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The Concerned for Working Children

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Note from the Founders

This year [2012] has been one of hope and tragedy. The deaths of twelve children during the monsoons in various panchayats of Kundapura due to drowning in irrigation ditches constructed by the State Irrigation Department without the knowledge or information to the Gram Panchayats [Local Governments], were extremely tragic and thought-provoking. However, the children with the support of local government officials and our field teams, constructively turned this calamity into an opportunity to improve the lot of children in the region by lobbying with the District Administration for Child Safe Panchayats, that would lead ultimately to Child Friendly Panchayats, by mapping danger zones in their localities and demanding that safety measures be put in place. This included regions which have stone quarries and open wells. We acknowledge with gratitude the immediate response to meet these demands.

This year has also been one of hope and faith that our struggle for the true implementation of children's rights will be realised. The fact that we were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize has strengthened our optimism.

Our achievements this year included lobbying against poor quality food in anganwadis [child care centres] and for locally prepared food to be monitored by local governments; prevention of child marriages and providing inputs into the State policy on the subject; and the inauguration of our school, Namma Nālandā Vidya Peeta that promotes an inclusive education that nurtures, strengthens and practices democratic principles.

In Bangalore City we enabled the first Makkala [children's] Ward Sabha together with several other private development agencies and elected representatives. This was a learning experience given that the urban governance structures are different and much weaker than the rural when it comes to facilitating people's participation. However, it provided the basis to develop a protocol for Makkala Ward Sabhas, strengthened our resolve to pursue the process and provide greater clarity for the demand to restructure urban structures over the next few years.

Our work to strengthen devolution of finances, functions and functionaries towards realising the true spirit of Panchayathi Raj made large strides. We facilitated model Grama Sabhas in three districts of Karnataka and as a follow up of the Grama Swaraj Samavesha of December 2011, a state level convention of representatives of gram panchayats of Karnataka to build rural India through democratic civil society participation, held a large protest and gathering in Freedom Park in Bangalore in which 8000 representatives of grama panchayats from 27 districts gathered demanding devolution. The Gram Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana (GPHA), a movement of gram panchayat members from across Karnataka facilitated by CWC, also launched a state wide campaign to demand an end to low quality, sub-standard food being distributed to anganwadis by the contractor of the Government of Karnataka, Christy Friedgrain Industry, and to reclaim the right of the panchayats to implement the Angawadi programme with local social monitoring in accordance with the 73rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution.

CWC helped to organise and participated in a State-wide Convention on claiming the rights of rural local governments. Over 5000 elected representatives of thirty-two migrant communities in Bangalore and the towns of Udupi and Kundapur participated in this meeting. Issues of peri-urban and town panchayats were discussed in-depth along with demands on the State to realise the rights of migrants and their children. The [Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana](#), has also been a key force in defending the rights of the migrant workers as reflected in its [Udupi Resolution of 2011](#).

Migrant citizens, many of whom helped to construct the Express Way between Surathkal and Kundapura were key participants in the campaign that persuaded the National Highway Authority of India to shelve the idea of a four kilometer embankment in the centre of Kundapura town and replace it instead with a 250 meters flyover.

This year CWC's research and advocacy covered a variety of issues impacting both policy and practice. From participating in a PIL regarding the abysmal conditions within the institutions of the Juvenile Justice system in Karnataka to actively fighting the poor quality of anganwadi's in the state with the GPHA to engaging with global and local organisations in order to build and use tools for

children's participation – we have been able to continue bringing the perspective of children into new and old political spaces.

As always we continue to support traditional artisans through Namma Angadi and besides providing them a marketing network we also support the enhancement of their designs, production process and access to raw materials.

The Nobel Peace Prize Nomination

We are surprised and are still trying to understand the implications of being nominated by the Norwegian Parliamentarians for the Nobel Peace Prize Nomination, 2012. We are humbled that they have put their faith in us and the work we do to nurture and promote children's democratic participation and their right to determine the course of their lives; a right that is barely recognised in letter and practice. It is largely believed that using compulsion to make children 'participate' in services that are provided – be it health care or education – without allowing children to determine the nature and quality of these services, is a fulfillment of children's rights. We, adults by and large, still think that we know what is best for children and that children do not. This is why CWC feels that this is a cross cutting right that enables children to fashion their present and future and shape their lives.

In this context, this nomination helps to bring this issue into focus and we intend to use this to establish a platform to encourage discussion and debate worldwide and hope that such a discourse would result in policy makers and programmers taking serious note and translating this fundamental right of children into practice.

In the past 30 years we have taken small steps to enable children to realise this right making steady progress. We have managed to impact child rights policy and programming, both locally and globally, bringing the right to children's participation and self-determination into focus. The credit goes to our primary constituency and partners – working children – and the many battles they have fought in numerous forums at home and around the world for their voices to be heard. Their struggle has always been peaceful and now one of patience as they continue their crusade in an environment that not only does not recognise them as workers but has criminalised their work. We have a long way to go and so much more needs to be done. We, as an organisation have always celebrated small victories but this is a huge leap for the cause. We could not have done this without the support of so many individuals and organisations around the world who have contributed to our vision and strategies and given us the strength to pursue our goals. They have also at times been our severest critics and we appreciate their inputs and involvement in this cause.

