations on child labour, factories employing workmen below certain number, employ child labour. It is because, if the working strength is less than ten incase of factories working with power and twenty in the other cases are not covered under factory act. Government of India has prohibited employment of children in certain specific occupations and processes by child labour by the act.

It is because, if the working strength is less than ten incase of factories working with power and twenty in the other cases are not covered under factory act. Government of India has prohibited employment of children in certain specific occupations and processes by childlabour by the act. The INTUC’s view is that the children are pulled into the fold of labour by the employers with intense desire to maximize profits at cheap cost of child labour.53

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53 Work-shop on expected outcome of group work by six trade unions AITUC,CITU,BMS,INTUC,HMS,TNTUC- held at central court hotel, Hyderabad-29-01- 2001.
**CHILD LABOUR AND MEDIA:**

Hardships of labour at a young age, mal-nourishment, lack of minimum health care, neglect and abuse, poverty and ignorance are some of the certain conductive aspects of physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth of children. Mobilization of all organizational sources is essential for a substantial improvement of health and well being of children. It has been realized that media can make an indispensable contribution in this direction. If its effective utilization is planned, it is said that media propagates ideas, disseminates information and creates awareness. The media will convey the messages of children rights, violation of child labour act etc. T.V, press, radio, etc. have been one of the key contributors to making child labour issue one of the main subjects for discussion. All messages should include the rights of child.⁵⁴

**M.V. FOUNDATION AND CHILD EDUCATION:**

M.Venkataraangaiah Foundation (MVF), Hyderabad is one of the NGOs which has done a commendable job in eradication of child labour at Ranga Reddy district. MV Foundation is working towards abolition of child labour since 1991 through making mainstream education accessible to the children. Under project support from ILO–IPEC, the foundation has focused attention on children working in factories.

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⁵⁴ NRCCL-Child labour and media, consultation report of meet at National labour Institute, Noida, pp.4-8
(biscuit making, plastic bags, power looms etc) and on girl children and bonded child labour working at cotton seed agricultural fields, in the rural part of the Ranga Reddy district. Youth volunteers especially those belonging to the first generation learners, have played a prominent role in mobilizing parents of child labour, school teachers and employers to remove children from work and put them in school each year during the schools reopening period of the academic year. This is preceded by street theatre, child to child campaign, marches in the village, local level public meeting etc, that highlight the importance of schooling. Parent teacher’s association has been formed to extend resource support to government schools and also sensitize the administration to the educational needs of the community. The local bodies (village elected bodies) have also been involved in the campaign. About 300 government school teachers have formed a “Forum for liberation of child labour” and they have relentlessly worked in this project. This resulted that in seventy villages all children in the age group of five-eight years are in schools and in fifteen villages all children in the age group of five-fourteen are in schools. These fifteen villages are already fully free of child labour. In total about 50,000 children have been reached to the schools by the M.V.Foundation.

The Unique strategies adopted by the M.V.Foundation are replicated in several organizations and places throughout the country. It was commended by international agencies throughout the world. Several enforcement officers, government officers and judicial officers
who had visited the camps run by the MVF, are moved by the sight of joyful learning by children and experienced happiness during the meeting with the child labour who are in classes. It is noticed that many individuals who are determined after the visit to camps decided to contribute their might to combat the child labour. It is worth while visiting camps run by such an organization.

Mamilapudi Venkatarangaih Foundation (MVF), has its base in Ranga Reddy district, has developed a unique and powerful approach to deal with the twin problems of child labour and illiteracy. They started with releasing thirty bonded child labour. M.V.Foundation provides challenging and refreshing counter to prevailing views on the related issues of child labour and education, Denying poverty to be the main determinant of child labour, it believes that the status-quo has to be challenged to a stage where there is a consensuses about the norm that every child should be in school and outrage is expressed at the existence of child labour. This underlying philosophy has crystallized into the following charter of basic principals that guides the organization’s work.

a) All children must attend formal full-time day schools. b) Any child out of school is considered as child labour. c) Any work/labour is hazardous and harms the overall growth and development of child. d) There must be total abolition of child labour e) any justification perpetuating the existence of child labour must be condemned.

M.V. Foundation believes that the only way to eradicate child labour is through formal education. Non formal education will never
eradicate illiteracy. It keeps the roots and stem of child labour intact and it removes only branches, but they sprout back again. The nonformal education is that child is asked to work all the day to earn income and then sit with a teacher for an hour in the evening to study. The MVF has framed its basic principles as given below. All children must attend full time formal day schools. Any child out of school is a child labour. All hazardous working conditions harms the overall growth and development of the child. There must be total abolition of child labour. Any justification for existence of child labour must be condemned. These Basic principles were not accepted by the society at Markapur, hence M.V.Foundation was not successful at Markapur region. Hence the ASSIST has taken care of Education of working children.55

**WORKING CHILDREN ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER NGO S:**

Some of the other NGOS working in the field of child labour are given below.

