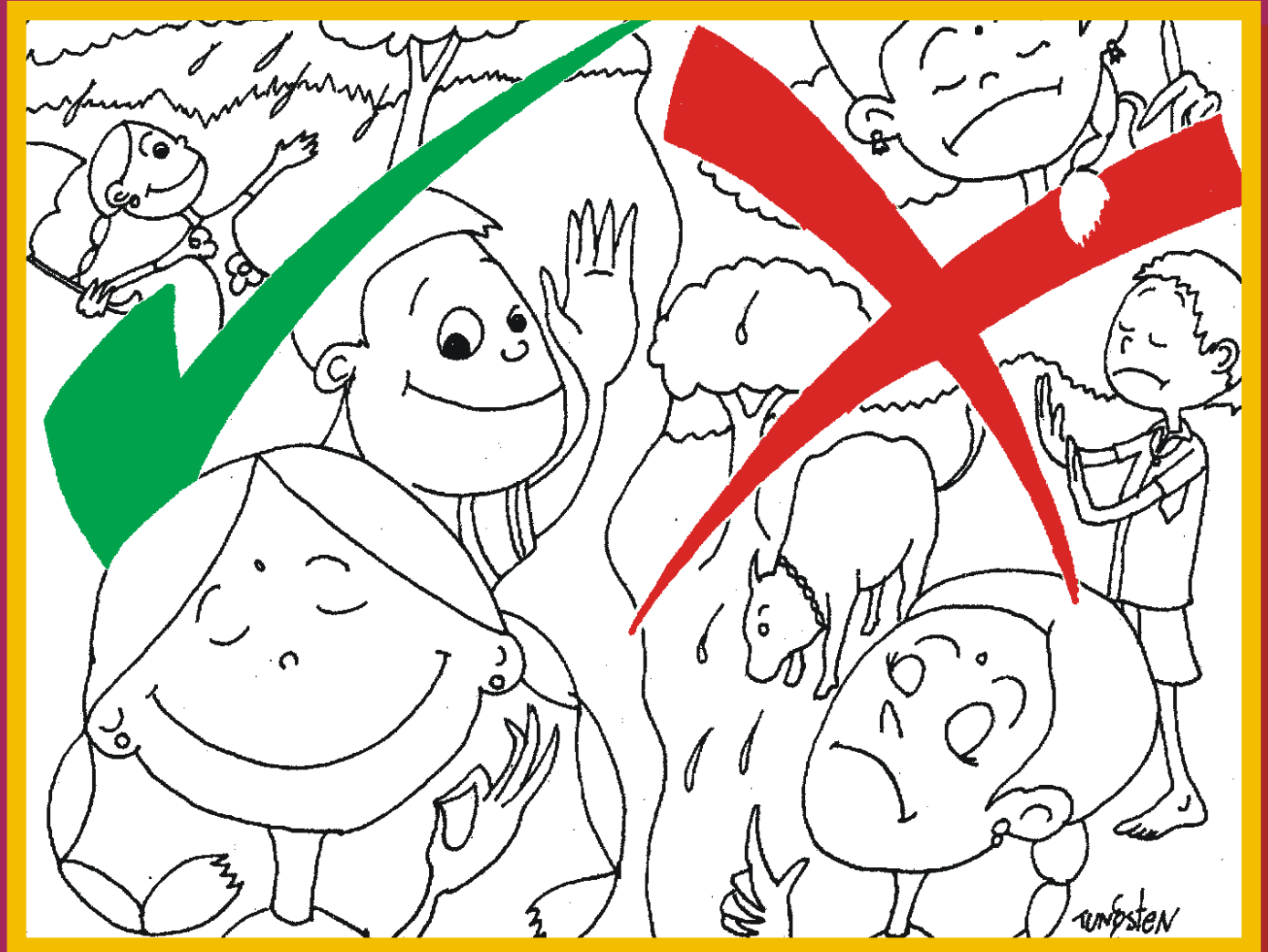


Work
we can
and
cannot
do



by the children of Balkur



WORK WE CAN DO AND CANNOT DO

By

CHILDREN OF BALKUR PANCHAYAT

THE CONCERNED FOR WORKING CHILDREN (CWC)

BANGALORE, INDIA

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WORK WE CAN DO AND CANNOT DO

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FORWARD

The children of the Makkala Panchayats¹ of the eight Panchayats in Karnataka that we are working in took a decision to define what was good or bad for them. They decided that their definition should form the basis of all interventions in these Panchayats towards these Panchayats becoming 'child labour free'.