Damodar Acharya and Nandana Reddy

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EMPOWERING CHILDREN

Over the years CWC has been partnering with children across rural-urban and national-international boundaries with the hope of nurturing and enhancing the ability of every child so they may shape their own destiny. To facilitate this process on the ground we work with marginalised children from different communities and support them in voicing their concerns and thoughts enabling them to become engaging citizens within a democratic society. As a part of this endeavour we have been working both on the ground with children and at the national and international policy levels to ensure that children's right to self-determination is recognised and their rightful political space is granted to them.

This section highlight's how with little facilitation and their own volition children were able to take ground-breaking steps to change how governance mechanisms and society view them and issues related to them. While we have been continuously making ingressions into the rural local governance systems, this year we were able to notch our first children's ward sabha in an urban space (Bangalore). We hope that this political space will flourish and grow in the coming years. Children in rural Karnataka continued to demonstrate their leadership and enthusiasm in dealing with local problems. In Udipi, the tragic deaths of a few children resulted in a large-scale process undertaken by children to map the danger zones in their localities. This was then taken up with their elected representatives and resulted in various safety measures. Children demonstrated similar leadership and strategy development abilities in several other panchayats.

Through our work we have also been re-conceptualising how mainstream education must be understood and delivered to children so that it meets their best interests. This year saw an important step in that process materialise. CWC inaugurated Namma Nalanda Vidyapeetha (NNVP), an alternate school for marginalised children located in Kundapur (Udipi). NNVP has been CWCs dream project and its inauguration implies the ability to expand our existing education related work beyond the vocational training we have been conducting in Namma Bhoomi campus. We hope to see it become an incubatory space to study and create classroom processes that best support a marginalised child and help him/her realise their full potential. This approach has been the heart of the work at CWC and we hope to continue along this path in coming years.

1. Historical Children's Ward Sabha

CWC was able to showcase the possibilities opened up by facilitating children's participation in urban governance spaces. For the first time in the history of India, the metropolitan city of Bangalore bore witness to a successful 'Children's Ward¹ Sabha'. More than 500 children including street and migrant children, school-going children, child representatives of ward-level children's organisations and other marginalised groups of children participated in the Children's Ward Sabha which was conducted by an elected Councilor of Bangalore Municipal Government (BBMP) of Vignana Nagar Ward.

Bhima Sangha², an organisation of street and migrant children CWC has supported over the years, came up with the idea to organise a children's Ward Sabha to share their issues with the local government in order to improve their living and working conditions. The children have been negotiating with the Councilor through their unions and organisations to realise their rights in the past. The Children's Ward Sabha was envisioned as an opportunity for children to directly participate in their local government.

Advocacy with the ward Councilor and the Mayor of Bangalore

Alongside problem identification, representatives of Bhima Sangha were negotiating with the elected representatives and Mayor for ensuring that a Children's Ward Sabha could be organised. The children's lobbying proved successful with the Mayor giving his approval to the process. This was a huge step ahead in children's advocacy with the urban local elected government.

Collection of information on issues and problems faced by children in the ward

Child representatives from children's unions, migrant communities and schools across the ward spent several weeks identifying their issues and prioritising them for action. Children chose mapping and focus-group discussion as tools to collect in-depth information about their community.

¹ Ward is the lowest administrative level in a city Municipality. Bangalore city has 198 wards.

² Bhima Sangha is a union of working children facilitated by The Concerned for Working Children.

Children spoke to the community members and collected in-depth information pertaining to their lives and their surroundings. The issues consolidated include those relating to education, health, protection, transport and cleanliness that impact both children and adults in the ward. Children chose representatives from amongst themselves to share their problems in the larger forum of the Children's Ward Sabha.

The Children's Ward Sabha

The Children's Ward Sabha was conducted on 23rd February 2012. The Sabha was a critical platform for enabling children's participation in their elected local city government at the ward level. Children placed their issues and demands before the Councilor and other elected leaders. With great confidence and self-assurance, children raised issues about cleanliness in their wards, the lack of footpaths for people to walk along the roads, lack of electricity and drinking water facilities in their ward, the need for better public healthcare systems, the issues they face in their schools (lack of toilets and playgrounds, lack of staff to maintain cleanliness, harassment of school girls as they walk to school) and the need to construct more anganwadis and tent schools in their areas.

They raised a strong and clear demand to their elected leaders and government officials to address these issues. In addition, children also made suggestions on the ways to resolve some of the issues. They were assured by the representatives that more tent schools for migrants and angawadis for all children would be constructed, that all schools in the area would get toilets and that funds would be released for these purposes. They also informed the children that the Vignana Nagar Ward is scheduled to receive fresh river water within the coming ten months.

The children strongly demanded that the Vibhutipura Lake be revived from its current degraded state which has caused the ground water table to shrink drastically. They felt this was a sensitive issue and must be handled in full consultation with the families and communities living along the lake banks.

The Ward Sabha concluded with a wish expressed by children and adults alike for a just and equitable society based on ideals and values of participatory democracy. All participants left the Children's Ward Sabha with the feeling that a model for democratic participation of citizens in

governance and social monitoring has been set in place. Through their Children's Ward Sabha, children from Vijnana Nagar Ward have claimed their citizenship. It enabled CWC to work towards the goal of changing the mind-set of decision makers and other adults towards children's participation, through awareness building and actual practice.

Looking Ahead

Post the Ward Sabha, CWC organised a meeting with other Bangalore-based NGOs and the Karnataka State Commission on Protection of the Rights of the Child for a debriefing of the process and to discuss lessons learnt and the way forward. Issues for discussion included the parameters of children's participation with a focus on the most marginalised; aspects of the Sabha that could be replicated; reflections on the capacity of the municipality to respond to children's problems; and how the shared space at the Sabha was negotiated by both adults and children. Based on this in-depth discussion, specific follow-up on issues raised by children, as well as larger policy actions for improving children's participation in urban government are being discussed.