Ruchika Foundation-Bhubeneshwar, Centre of concern for child labour (CCFL)-New Delhi, Centre for Rural Education and Development Action (CREDA)-Mirjapur, Child in need institute (CINI)-Calcutta, Concerned for working children (CWC)-Bangalore, Institute for cultural Research and Action (ICRA)-Bangalore, Institute of Psychological and Educational Research (IPER) Calcutta, National Institute of Educational planning and

MULTI DIMENSIONALITY OF POVERTY AND MULTIPLE POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS:

As the poverty is a multidimensional, different types of the poverty alleviation programs have been developed and tailored to fit the specific dimensions for poverty relating to health, education, food security and other basic services at Markapur. Both central and state governments have considerable enhanced allocation of funds for the provision of health, sanitation and other facilities which promote capacity building and well being of the poor. Anti-poverty programs include not only the transfer of assets but also a mechanism to build into these people of knowledge, skills, which enable them to undertake self employment, education coupled with public works programs to cope up with poverty.

These programs aim at self sufficiency to the rural poor people of the project area. They stimulate the mine workers to feel their responsibility towards the development (overall development) as-well as the education of their children. The self help groups, planed under these programs will lead to the development of Mine workers cooperative

56 Website www.childlabourstudy.org. – Govt principle study centre kamalapuri colony, Hyderabad.
The creation of facilities and conditions required for implementation of the programs mentioned below will definitely help in reduction of poverty in the project area. The Poverty alleviation Programs are given below.

1) IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Program).

2) TRYSEM (Training of Rural Youth for self employment).

3) DWCRA (Development of women and children in Rural Area).

4) SITRA (Supply of Improved Tool Kits for Rural Artesians).

5) EAS (The employment Assurance Scheme).

6) FFW (Food for work program).

7) BSY (Balika Samridhi Yojana).

8) SGSY (Swarnajayanthi Gam SwarajYojana)

1) IRDP was launched in 1978 -79 with an objective to provide assistance to rural poor in the form of subsidy and bank credit for the produce and create employment opportunities. This programme is effective only in some parts of Markapur town only. It is not fruit-full in villages where child labour is more. This is because of lack of irrigation facilities and lack of industrial development opportunities. Creation of these facilities will help to improve the society of project area.
2) Trysem is to provide “Technical” and “Entrepreneurial” skills to the rural poor in the age group of eighteen to thirty five years so as to seek an employment. The youth who has taken training is of the opinion that the capital amount for starting the self employment is not available. Banks are asking for security for the loans and they cannot afford to get the security.

The formation of mine workers cooperative society will help, in this aspect, up to maximum extent.

3) DWACRA is sub scheme of IRDP formulated in 1982 -1983 with focus on rural poor women to provide them suitable income generation according to their skills .The DWCRA groups are existing at villages near by, but are governed by higher caste people. It has not reached the root level. Hence the child labour is still existing in SC / ST / BC caste people.

4) SITRA program is also sub scheme of IRDP. Toolkits are provided to kummari, kammari and other artecians. However the Vaddera community still log on with their traditional work of labour in mines, even though alternative tool kits are supplied to them.

5) JRY has been implemented to generate meaningful job employment opportunities. The local politicians are not interested in the development of interior rural area which consists of mostly rocky land and it is in the hands of local politicians.
6) EAS is meant mostly for agriculture labour and hence only some parts of project-area is benefited.

7) FFW (Food for work program) aims at showing the work at out-side for social community development such as roads culverts etc. However most of the work is diverted to the mine side development, leaving the labour force to work in mines.

8) BSY program is for creating the special intervention to raise the overall states and knowledge of girl child.

9) SGSY: All the sub programs of IRDP such as DWCRA, TRYSEM, and SITRA were integrated into single programme called as SGSY. This has conceived information of Self Help Groups (SHGs), capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructural support, technology transfer credit and market linkages. Each SHG has ten to fifteen women members. The banks have sanctioned the loans to Mutually Aided Cooperative Thrift and Credit Society (MACTCS) which is formed by SHGs. These SHGs are encouraged in the manufacture of following products.(1) Detergent powder 2) Laundry soaps 3) Manufacture of bunians 4) Readymade garments 5) Weaving and cloth making 6)SGSY will ensure upgradation of technology in identified activity such as mining and manufacture of slates.7)The SGSY will be implemented by the DRDAs through village administrative councils.
The process of planning, implementation and monitoring would integrate the banks and other financial institutions. The technical institutions support the programs.\textsuperscript{57}

Programs of ILO and means of action.