This series of publications is primarily intended for the children who wrote it. However we felt that this would be of interest to other children and practitioners working in the field of child labour, children's rights and promoting children's participation. This is why we took the decision to translate this document into English as it could be shared with a wider audience. The language (even in translation) is basically the children's own and we have made no changes.

We feel that this series would have far reaching implications on the child labour definitional question. It will also enable us, the adults, to view these issues from the point of view of children and what they perceive as good or bad for them. It is clear from this document that children do not see things in black and white but sense the nuances and subtleties of each situation.

These children intend to go beyond labour definitions to examine what is good or bad for children who are differently abled. They also want to examine good or bad education, parenting, socialisation, political participation and citizenship.

This book is the first in this series.

Nandana Reddy
Director Development



INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been focussed attention and interest on the work that children do. International agencies, national, state and local governments, non-governmental agencies and other concerned groups have vied with one another in 'trying to better the situation' of child workers by adopting a variety of programmes and strategies. A number of conventions have been drawn up by international agencies such as the ILO that have been ratified and implemented by member states. Numerous pieces of legislation and policies have been formulated by national and state governments to address the issue of children engaged in work. However, scope of these legal measures has been largely confined to the formal sector.

The legal definitions of children in work have always been based on age, wage, sector and scale. These legal measures never considered aspects such as ability or capacity of the child to do the specified work. Moreover, these formal definitions are uniformly applicable to the whole of a country or state and it ignored the regional/local diversity involved in the nature and conditions of children's work; such definitions have failed to be either local specific or child-centred.

Most of the definitions adopt a cut off age for children to enter into work situations. This is with the intention that during the period that work is prohibited, children can 'attend' school. But the school is not an option for most children as school is neither relevant nor appealing, and it would deny them and their families the means of survival. Policies based on wage do not take care of child workers engaged in unpaid labour, who form a significant number. They are children in domestic work, home based enterprises, own agricultural farms etc. Generally children are engaged in the household, tiny and small scale and informal sectors. These sectors seldom fall within the purview of labour legislation and many of them are harmful to children.

Therefore, the majority of the child labourers do not come within the purview of definitions based on the above considerations. One also needs to analyse and evaluate to what extent children covered by the existing definitions have been protected.

Children are engaged in a wide variety of occupations. They range from those that are beneficial to their normal growth and development as children, to those that are extremely harmful or hazardous.

Policies based on factors such as age, wage, scale and sector cannot effectively determine what work is beneficial to children or what is harmful to them. An intervention to have a positive impact on child workers should be designed on the basis of age, gender, ability and conditions of work². The age of the child in addition should be considered visa vis the developmental milestones of the child³.

The nature and conditions of work that children do vary from place to place. For example, in Bellary, India grazing cattle can involve taking the cattle away as far as 50 kms. and being away from one's home for about a week. This is harmful and hazardous work for children. But generally, grazing cattle means grazing the cattle in one's neighbourhood for a few hours; it is not harmful or hazardous work.

The question that needs attention is, who determines what is beneficial and harmful/hazardous work for children. Is it the adult policy makers or the children for whom the policies are formulated? William Myers, Birgitta Ling and Jo Boyden state that an important element "that must be present in a child-centred approach is children's own representations of themselves through word and action. This implies that children must be taken seriously and their participation guaranteed in the formulation of official norms governing their work. This is because 'the needs, rights, responsibilities, views and interests of children and adults are not necessarily synonymous'. While the right of the children to participate in decisions concerning them is today widely touted and officially recognised by almost all countries, ..., action to put that right into practice in the formulation of laws and standards is still incipient at best"⁴

Children are of the firm view that they must participate in the formulation of all policy matters that concern them. According to them such policies formulated or a decision taken without consulting them have proved to be counter productive. "No matter how good or noble the intention, an intervention arrived at without the active and equal participation of the constituency is a violation of their fundamental rights."⁵

However, children should be facilitated to take informed decisions. They should have access to correct and complete information. Children of eight Panchayats⁶ in Karnataka, India (viz., Balkur, Alur, Belve, Kerady, Uppunda, Bairumbe, Holagundi and Mathihalli⁷), realising the irrelevancy and inefficacy of the existing definitions to deal with matters that they grapple with in their day-to-day life, formulated their own definitions concerning the different occupations that they are engaged in and the type of conditions that should co-exist. These policies formulated by the 'Makkala Panchayat' are specific to each of the eight Panchayats. It means that the policies prepared by children of each Panchayat will vary as per the local conditions and nature of occupations that children of those Panchayats are engaged in. These policies state what kind of work they can do and what kind of work they cannot do. The children's definitions forms the basis of all the interventions in a Panchayat.