2. Creating children friendly panchayats

Through the months of July and October, 2012 children's organisations were involved in making their panchayats children friendly. The trigger for this undertaking was the tragic death of 12 children in various panchayats of Kundapura due to drowning in local rainwater collecting structures during the monsoons. When children investigate the situation, they realised that these rainwater structures were built without any information to the rest of the panchayat and were extremely dangerous for children as they had no safety mechanisms. These structures had sprung up all around the panchayats and were on the way to school, home, work places and other areas that children accessed regularly. All the 108 children's organisations took it upon themselves to conduct a detailed mapping exercise regarding these structures. They then took this information to their local elected representatives and demanded that the water collecting structures be made safe and child friendly. As a result of the advocacy by children's organisations, the District Commissioner of Udupi sent out a notice to all panchayat members to make their villages child friendly. Many

panchayats have initiated the process of taking steps to increase safety around the water bodies under their jurisdiction and other dangerous zones mapped by the children.

3. Children monitor their local governments

Making stone quarries safer

Alur village in coastal Karnataka is known for its stone quarries. The excavated sites are hazardous to all residents, especially children and cattle who can easily fall in. After a child died from falling into a quarry in 2011, the local children decided to take action to prevent any further accidents. Having received training in information management from CWC, local children decided to conduct a survey and mapping exercise to identify the most dangerous sites and accumulate evidence for their closure.

The children developed a survey format and questionnaire that was largely graphic so young children could also understand and participate. They spoke to adults and children in households, recording the routes taken by them to work and to perform errands, areas that children use to play and areas described as hazardous. Marking the results on a map, the children were able to confront their village council with clear evidence on the need to fence off the most dangerous areas.

A new strategy for monitoring change: Kempu Patti (Red Ribbon)

The need for monitoring and tracking of children's participation to further validate their involvement in Makkala Grama Sabha resulted in developing a new mechanism by the children of Maravanthe Panchayat. Children decided to tie red ribbons or *kempu pattis* on a tree located at a prominent place in their panchayat. Each red ribbon signifies a problem and as each issue is addressed, the red ribbon will be untied and a white ribbon, signifying resolution, will replace it. This is a very powerful symbolic method to inform the community of issues raised in the panchayat and also to put pressure on the local government regarding the prevalence and urgency of unsolved issues. In several panchayats, the red ribbons are gradually being replaced by white ones. Children

of other panchayats have modified this concept of social monitoring to meet their ends. In one panchayat, children prioritised their issues and have tied bigger ribbons for larger issues which helps in identifying issues that need more urgent attention. In another panchayat, it was noted that just the size of the ribbon was not enough of an indicator and the issue itself was written on the red ribbon to also identify which ones were still pending resolution. This mechanism of monitoring is very significant as it has been completely developed by the children themselves. It is also a way in which children can appropriate public spaces. Such an appropriation of public spaces by the children also helps reduce their vulnerability and gives them ownership of their information and research. The whole community is a witness to their effort and any attempt to threaten the children would be open to community scrutiny. Also important in this context is the example of similar monitoring mechanisms used by children of Yedathare Panchayat where the children from a very marginalised section of the society took charge of their information and used it to present their problems to adults in an adults' Grama Sabha and worked towards resolving issues using the mechanism of Kempu Patti.

4. Lobbying for and working towards better anganwadis

Anganwadi³ for children of migrant communities

Fetching water and taking care of younger siblings has become the main chore for many girls and boys living in makeshift migrant settlements near the CWC Bangalore office at Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Nagar. There are hundreds of migrant families living in and around LBS Nagar hailing from the districts of Gulbarga, Bellary, Raichur and other northern parts of Karnataka.

Majority of the migrants are engaged in construction work, drainage cleaning for the municipality and to a lesser extent, in domestic work. While both parents are away for work during the day, small children are left behind at home to be looked after by their older siblings. In order to look after the younger siblings and to fetch water during the odd hours of the day the older children do not go to

³ The word Anganwadi means 'courtyard shelter' in Hindi. They were started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme to combat child hunger and malnutrition. It is a part of the Indian public health-care system provisioning basic health-care activities including contraceptive counseling and supply, nutrition education and supplementation, as well as pre-school activities, within communities.

school. This leads to a denial of their right to education. Parents are left with no option but to leave the younger children with elder ones as there are no facilities at their work place to keep their small children safe and healthy.

Lack of accessibility to Anganwadi

The State is mandated to provide an anganwadi for a population of every 1000 persons but it has by and large failed to cover children from migrant settlements living in the city. This has meant that a large population of small children below 6 years are denied their right to protection, nutrition and education.

Creating safety nets for younger children: Anganwadi at the CWC office

The CWC office in Bangalore is in close proximity to several migrant settlements. There is a public tap right in front of the organisation where the migrants come to collect water regularly along with younger and older children. To enable these children to access nutrition and protection CWC started an Anganwadi centre (day-care centre) within our office premises in March 2012.