The protection of children, as an essential element of social justice, is part of the preamble to the constitution of the International labour organization (ILO). ILO sought at combating child labour through adoption and application of international labour standards which are expressed in-terms of conventions and recommendations. Conventions no 138 applies to work done by children for self employment, with provisions as under.

1) In the context of child labour, a working definition of a “child” may be a person below the age of fifteen years. This is set by the minimum age convention no 138. However in the wider context of the U.N. convention on the rights of child (1989), the age limit of “child” is set at eighteen years.

2) Allow for lower minimum age (fourteen years in general and twelve years for light work) in the cases of countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed (as long as this situation lasts)

\textsuperscript{57} Notes from a VLW (village level worker) at Markapur—Training program to the Village Level Workers by the district authorities at office of the collector at Ongole about the program implementation in the project area on 25\textsuperscript{th} March 2008.
3) Permit exclusion from the conventions, application of limited categories of employment or work in respect of which special and substantial problems of application arise. (as long as these problems exist)

ILO encourages the International program on the elimination of child labour (IPEC), which aims at progressively eliminate child labour through education, social mobilization, awareness raising, legal enforcement and strengthening institutional capacity. A total of 121 agreements have so far been signed for implementing action programmes under IPEC in India. In addition to IPEC, the ILO has implemented the “Child labour Action Support Project (CLASP)” aimed at enhancing the central government planning and implementation capacity with regard to child labour. It will also be able to support the ongoing projects and future projects by state governments and NGOs, under the National child labour projects (NCLP).

Under IPEC, links have been forged with many new partners, including trade unions such as Indian National Trade Union congress (INTUC), Bharatiya mazdoorsangh (BMS) centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) and All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC). National trade union leaders have been sensitized about the nature and magnitude of the problem under action programs. Between 1992-95 at-least five nation wide trade unions have taken a stand against child labour within and outside their organizations. They have made efforts to educate their workers and influencing the central and state governments to intervene
against the problem. IPEC has also involved national employer organizations such as the Federation of Indian chambers of commerce and industry (FICCI), the Confederation of Indian employers (CIE) in combating child labour in India. IPEC has also provided support to the government through training programmes for labour and factory inspectors. Under these programs inspectors have been sensitized about the negative impact of child labour, on the development of children, on the society and on economy as a whole. These training programs have a significant impact on the law enforcement machinery. IPEC has played an important role in developing the institutional capacity of training and research institutions in combating child labour. Under action programme with the central board of workers education (CBWE), educational modules where developed and introduced to child labour into all the CBWE’s workers training programs with a reach of 1,50,000 workers per year. Number of workshops on awareness rising and sensitization has been conducted through institutes such as National Institute of Rural development and the National safety council which have been important for capacity building in the country.\textsuperscript{58}

**UNICEF – Supported Programs on Child Labour:**

The UNICEF supported programmes on eradication of child labour by supporting ministry of labour, Department of women and children,

department of Education, Health, Rural development and other ministries. The main emphasis is through primary education of child labour. UNICEF has provided support for setting up the child labour cell at National labour institute (Noida) and provided financial and technical assistance for training the factory and labour inspectors, government official, NGOs. UNICEF field officers located in ten states have supported state level work-shops on child labour. In several states, UNICEF has also supported studies to complete state profile of child labour which have been important for creating awareness about the issue and generating action plans by the state government and NGOs.

UNICEF has focused its activities in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu UP and Bihar. More recently UNICEF has been involved in the area of eradication of child prostitution and trafficking. It is now working with the National Human Rights commission to coordinate policy action and do advocacy work in this respect. UNICEF has played an important role in the, Rug mark labeling, initiative which was in response to threats of sanctions on importers of goods made with child labour by industrialized countries. UNICEF along with other organizations helped to develop an inspection system to ensure that Indian carpets are child labour free.
UN SUPPORTED PROGRAMS WITH BEARING ON CHILD LABOUR:

There are also UN agency programs that are not directly concerned with child labour but include it as a component within the overall program, or have an indirect impact in this area.

1) The UNDPs South Asia poverty Alleviation Program:

It is implemented in three districts in Andhra Pradesh (Ananthapur, Kurnool and Mahaboobnagar) which focuses on institution building at grass root level and includes child labour among several other issues. UNDP, with NORAD assistance, is supporting two major social mobilization initiatives for getting children out of work and into school, one partnership with M.V. Fondation in RangaReddy District of A.P. Community Based Pro-Poor Initiatives program. (CBPPI).