These policies have been formulated on the basis of factors such as age, gender, ability and conditions of work. On this basis, the children have classified certain occupations/operations as harmful and others as non-harmful. However, while drawing up these policies initially not much attention was paid to children with disability. They intend to look at this aspect separately.

The definitions formulated by children have been ratified in the 'Makkala Panchayat' and at the Panchayat and Taluq level Task Forces⁸ through passing resolutions. A Task Force consists of representatives of the Makkala, Gram, Taluq and Zilla Panchayats and is constituted to oversee the policies formulated by children to enable a Panchayat to become child labour free⁹ as per the children's definition. This committee also inspects the ground reality in the Panchayat to cross check if any child is engaged in any harmful work as per the criteria laid down by children before a Panchayat/village is declared child labour free. A monitoring committee will be set up to ensure that the child labour free status is maintained once a Panchayat/village is declared child labor free.

The Process

Initially the Panchayat level coordinator (Ms. Veena) visited the houses of Bhima Sangha¹⁰ and the Makkala Panchayat representatives in all the hamlets of the Panchayat. They discussed the various types of occupations that children in the Panchayat are engaged in. She also discussed this with the school children and teachers in all the village schools. This was a process of conscientising the children on the issue.

Earlier, children, both school going and working, had conducted a detailed house to house socio-economic survey in the village. Through this and the various small studies and PRAs, they had quite a fair idea of the type, nature and conditions of work that children in the village do.

During the initial meeting of all the Bhima Sangha and Makkala Panchayat representatives at the Panchayat level, through much discussion and debate, they identified all the occupations that children in the Panchayat are engaged in. They prepared a list of 22 occupations. They discussed the nature, conditions and the various operations involved in these sectors. They also came to a consensus to what extent participation in those occupations would favourably or adversely affect their normal growth and development as children. However, they did not arrive at a clear cut demarcation between harmful and non-harmful occupations, except for identifying three of them viz., beedi rolling, agarbathi rolling and bringing firewood as harmful.

Subsequently children met in smaller groups in their respective hamlets and discussed each process and occupation in detail. They considered this on the basis of their age, gender and ability/capacity. In some groups, the adult members of the family also made their comments. Children mainly discussed occupations, in which any one of them was engaged in, or had information on the processes and operations involved. The findings of the hamlet-level discussion were shared with children in other hamlets through their representatives.

At the Panchayat level, the elected representatives of the Makkala Panchayat, a group of 7 children finalised the list after discussing each of the occupations in relation to children's comments, with minor changes. For example, earlier children had decided that it was all right for children in the age group of 15-18 to roll beedis. But members of Makkala Panchayat council decided that it is harmful for anybody to be engaged in beedi rolling. The Makkala Panchayat formally ratified the list.

On 28 June 1999, at the Gram Panchayat Task Force meeting, Revathi, the president of Makkala Panchayat presented the definitions to the Task Force members and a brief discussion was held on the same.

On 6 August 1999, a special meeting of the Panchayat Task Force was called. The agenda was to discuss the Balkur Panchayat's status as child labour free and to discuss and ratify, if acceptable, the definition prepared by children. During the meeting, Revathy, President of the Makkala Panchayat and Hema, Bhima Sangha member presented their definition to the Panchayat Task Force. Besides the members of the Task Force, a group of journalists and press reporters were present. The gathering discussed in detail the implications of the same; the press reporters had many questions to the children. At end of the meeting, the task force passed a resolution ratifying the children's definition of work they can do and work they cannot do. This definition has now become the basis of evaluating the child labour free status of a Panchayat.