Around 25 to 30 children below 6 years come to our office from 9 am to 12.30 pm. Sometimes mothers also visit and spend time with their children, especially those children who are still nursing. The age of the children ranges from 5 months to 6 years. The CWC anganwadi takes care of the nutrition and health of the children. Foods like egg, banana, black and green gram are given along with milk on daily basis. Apart from this, children are engaged in playing with child-friendly toys, using appropriate education materials for basic learning, they watch and listen to rhymes and songs and dance to music. Health checkups are conducted regularly along with height and weight monitoring. On an average, about 30 to 35 children access the service provided by the organisation daily. When the schools re-opened in June 2012, their older siblings, as promised, re-joined school since they are assured of a safe space for their younger siblings. This is an important indirect result of this intervention.

Full Day Anganwadis (Day Care Centres) Increases School Attendance

Sita dropped out of school to look after her two young siblings. Her parents were daily wage earners and worked sporadically as and when work was available. Sita's school was to the north of her home while the existing day care centre was to the south. It was not possible for her to leave her siblings in the day care centre and attend school, especially as the daycare was open for half a day and her school was from 9am to 5pm. Bhima Sanga suggested that a daycare centre be started near their school and run for the full day. That would enable them to take their siblings to the Anganwadi centre on their way to school and bring them back after school hours. This simple suggestion increased school attendance by 25%.

State assumes responsibility

As of August 2012, the anganwadi has been taken over by the government. This is similar to the model CWC has followed while setting up 'tent schools' as bridge education centres for migrant children in close proximity to their living areas. Although tent schools were a governmental programme, implementation was lacking in migrant settlements. Therefore, CWC initiated the tent school while lobbying with the government to take responsibility of the school. In about a year's time this was successful done and now the tent school is being run by the government.

Continued support from CWC

CWC continues to support the anganwadi and the children. Its activities are monitored daily by the CWC staff. Apart from the hot meal given by the government department, CWC continues to give a glass of milk to each child attending the anganwadi. We also ensure that the children have appropriate toys and education material and update it regularly as required. The space in the anganwadi is designed in such a way that every child has a choice of various activities that she/he can do.

5. Child marriage related policy advocacy

The High Court of Karnataka having grown impatient with the lack of reporting on child marriages by the State in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) before it, took a decision to set up a Review Committee on the matter under the able guidance of Justice Shivraj Patil, former judge of

the Supreme Court of India. CWC was a member of the core committee that drafted the report, a commendable document, within the stipulated six months.

On several important counts CWC was able to inform and influence the approach of the committee with regard to the review process. At the very outset, the emphasis was laid on 'prevention' rather than on the punitive and the final report is called 'Report on Prevention of child marriages in Karnataka' underlining this choice. The committee was persuaded by CWC to include an entire section on 'children's participation' and the drafting of this section was led by CWC. Representatives of CWC were actively involved in developing the sections related to mass marriages and the inclusion of child marriage related inputs into State Education Curriculum.

A strong case was made before the committee on the need to consult children along with other stakeholders and the Chairperson ensured this was done in all the district level consultations. Also, along with one state level consultation to develop the overview and other one to present key findings, the committee held district level consultations in Dharwad, Gulbarga, Bagalkote, Raichur, Mysore and Bellary where representatives from other districts too took part to provide an accurate picture of the ground realities. Representatives of Bhima Sangha took an active part in the consultations in Bellary and CWC made the keynote presentation.

The report details the causes and consequences of child marriages, the law and policy framework and the existing strategies and recommendations. The thrust of the recommendations is on providing appropriate alternatives to children, acknowledging affirmative actions, convergence of all key actors and most of all on state accountability to address this in a child rights frame.

The process followed in the creation of this report was commendable in its transparency, clarity of purpose and the participatory process. It is worthy of emulation. It is also heartening that the State Government is now in the process of developing State Rules, based on the recommendations of the Core Committee Report. Early stages of this process are underway and CWC is also providing inputs and actively participating in this process.

6. Education for democracy

“It is the quality and nature of the individuals that our education system produces and the interrelationships they are capable of, that will determine the socio-political fabric of our nation.”

Nandana Reddy, Founder, CWC

Nandana is on the team that frames the National Education Curriculum

The Concerned for Working Children believes that everyone has the right to education regardless of their cultural background and gender differences; that education must teach children not only to be workers but to be active democratic citizens.

Through our education programme, Namma Nalanda Vidyapeetha and through educational partnerships with schools across Karnataka, we have put these principles into practice providing hundreds of children with flexible child centric education and vocational training.

CWCs involvement with education stems from our cause of empowering working children. Millions of school-age children across Karnataka are out of school and receiving no education. Early in our work, children told us that they wished they could combine work with education and CWC began providing informal after-hours education in Bangalore. Working children told us that they dropped out of school because it did not seem relevant to their lives. We established the Appropriate Education Programme (AEP) to provide an education that properly equips rural children for adulthood. Our research revealed that the majority of working children in cities are migrants from rural areas. We established vocational training schemes to equip children with skills that enable them to build careers while staying at home.

The role of education lies not just in disseminating knowledge but in sculpting the fabric of a nation. It should not ignore traditional and indigenous knowledge or constitutional principles and values.

CWC believes that while education prepares children for their lives as adults, it should also –

- Enable children and adolescents to effectively address the issues they confront.
- Equip children with knowledge and skills to question and challenge such traditional practices that are unjust and discriminatory.
- Make it possible for them to understand their own lives and their world.
- Acquire the freedom to define their own lives.
- Give them a strong grounding in their own communities and provide them the path to access international communities, if they so desire.

Above all, we believe that education should be ‘democratic and for democracy.’ The learning environment, relationships, decisions and practices must be democratic so that each Indian child learns how to interact and form partnerships with others to preserve and enhance democracy. Our work in education has been designed to reflect these principles.