2) The Joint UN System support for community Based primary Education:

This program is a collaborative effort including UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO and UNFPA. It is proposed to be implemented in selected blocks of districts in the states of Rajasthan, UP, Bihar, MP, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, and Andhra Pradesh. The aim of the program is to provide support to on-going government efforts on universal elementary education and to make elementary education more accessible and effective for primary school-age children, especially girls.
and children from the deprived and disadvantaged communities or
groups. The general objectives of this programme are given below.

a) Enhance capacity for community participation in effective school
management. b) Improve the performance of primary school teachers. c)
Improve the social conditions that affect school attendance through
integrated or development programmes.

3) UNESCO’s Learning Without Frontiers (LWF):

This is implemented in six selected districts of three states in
India. It targets the groups which un-reached and the disadvantaged
having no formal access to education. It aims to provide them with
innovative and alternative learning opportunities at the basic and
primary level, and in this context to strengthen community institutions
and facilitate transition to formal schooling utilizing open schooling and
distance education

4) UNFPA’s support to the Government of India’s Adult literacy
Programme:

This program includes preparation of booklets and material for
literacy campaigns targeting the nine to fifteen years age groups. Many
from the selected group were child labour.
5) UNIFEM’s entrepreneurship development program for woman:

The projects are designed for women, which has positive impact on children’s well-being. The projects such as siri culture and fisheries are promoted.

6) Projects for street children:

It includes running informal courses on health awareness for this target group with the help of NGOs. They aims at to develop minimum standards of quality in services provided to street children.

7) UN-AIDS activities on child trafficking:

It facilitates the National Aids control organizations role in strengthening state AIDS cell and in working with NGOs on social mobilization and advaocacy concerning HIV/AIDS.\(^59\)

**NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR PROJECT:**

The government announced the National policy on child labour in August 1987. The action plan under the national child labour policy comprises in three categories as follows.

1) Legislative action plan. 2) Focusing of general development programs for benefiting children wherever possible. 3) Project – based action plans in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi wage employment.

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Under the project based action plan, twelve National child labour projects (NCLP) were initially started in Andhra Pradesh at places Jaggampet and Markapur. A major activity is undertaken under NCLP to establish special schools and provide non formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, stipend, health care etc. to children who are withdrawn from employment. National Authority for the Elimination of Child labour (NAECL) was constituted in Sept.1994 to help the special school process of NCLP. There are currently one hundred national child labour projects in thirteen child labour epidemic states for rehabilitation of about 2.11 lakh children who are removed from work. NCLP is now covered in twenty two districts of Andhra Pradesh. Number of schools in Andhra Pradesh are 965 and covered children are 50,921. The evaluation of NCLP projects was done by V.V Giri National labour Institute. It has commanded the work done by special schools and commented that the project is successful in its operation. In addition to imparting non-formal education to the children released from work and receive functional literacy, and to carry out the functions such as:- 1) Supplementary nutrition through mid day meals. 2) Income and employment generation through imparting the skills. 3) Stepping up enforcement of child labour laws.\textsuperscript{60}

\textsuperscript{60} Markapur Model, to reduce and prevent child labour- position paper of NCLP-1997.
INITIATIVES AGAINST CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA, BY THE NGOS AND WORKING CHILDREN ORGANIZATIONS:

Among the UN organizations, UNICEF has supported several initiatives against child labour, which have been undertaken by the government of India, as well as by the civil society organizations. Examples of such initiatives are given below.

Bhiwandi project in Thane district of Maharashtra, which aims at preventing child labour and rehabilitating children employed in the power loom sector.

Markapur model project at Markapur which aims at preventing child labours and rehabilitating child labour employed in slate mines. A great number of NGOs, both local and international, are working in the field of child labour eradication in India. Following are selected NGOS with their profiles, vision and activates. Analyzing the aims and activities and squeezing the main theme from them, we can implement the theme at Markapur, instead of leaving the labour force to the mercy of some of the self interested unions.