Lolichen P J

Research Officer

NOTES :

- ¹ 'Makkala Panchayat' is children's local government, of and for children, elected by all the children in a Panchayat.
- ² Nandana Reddy, *Draft Report of the International Working Group on Child Labour, 1997*
- ³ Anuktha Mahapatra, *Developmental Milestones, 1995*
- ⁴ Jo Boyden, Birgitta Ling and William Myers, *What works for Working Children, UNICEF and Redda Bamen, France, 1998, pp. 182-83*
- ⁵ Nandana Reddy, *Training Module on Child Protagonism, 1998*
- ⁶ Panchayat is the lowest administrative division in India. The hierarchy of administrative division in the ascending order is as follows:
GramPanchayat-Taluq Panchayat-Zilla Panchayat-State-Nation.
- ⁷ The rural project areas of The Concerned for Working Children, Bangalore.
- ⁸ Task Force is a tripartite body consisting of representatives from local self government, children and business.
- ⁹ 'Child labor free' means:
- i) Every child has access to education that is appropriate and that is compatible with the formal system;
 - ii) No child migrates for work; and
 - iii) No child is engaged in work, which hampers his/her normal growth and development.
- ¹⁰ A union of, by and for working children in Karnataka, India

COOKING

We can do this work



We are children of ages 9-18.

We have the information to clean and wash rice and cut vegetables, besides we have the capacity to understand the process

For those of us who go to school it is okay if we spend half an hour helping with the cooking in our own houses.

But we should not stay at home and be engaged in this work for the whole day.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-9

We are too young to do any of these chores; we do not have any experience. Our hands are weak. Knives used to cut vegetables can hurt our hands.

It is harmful for us to work in somebody else's house or in hotels without going to school



1. Cleaning and washing rice
2. Cutting vegetables

COOKING



3. lighting the 'choolah' (oven)
4. cooking (getting food cooked)
5. grinding masala

We can do this work



We are children of ages 15-18

We are well aware of the dangers of working with fire. We have the physical ability and skills to do these activities.

If we do this work in our own houses for about 2 hours daily, then it is not harmful

This is very risky and it may cause us burn injuries.

We do not have arms strong enough to grind masala; moreover it can hurt our fingers
If children with mental or physical disability are engaged in these activities, it is harmful to them, whatever be their age.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-15

We lack the ability to do these jobs. Working near the stove/choolah can cause us burn injuries. Smoke from the choolah can cause respiratory problems, headache, burning sensation in the eyes etc.

While getting rice cooked, the starch has to be separated from the rice.

MILKING

We can do this work



We are children of ages 15-18

We can milk the country-breed cows of our own households for about 15 minutes a day.

If it is high breed cows, we have to milk for a longer time and it will strain our fingers and hands. Therefore only persons above 18 can do this work.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-15

We do not have strong hands or ability, which are essential to do this work. Moreover, the cow may kick us, stamp us on our feet or gore us. Milking cows is very strenuous.



1. letting the calf drink milk
2. washing the udder and milking after tying the calf

Normally a known person who has the knack to milk should milk cows and if a new person milks, it may not yield milk. Moreover it requires special skill/ technique to milk the cow.

It is harmful for physically disabled children to do this work.

BEEDI



1. Bringing leaf and tobacco powder from the contractor/agent

We can do this work



We are children of ages 9-18

We have the physical ability to do this work

After school if we have to go $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometer to collect leaf and tobacco powder for our own houses then it is not harmful.

If a child does this work for the full day without going to school then it is harmful

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages of 0-9

We lack the ability to do this work

To do this work we have to go quite far from our house; so we cannot do this work

This requires that we get the supply of raw of materials of certain quality and quantity entered in the passbook and sign the register as received. We lack the ability and information to do this.

BEEDI

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-18

Beedi rolling is a health hazard even for adults who engage in it continuously for long hours; it causes illnesses like TB, backaches etc.

This activity is very injurious to the health of children

All these operations involve sitting continuously for long hours, totally focused on the activity. Due to continuous sitting we get backache. Inhaling the suffocating smell of the beedi leaves and tobacco powder can cause respiratory illnesses and headache.

Therefore, it is harmful if we do this work.

If we fail to meet the quality standards prescribed by the employers, the beedis would be rejected and the payment is deducted.

Continuous and focused work of this sort denies us of any entertainment and recreation.



2. soaking the leaves
3. cutting the leaves
4. filling the leaf with tobacco and rolling
5. tying the beedi with thread
6. folding the tip of the beedi
7. making bundles of 25 beedis
8. rolling the bundle to adjust the size
9. compressing the bundle

BEEDI



10. delivering the beedis to the contractor/agent

We can do this work



We are children 12-18.

We have the physical ability and knowledge to deliver the beedis and get it entered in the passbook and sign the register.