Namma Nalanda Vidyapeeta (NNVP)

Namma Nalanda Vidyapeeta (NNVP) was inaugurated on 8 October, 2012. Over 500 children, their parents, community members, panchayat representatives, officials and ministers gathered together to celebrate the inauguration programme of ‘Namma Nalanda Vidyapeeta’ an educational academy established in Kundapur. Namma Nalanda Vidyapeeta is the dream of The Concerned for Working Children and the school education programme was inaugurated to expand the professional education programme that has been running since 1993. The graduation ceremony of the recent graduates from the professional training was held in conjunction with the inaugural ceremony.

‘Education for democracy’ is the core philosophy of Namma Nalanda Vidyapeeta. Nalanda provides high quality appropriate education that is recognised formally by the state government. The curriculum and pedagogy of Nalanda are embedded in the local cultural and social ethos and are aligned with constitutional values and principles. Nalanda aims to provide an empowering education that is not only democratic but also promotes nature and enhances democracy and democratic principles.

NNVP removes existing distinctions between vocational, art and general education; between oral traditional practice and academic theory; and between the formal and the non-formal systems of education. It is firmly rooted in the Indian system and maintains a special focus on the education of underprivileged children, girls and differently abled children along with children of migrant, adivasi, dalit and poor communities.

The programme opened with a procession by children, teachers, community members and others to NNVP accompanied by music and dance. Upon reaching the new campus, everyone participated in the inaugural activities and representatives of children's groups, parents, community members, supporters and elected representatives placed handprints using colourful paint on the outer walls of the buildings. Trees were planted and clay tiles were laid. These activities were followed by a detailed group discussion on different issues of education and the philosophy of Nalanda with children and adults, which were facilitated by resource persons – Dr. N. Ratna, Shri. Lakshapathi, Shri. Harindran V.K., Shri. Vinay Deshpande, Shri. Raghuv eer Acharya and Shri. Jayakumar S. Children used this opportunity to give their feedback and suggestions on how to improve the training programme.

Discussion with graduates

On the occasion of the inauguration of the NNVP, a discussion was held with 85 graduates of the professional education programme. It included both entrepreneurs as well as employees working in a wide range of occupations. Two of the CWC Board Members, Shri. Vinay Deshpande and Shri. V.K. Harindran interacted with the youngsters inviting their thoughts and suggestions for improving upon the professional education.

Sharath Movadi, Satish Shetty and Iyaz, who are all graduates of electrical training pointed out that their training was of high quality and its caliber was well appreciated by their employers. However, if they had also cleared ITI exams along with their graduation they would have benefited more in terms of the final placement. Hence, they suggested that CWC should facilitate children to appear

for their ITI exam. When they were informed about the Karnataka Open University accreditation that CWC is currently pursuing, they were eager to find out if they could also take certain courses/refresher courses under its aegis and if that would professionally benefit them.

While not undermining the value of certification, Jagadish, who specialises in carpentry, and few other graduates said that it is the quality of work that is the true certificate and that is what each graduate should aspire for. They gave several examples where the new skills they had gained and the experiments they dared to venture into had brought them recognition as well as success.

Some of the graduates of computer education, like Harish and Renuka, said that their training should include the software currently in vogue. Others mentioned that as the softwares are constantly upgraded the graduates should be given tips about how to upgrade their own skills even after graduation. Umesh, who is a graduate in garments and gainfully employed, referred to the training he had received in Yakshagana while at Namma Bhoomi. While it had given him lot of creative joy it had also proved to be of great help financially. He narrated how he performed Yakshanana as a part-time job which often earned him more than his garment work during early days of his employment. Raghu Kulal, a pottery artisan, spoke about the good market he had for his products and of his struggles relating to quality control. He continues to train a lot of youngsters while managing a successful business.

Most graduates suggested that inputs in English as well as gearing up the graduates for the process of recruitment – including preparing a resume, facing interviews, taking a quotation, conduction of campus interviews etc would be most useful. Subramanya Uppunda, who runs his own business in carpentry, has trained over 15 members in his profession. He works with two assistants. His observation was that the present carpentry course leaned more towards theoretical inputs. He suggested that it should involve extensive practical work. He and several others were eager to provide time to NNVP and its students to provide training and industry updates.

The discussions also covered the need for the graduates to be in good contact with each other so that they can support each other and also extend a helping hand to the new graduates. They felt they

could benefit from a continued relationship with CWC. They were keen to review Namma Sabha's activities and to revive its reach and impact to what it was during its early years.

Construction of new campus

NNVP is housed in Namma Bhoomi (Our Earth) campus, near Kundapura town, Udupi District at the foothills of Western Ghats and on the banks of river Varahi. The campus is spread over 18 acres and is surrounded by greenery. Namma Bhoomi has a residential accommodation at 'Namma Halli', a safe and fun place for 200 children, in addition to residences for teachers and staff. The campus has a playground, computer lab, library and auditorium for school and public performances. A medical infirmary is on campus with a doctor and a nurse in residence. Namma Bhoomi was designed by architects Jeeth and Natasha Iype, winners of the TIME magazine 'Good Earth Team' innovators award. They developed the design in consultation with children and locally available eco-friendly materials.

Over the years the land that was originally barren has become a fertile and the landscape has slowly turned green. There is a dairy on campus and fruits and vegetables are grown with the help of the children. Children feel a sense of ownership over the space and participate in all the activities of daily maintenance in partnership with adults, a first-hand way for children to engage with their natural environments.