The Balmazdoor union and Butterflies:

The Butterflies is a child centered NGO focused on street and working children. It has its offices at New Delhi since 1989. Butterflies identifies the “street children” as working children but recognizes in them the added hardship of lacking direct and indirect support of a
family. The child workers union or Balmazdoor union (BMU) grew out of programs by Butterflies. The two remain so closely related that they cannot be separated from each other. Butterflies and BMU are grass root organizations, operating in Delhi. According to the director of Butterflies Mrs. Panicker, the “union” is not to be understood to be used to indicate an adult (trade) union, but it should be interpreted in a much broader sense as “collective” and should be seen with reference to article -15 of the convention on the Rights of the child. The Butterfly has clear ideology that rejects abolishment and eradication. The program is that Butterflies do not believe in an institutional approach to the problem of street children, follows the principle of democracy and promotes children’s participation in decision making as a part of its program planning, monitoring and evaluation called a “program with street and working children.” The main aim of the butterflies is to empower street and working children with skills and knowledge to protect their rights and do develop them as respected and productive citizens. They use the constitution of India, laws related to children and UN convention on the Rights of the child as major tools for ensuring government and public accountability for all.

Butterflies program includes several projects as given below.

a) A “Crisis centre” is situated at the Butterflies main office. Children can come here in emergencies and in acute distress and stay there. This crisis centre serves as a transit shelter for children who need immediate shelter; medical attention/ care, legal help,
counseling and rest. The child line is a twenty four hour toll free telephone helpline service, aimed to assist any child in crisis.

b) The night shelters are operated by Butterflies throughout the city. Admission is open to street children between ages of six and seventeen. Another rule is that only children who have no family and relatives living nearby are given admission.

c) A community kitchen was set up to serve different needs. The children are served with cost-effective meals. The children are obliged to pay for the meals, but only a small fraction.

d) A health cooperative is setup to provide treatment, counseling and training to children. A child becoming a member has to pay Rs 5/- per month. As a member all treatment is given free of charge.

e) Several education programs are run by the Butterflies. Children associated with Butterflies established the children development Bank / Bal Vikas Bank (CDB) to help children to save the money and use it in need. The children in age group of nine to eighteen years can open an account.

2) APSA and Hasiru Sangha:

The Association for the Promotion of Social Action (APSA) is a child centered community development organization located in Bangalore. The working children’s union Hasiru Sangha (green union) forms only a small component of APSA like Balmazadar union and the Butterflies at
Delhi. APSA strongly discourage child labour / work among its members. As a result, many Hasiru Sangha members are former child labourers or deprived children rather than child labour. APSA firmly believes that children below the age of fourteen should not be working and work done by children / youth between age of fourteen and eighteen should be strictly monitored and regulated. APSA embraces a very broad undertaking of the concept of child labour to an extent that all children who are not in school can be regarded as child labours. According to APSA, the difference between labour and work lies with the child’s access to essential rights, such as the rights to education and protection. Only if a child maintains his or her access to education and safety and enjoys a reasonable amount of leisure time, then a limited amount of work on demand is acceptable.

The different programs are 1) Child line (2) Nammame (our home) 3) Vocational training 4) Nava Jeevana nilaya (house of life) for girls 5) Slum out reach to mobilize community-based organization 6) Self help groups to provide slum area women with credit resource. 7) Disability project includes nutrition and health interventions for slum dwellers.
3) The concerned for working children (CWC)/Bhima Sangha:

Bhima sangha is the biggest working children organization in India, and the one with international profile having membership of 13000 and 20,000 children. CWC was registered as society in 1985 and the activities are based at Karnataka. They were then confronted with large number of Child labour, who were also employed and who wanted to take part in the union activities. As this proved to be legally impossible, it was decided to review the existing legislation. Adult trade union activists along with working children, has drafted a legislation for working children in 1985. On the basis of this draft, the national parliament has passed the child labour Act 1986. The Bhima sangh says that the government should try to eradicate the main cause of their hardship, which is poverty. Children must also be allowed to work in safe and dignified occupations that allow them education, leisure and personal development. This organization brings out the clear distinction between child work and child labour.

3) Global Mach against Child labour: It has its offices at New-Delhi. It has partners in over 150 countries and is based at New-Delhi. It aims at the welfare of child workers.

All the organizations make a distinction between “child work” and “Child labour” where the former is tolerated and latter is undesirable. But as “harmfulness” is a relative and poorly defined concept and hence there is disagreement about that of work demand acceptable to children.
Here the respective organizations adhere to different definitions. APSA handles a clear definition which draws a line at the age of fourteen years and below this age the children are not supposed to work, while child work above this age should be regulated and monitored. Children’s activities must not interfere with their right to education. In this respect, the organizations obey the UN convention on the rights of the child.

Butterflys is more lenient and flexible regarding children’s work. There is a firm belief that children need to take their own decisions and their decisions need to be respected even when child chooses to work. None of the organizations regard themselves as child labour unions; they prefer to be said as working children’s unions, collectives or organizations.61

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61 Heike Rochanski-Indian working children organizations-www.cry.org. (child relief and you)