While going to school from our houses, we can go to the agent's/contractor's unit, if it is located within a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 km and deliver the beedis and get it entered in the pass book. While leaving our houses we would be already informed of the total number of beedis being delivered and so to be entered in the passbook. If this work is for about 1 hour a day it is not harmful

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-12

We do not have the ability to do this work. We are too young to go far from our houses to the delivery unit to deliver the beedis.

We are too young to get it entered in the passbook and sign the register as goods of certain quality and quantity delivered.

GOING TO VILLAGE SHOPS AND NEARBY TOWN

We can do this work



We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 9-18

We know calculation. We know the way to the shops. We also know how to catch a bus to the nearby town, buy the provisions and come back home.

We can go to shops within a distance of 5-6 kms and bring things. If we spend $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours on this, it is not harmful. But if we spend the whole day doing this, it is harmful.

We are children of ages 0-9

We have the physical ability to go and bring some small things from the nearby shop. But we cannot go to distant shops. It is not possible for us to carry the provisions bought. We do not know how to count and calculate.

Those of us who are school going, on the way back from the school can go to the shops within a distance of 1 kilometer and buy small items for our own household spending about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour a day on this.

TAILORING



1. Cutting the cloth
2. Making button holes
3. Stitching

We can do this work



We are children of ages 15-18

Our hands are strong enough to cut cloth and our legs are strong enough to work on the sewing machine.

If we acquire the skill through training, we can do this work.

If we are engaged in any of these activities for 5-6 hours a day, then it is not harmful. But doing any of these activities for more than 6 hours a day is harmful, as it requires more strength and energy to work on the sewing machine. It is a health hazard.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-15

We do not have the ability and knowledge to do this work; it is a special skill to be acquired through training. We also need strength to do this.

WASHING CLOTHES

We can do this work



We are children of ages 6-12

We are strong enough to wash our own clothes. If school going children in our age group wash only those clothes which they wear daily, then it is not harmful.

It is harmful if we have to wash the clothes of other members of our household or of others' houses

We are children of ages 12-18

We are physically able to do this work. Whether we are school going children or not it is not harmful for us to wash our own clothes or our family members' clothes for one hour each day

Those of us who are school going can spend $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour washing clothes of other households. But if such a child is engaged in many other types of work like cooking, fetching water, washing clothes, sweeping and swabbing the floor, either in one's own or others' households, then it is harmful

If we have to wash a lot of clothes either in our own house or others' houses it is harmful

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-6

We do not have the ability or strength to do any of these chores.

We are too young and tender to do any such work



1. Washing one's own clothes
2. Washing clothes of one's own house/ of others' houses

DIGGING SWEET POTATO



We can do this work



We are children of ages 9-18

This work requires much physical strength.

Those of us who attend school can spend about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours digging sweet potatoes for our own households; then it is not harmful

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-9

We do not have the strength or ability to do this work

SWEEPING AND SWABBING

We can do this work



We are children of ages 9-12

If we are school going children we can be engaged in sweeping and swabbing our own houses for about half an hour daily. We can assist the adults in the family in a small way, but not as a regular job.

If we do not go to school, but are engaged in sweeping and swabbing our own houses for the whole day it is harmful.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-9

We do not have the physical strength or the ability to do this work

We are children of ages 12-18

Our hands are strong enough to do this work. If we go to school and are engaged only in sweeping and swabbing for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour daily in others' houses, it is not harmful

If we do this work for the whole day, either in our own or others' houses it is harmful.



1. sweeping and swabbing one's own house
2. sweeping and swabbing others' houses

BRINGING MILK



We can do this work



We are children of ages 9-18

We have enough physical strength to bring milk or deliver milk (selling).

It is not harmful if we bring milk home from another place or deliver milk to other places within a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ km for 2 hours a day

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-9

We do not have the knowledge and ability to do this work. We are unable to carry the milk home and we may spill it on the way; moreover we may lose the way back home. We do not know how to sell the milk or count the money

BRINGING GRASS/FODDER

We can do this work



We are children of ages 15-18

To cut and bring grass strong hands and legs are required. Whether we are school going or not if we are engaged in this work for not more than 2 hours a day, it is not harmful.

But doing it for the whole day is harmful

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-15

We do not have the ability and information. We cannot go far to collect grass. We cannot cut or pluck grass.

We do not have the strength to carry the heavy bundles of grass/fodder

It is harmful for mentally and physically disabled children of any age group to do this work.