In Namma Bhoomi, the traditional boundaries of caste, gender and religion are gently broken down and everyone lives, learns and plays together. Festivals across all religions are celebrated and girls and boys are treated as equals. More importantly, it is an empowering space for children. Children elect their own council each year, a Makkala Panchayat, which plays a key role in the governance and management of the facility on decisions ranging from menu choice to rules governing discipline and children experience democratic functioning first-hand.

Alumni from Namma Bhoomi regard it as their home and are frequent visitors to the campus. They also play a critical role in creating a support and sharing network for graduates. The Namma

Bhoomi campus also serves as a training facility for our consultancy wing, Dhruva. A reference library is housed on campus with a comprehensive collection of books, videos, CDs, periodicals and journals on the issue of child rights, participation and governance. Library services include access to catalogues, reference assistance, bibliographies and access to a photocopier along with Internet access.

ENABLING ADULTS

While CWCs primary focus is on working with children, we recognise the fact that children are embedded in an iniquitous society where marginalisation is the result of complex political maneuvering of power structures. Working with the adults of marginalised communities hence in some ways simultaneously addresses the structural marginalisation of children.

CWC began its work with children who were migrating for work in the 70s and has since expanded its mandate to include marginalised migrant communities as a whole. The communities we work with in rural and urban contexts are amongst the poorest who have been forced to migrate in order to survive. While working to organise the children, we also work with the adults in these communities, supporting both with information provisioning and critical thinking so they are informed of their rights and may take action to ensure the fulfillment of these rights. Also, in order to curb migration from villages CWC began supporting traditional livelihoods of artisans through its vocational training programmes and later through Namma Angadi (Our shop), a venture to market these products and increase their reach.

On similar lines, our work with children, education and governance has led to a broadening and deepening of horizons. It became clear to us that decentralisation in governance was an important aspect of enabling a community's ability to determine its own development trajectory. The Gram Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana (GPHA) was born with the need of a deliberative space that could be used to secure and safeguard the principles of democratic decentralisation and devolution of power enshrined in the Indian Constitution and to strengthen these institutions, especially at the grassroots level by empowering people's representatives to become effective instruments of development and social justice.

Collectivising has enabled marginalised communities to raise their voices on several important issues, be it the GPHAs demand for financial devolution or the opposition of projects such as the National Highway 17 by migrant collectives. This year has seen the continued effective engagement of CWC on these fronts.

1. Gram Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana

Campaign against Anganwadi food

Gram Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana (GPHA) launched a state wide campaign to demand an end to low quality, sub-standard food being distributed to anganwadis by the contractor of the Government of Karnataka, Christy Friedgram Industry and to reclaim the right of the panchayats to implement the Angawadi programme with local social monitoring in accordance with the 73rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution. The members of the Andolana in 13 districts of the state made their voices heard through community action. This blatant constitutional violation was also challenged in the High Court of Karnataka.

Facilitating Model Grama Sabhas

Members of the Andolana carried out a capacity building process in a few panchayats through discussions; supported the ward sabhas carried out in urban regions; supported children's gram sabhas; and raised their voices in the adult gram sabhas. Informal and formal trainings were conducted for adults and children on methodologies of collecting information on issues and problems in the panchayat. The Andolana facilitated Model Grama Sabhas in five panchayats of Kundapur taluk, one panchayat of Udupi taluk in Udupi district and one panchayat of Honnavara taluk in Uttara Kannada district.

Grama Swaraj Samavesha

In December 2011, the Andolana organised a state level convention of representatives of gram panchayats of Karnataka to build rural India through democratic civil society participation. The Grama Swaraj Samavesha 2011 provided a forum for representatives of the gram panchayats to review, reflect and reassert their rights and responsibilities as the elected representatives of the government closest to the citizens of this country. Approximately 4000 elected representatives congregated in Udupi to deliberate on issues of concern, along with experts, with a view to find

appropriate and viable ways to enable the realisation of the letter and spirit of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment and respect the legitimate rights and responsibilities of grama panchayats.

Demanding financial devolution to panchayats

The Andolana organised a large protest and gathering in Freedom Park in Bangalore on 18th July 2012 to demand the rightful financial devolution to the local governments in order to ensure that the gram panchayats were effectively enabled to perform their duties meaningfully. This protest was a strong call to decentralise the State Budget and demand action on the State's commitment to gram panchayats. Over 8000 representatives of grama panchayats from 27 districts gathered and raised their voice for this cause.

Launching a website

The Andolana launched its website, www.gpha.weebly.com, this year. This website includes significant information about grama panchayats of Karnataka. It is an effort to ensure the reach of information to all grama panchayats and grama sabha members and to strengthen democratic decentralisation. The website includes information on:

- The Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana
- Various articles on the Panchayati Raj Act
- Collection of news and information relating to grama panchayats
- Panchayati Raj Act 1993
- Report of the Third Finance Commission of Karnataka
- Government Orders, circulars and notifications relating to Panchayati Raj
- Information on all gram panchayats of Karnataka

2. Marginalised Migrants - Making them count as citizens

CWC works with thirty-two migrant communities in Bangalore and the towns of Udupi and Kundapur. The primary focus is on empowering the migrants to realise their civil and socio-political

rights. The migrant laborers are organised under the Karnataka Valase Karmikara Sangha (KVKS). The children of these communities have been mobilised and have formed the local chapters of Bhima Sangha (working children's union) in their communities.

This year saw many important developments relating to migrant communities. We were successful in getting the government to take over an anganwadi for young children started by us in the migrant locality near our office. In Udupi and Kundapur, as an outcome of long-term advocacy and lobbying, migrants are getting greater recognition at the panchayat and district levels. Migrant families have been successful in getting their basic needs met such as accessing health insurance. This has improved the quality of their lives. In Bangalore, the first ever Children's Ward Sabha which included all children of the ward including migrant and working children, was conducted. This was an important forum for recognising the marginalised communities and also for children to bargain for their rights. Representatives of Bhima Sangha from Bangalore attended a meeting on 'Rag-picking Children' in Bhopal to discuss problems and develop strategies to address the problems faced by children who work on the streets.

CWC helped to organise and participated in a State-wide Convention on claiming the rights of rural local governments. Over 5000 elected representatives participated in this and issues of peri-urban and town panchayats was discussed in depth along with demands on the State to realise the rights of migrants and their children.

In both Bangalore and Udupi, the number of members in the adult and children's migrant unions has been increasing as a result of our facilitation resulting in an expansion of work. In Bangalore, as an outcome of the First Children's Ward Sabha, 22 new areas of migrant communities were identified and the process of working with these groups was initiated. Adults and children have been very active in collecting information about issues they face and advocating for their rights with the respective government bodies. There was an increase in the entitlements (like voter ID and ration card) applied for and received by the migrants in Udupi and Bangalore and it reflects their growing strength as a collective. Many migrant families have started receiving the benefits from government like the health insurance, indicating that the government officials are recognising them as rights-

holders. The migrants unions have strengthened their advocacy this year by not only negotiating with the local governments but also with the district and state level governments. The recognition given to the unions by the district government is an important development in claiming their citizenship.

In order to collect information regarding migrants, an in-depth situational analysis was initiated in Bangalore. It covered 5 zones of Bangalore and about 6000 families. Once completed the situational analysis will feed into our advocacy work.

Opposing the expansion of National Highway 17

Migrant citizens have been key players in the opposition of the expansion of National Highway 17. The highway runs up the coast of Karnataka to Goa. The road is currently four-laned from Mangalore to Surathkal. It was proposed that the road be expanded to four lanes even in the section between Surathkal to Kundapura.

Construction of these extra lanes would have been very disruptive to the lives of the people of Kundapur. The highway cuts through the heart of the town and is the primary entry point to the city. 25,000 citizens of Kundapur, as well as 40,000 citizens from around the area who visit each day, would have been severely disturbed by the construction of the road. Farmers would be unable to sell their goods in the *santhes* (street markets). It would also adversely impact school children, sick people visiting the hospital and differently abled people. It was proposed to instead construct a flyover in Kundapura to enable the road to be expanded without destroying livelihoods in the town.

Migrant citizens, many of whom would have most likely worked on the construction of this road, have been key participants in the campaign against the expansion, of which CWC has been a lead organiser. The campaign successfully pushed the National Highway Authority of India to consult with people in Udupi district and other concerned parties and consider the flyover option. Through constant campaigning and advocacy the NHAI has now decided to shelve the idea of a 4 km embankment in the centre of Kundapura town and replace it instead with a 250 mts flyover. This is

significant as with the support of the most marginalised communities, vast areas of commons at the centre of the town could be protected.

Udupi Resolutions on migrants

The [Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana](#), a movement of gram panchayat members from across Karnataka facilitated by CWC, has been a key force in defending the rights of the migrant workers. Its [Udupi Resolution of 2011](#) makes the following declaration:

“We express our concern at the plight of migrant children and their families who are deprived of their basic facilities such as housing, water, education, etc but most importantly the fact that they are deprived of their franchise and other attendant facilities and rights as they are not registered as the citizens of the local Panchayat even several years after migration. We will endeavour to make special efforts to have in-depth discussions with these groups and come up with a plan of action that will include them in the development process of the Panchayat.”

“We recognise women, children, youth, tribals, minorities, senior citizen, people with special needs, dalits and migrants as vulnerable groups. We, the elected representatives of Grama Panchayats, shall ensure a favourable environment for the self determination and informed and active participation of the all vulnerable groups in all meetings especially in Ward and Grama Sabhas. We also request other levels of Government to ensure the same.”

The Karnataka Migrants Welfare Union and other groups are lobbying for the acceptance of these resolutions with governments at local and state levels in cooperation with the Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana.

Advocacy relating to migrants

While migration is on the increase in India, the country has almost no expansive policy on the matter. The criticality of policy advocacy in this area is evident. Both children's organisations and

CWC have made important strides in this regard. For instance, a suo moto public interest litigation (PIL) was registered in the Karnataka High Court and an Amicus Curiae was appointed to review the mis-management in government homes in Karnataka. Towards the final report that was submitted by the Amicus Curiae, representatives of Bhima Sangha contributed their case study report which contained interviews with children from migrant communities who have been taken to these government homes. A Committee was also setup by the High Court to investigate issues of Juvenile Justice reforms in the state. CWC is one of the three NGO members on this Committee.

The National Street Vendors Bill 2012 was tabled during the parliament session. Prior to the session, the Bill was open for comments from the public. CWC critiqued the bill and it was shared at the platform organised by the Urban Research and Policy Programme (URPP), National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS). CWC also prepared a detailed set of recommendations for the devolution of the anganwadi programme to local governments. This was submitted to the High Court constituted Committee on Addressing Malnutrition in the State. In order to collect detailed information regarding migrants in the city, an in-depth situational analysis was initiated in Bangalore. It covered the five zones of Bangalore and about 6000 families. Once completed the situational analysis will feed into our future advocacy work.