LOOKING AFTER HOME



We can do this work



We are children of ages 15-18

We are physically and mentally mature. Once a while if the adults go out of the house, the entire responsibility of looking after the house falls on the shoulders of children of our age group, and if it is only for about 8 hours a day and that too during the daytime, then it is not harmful

But when there is school, we can look after the house for 1-2 hours, during the non-school hours.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-15

We lack ability, experience and information. We are too young to shoulder the responsibility. Being alone at home we will have to cook for ourselves, feed the cattle, take care of the house etc. Moreover there can be interference from strangers. Therefore we cannot do this work

BICYCLE REPAIRING

We can do this work



We are boys of ages 15-18

We have the physical strength for this work. If we do this work for 8 hours a day after receiving training it is not harmful. But more than 8 hours of work a day is harmful

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-15

We lack the ability, experience and information. We are too young; we do not have the strength or the specialized skill and training to do this work.

We are girls of ages 15-18

We do not have the strength to do this work. To do this work we may have to go to distant places. There are times when we may have to come back alone in the night and it may cause physical dangers. So it is harmful for us to be engaged in this work.



1. Blow air
2. Bicycle repair

WATERING THE PLANTS



We can do this work



We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 3-9

Our hands are strong enough to water the plants in front of the house for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour a day with a jug if the water is already available there

We are children of ages 9-12

If we are school going we can water the plants in front of our house for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour every day by bringing water from a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ furlong

We are children of ages 0-3

We are too young and lack strength to do any work.

Mentally and physically disabled children of any age group cannot do this work

We are children of ages 12-18

We have the required physical strength, strong hands and legs to do this work. We can draw water from the well and water our own paddy field and garden for 2 hours a day within a distance of 1 km from the house. This is not harmful

CATTLE GRAZING

We can do this work



We are children of ages 9-18

We can do the necessary physical labour. Those of us who are going to school and in the age group of 9-12 years can do this work for 2 hours a day, if it is close to our house.

Those of us who are school going and in the age group of 12-18 can do this work for 2 hours a day if it is close to our house.

It is harmful for us if we have to do this work the whole day or if we have to go grazing for more than 6 kilometers.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-9

We lack the physical strength and ability required to control the cattle. Moreover the cattle may chase, stamp or gore us, as we do not have the knack to deal with them. The animal may set itself loose and stray destroying crops in the neighbouring fields.



BRINGING WATER



We can do this work



We are children of ages 9-18

We are physically strong, with strong legs and hands

Those of us aged 9-12 years and going to school can go $\frac{1}{2}$ furlong and bring water from a tap in a small pot for half to one hour a day.

Those of us aged 12 to 18 years and going to school can go to a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometer to fetch water from a well for 2 hours a day; it is not harmful

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-9

We do not have the required strength to draw water from the well and carry it home. It is dangerous for us to go near the open well as we may slip and fall.

But if we are engaged in this work for more than 2 hours a day then it is harmful whether we are school going or not

WORK IN THE HOTEL

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-18

Those who are engaged in these occupations should be very strong. Quite often to get work in a hotel, we have to migrate to cities or towns, which means staying away from our homes. We will have to stay in the hotel with other adult employees, lacking even basic facilities. This can cause us both physical and moral dangers.



1. Washing plates and vessels
2. Cleaning/ washing the drainage
3. Cleaning the hotel

WORK IN THE HOTEL



4. Supplying food in the hotel

We can do this work



We are children of ages 15-18

We have the required physical strength. We can do this work if the place of work is within 10 kms from our house and we can return home everyday.

If boys work in others' hotels for not more than 8 hours a day then it is not harmful

If girls work in their own (of their parents) hotels for 8 hours a day then it is not harmful. But it is harmful for girls to work in others' hotels because there are both physical and moral risks involved.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-15

We lack the physical ability and adequate information. We lack the strength and experience/ knack required to do this work

If we commit any mistake like dropping or breaking utensils, spilling food items, which are likely, we will be ill-treated by the employer

If we work in a hotel whether in our own or of others', at the cost of our education, it is harmful.

BRINGING FIREWOOD

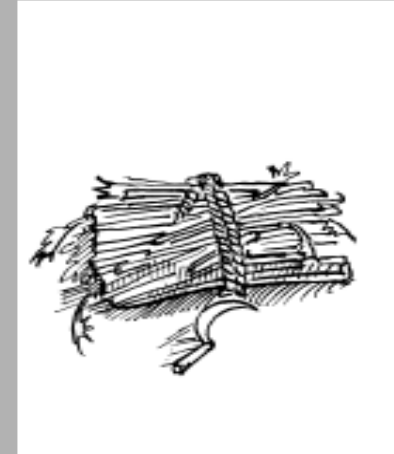
We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-18

We do not have the physical strength to go so far as 10 kilometers to do all these activities and carry the bundles on our heads.

This kind of work can cause us physical harm. The operations may result in dangers such as we hurting our hands, shoulder injury, backache, headache, pain in the legs, falling down from the vehicle while loading the firewood etc.



1. going to Amparu¹, a distance of 10 kms by bus to bring firewood
2. cutting and collecting firewood
3. gathering and bundling firewood
4. carrying the firewood bundle for 4 kms and loading it into the tempo and unloading and carrying it home.

¹ a village 10kms from Balkur, where children go to collect firewood

DRYING PADDY



We can do this work



IN THE EVENING

We are children of ages 15-18

We have the required strength and ability to dry the paddy once it is boiled.

Those of us who are going to school can be engaged in drying paddy for 1½ hours a day.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-15

We lack the skill and ability to do these works. It is difficult for us to carry paddy and fill it into the boiler or to fill the boiler with water. While boiling water it may spill onto our bodies. While lighting or fuelling the fire, it can harm us.

a) In the evening

1. Putting the paddy in the boiler
2. Pouring water in the boiler
3. Lighting fire and boiling paddy
4. Gathering the dried paddy

b) In the morning

5. Boiling the paddy
6. Removing the boiled paddy from the boiler
7. Drying the boiled paddy

IN THE MORNING

We are children of ages 0-18

We do not have the ability to judge the quality of the products at each stage. We do not have enough physical strength

It is difficult for us to carry paddy and fill into the boiler or fill the boiler with water. The boiling water may spill onto our bodies. While lighting or fuelling the fire, it can harm us.

HARVESTING SUGARCANE

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-18

This work requires a lot of physical strength and it involves physical labour. If we do this we will get backache.

Bundling and carrying the sugarcane is very difficult.

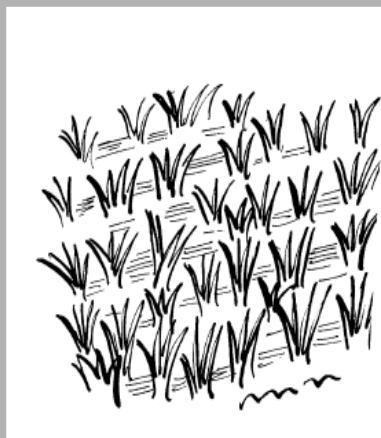
Harvesting is done with a knife, which could hurt us.

The tiny thorns on the leaves and nodes of the sugarcane will prick our hands and hurt us.



1. Harvesting sugarcane
2. Removing the leaves from the sugar cane
3. Bundling sugarcane sticks
4. Heaping all the bundles in a specified place

SOWING AND HARVESTING PADDY



1. Picking the sapling for re-planting
2. Re-planting
3. Weeding
4. Harvesting
5. Bundling and carrying the harvested paddy plants
6. Making small bundles for beating
7. Beating
8. Winnowing
9. Making hay stack and carrying the rice

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-18

These are laborious operations requiring much physical strength. Certain skills and information is essential to do this work; but we do not have those.

Working in paddy fields involves standing in water for a long time; consequently we may catch flu/ fever or other illnesses

Those of us who are 16-18 years old could go with the adults for 2 hours a day to learn how to do replanting (only)

AGARBATHI FACTORY

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-18

This work requires much physical strength.

It is difficult to sit continuously for long hours and work, as it will lead to backache.

The body heat increases by doing this work. Inhaling the agarbathi powder and scent leads to respiratory problems, headache, flu etc. Children will turn pale and weak and their growth will be stunted.



1. Packing
2. Designing
3. Filling the packets
4. Attaching label
5. Applying scent and mixing

PACKING COTTON WICK



We can do this work



We are children of ages 15-18

Our hands are strong enough to do this work. Those of us who are going to school can do this work for 1 hour a day

Those of us who are not going to school can do this work for 7 hours a day.

We cannot do this work



We are children of ages 0-15

We are too young and lack strength and ability to do this work.

The packets should be of a specific size and shape, failing which the employer will fine us. Hence we cannot do this work.

Those of us who are mentally handicapped or with disabled hands cannot do this work.