3. Supporting traditional artisans

Namma Angadi

CWC has been working to support traditional artisanal livelihoods since the early 1990s. Many working children migrate to the cities to work because of the decline of the traditional livelihoods that have been sustaining their families for generations. CWC believes that with the right marketing and the appropriate use of modern technology these livelihoods can be revived. This would help stem the flow of children to the cities.

The vocational training provided by our educational institute, [Namma Nalanda Vidyapeetha](#), includes textiles, woodwork and basket-making as well as beauty, electrics, computing and

agriculture. In 1993, CWC founded Namma Angadi (Our shop), a collective marketing platform for young artisans and craft-persons in Karnataka. Namma Angadi began as an outlet for rural artisans where stalls were put up on local market days to help villagers sell their products. CWC believed that there would be a renewed interest in ethnic products in the urban market and consequently opened a store in Bangalore. The network has two outlets now – one at CWCs office in Bangalore and the other at our residential resource centre, Namma Bhoomi, in Kundapur. Namma Angadi is not a regular shop. There are no middle-men and it is not a venture to raise capital for CWC. The network's profits are returned to producers who are part-owners of the business. The product range includes those made by children in our vocational training centre.

Prices are deliberately kept reasonable to appeal to the widest possible section of society. The goods sold at Namma Angadi are sustainable, eco-friendly and hand-crafted, but with new technology and modern designs by interns from institutions like the National Institute of Design. Selection of the product range is based on the needs of the rural consumer that might also have an urban use. All product materials are sourced from natural and eco-friendly sources – usually from the forest, villages or plantations. Over the years, hundreds of artisans and craftpersons have joined the Namma Angadi collective and found a new and fair market for their goods.

Our range of products include:

- Clay and Terracotta products
- Garments
- Bamboo products
- Jute products
- Lavancha products
- Wooden products
- Accessories

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Our vision is to create, 'A world where there are organisations of adults and children who are committed and able to ensure children's participation and the realisation of their rights'. For CWC the path to the realisation of this dream has been through the iterative process of engagement at various levels of conversations regarding children and their rights, along with the timely and appropriate use of information and knowledge generated from our ground work with children as tools for change.

Our approach to research and advocacy is defined by the needs of the children and communities we are actively engaged with; and based on the requirements highlighted by organisations which might seek our support. We believe in the cyclic linking of existing knowledge and theory building with the practice on the field. Our interactions and relationships with children, communities, organisations and people is defined by our desire for longterm collaborations as these provide an important method to create voice and sustain change.

This year has seen CWCs research and advocacy endeavours span a variety of issues at various policy and practice levels. From participating in a PIL regarding the abysmal conditions within the institutions of the Juvenile Justice system in Karnataka to actively fighting the poor quality of anganwadi's in the state with the GPHA to engaging with global and local organisations to build and use tools for children's participation – we have been able to continue bringing the perspective of children into new and old political spaces.

1. Public Interest Litigation (PIL) regarding the Juvenile Justice system in Karnataka

The High Court of Karnataka, responding to the abuse of a child in a boys' observation home of Bangalore, took up the matter as a suo moto case (WP No. 4840/2012 PIL). The Amicus Curea of the case, Sumana Baliga, held several discussions with CWC during her review process to gain information as well as insights about the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) in the State. CWC welcomed this suo moto case as a very timely one and took the decision to attempt an expansion of the scope of the case to go beyond the incident which spurred the judicial inquiry and

to bring the all the JJA related systems, institutions and processes under the scanner. To this end, CWC argued in the court to implead in the case as a co-petitioner. The Judicial Bench led by the Chief Justice of Karnataka saw merit in CWCs argument and duly expanded the frame of the judicial review. Following several hearings where the abysmal situation of the JJA institutions, systems and practices were discussed at length, the High Court of Karnataka, took a strong note of the absolute lack of state accountability in the matter. An order was passed to set up a Judicial Review Committee, to go into the details of all the issues raised and to address them in a rigorous manner.

The said Committee has been set up and CWC is one of the NGO members participating in the process. As an outcome of its first meeting, the Department of Women and Child Welfare has been directed to do the following:

- Inform all JJA functionaries about the JJA Committee being re-activated and alert them that the committee will periodically review the functioning and the reports related to JJA;
- Present a report about the constitution of the children's committees, management committees, inspection committees; the procedure followed to set them up and copies of the proceedings of such committees;
- Present a compilation of all the orders passed by the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) for the review of the Committee;
- List the pending cases before the JJB, carry out speedy trials and present a Action Taken Report;
- List the training programmes scheduled for JJA functionaries along with content and RPs and report on its implementation;
- List a panel of advocates who can form the legal aid panel to provide legal assistance for children in conflict with law. This section was to be based on aptitude and commitment to children.

It is a matter of distress and shame that since its formation in the month of August, the Committee has not been reconvened and no updates regarding action taken by the DWCD have been

forthcoming despite persistent reminders.

2. Fighting against malnutrition

Since 2010, CWC has been actively engaging at multiple levels with the issue of malnutrition and the anganwadi scheme of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme in Karnataka. Along with the Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana and other civil society organisations, CWC participated in the campaign against poor quality food being supplied to anganwadis. The campaign was fruitful in revoking the contract awarded to the private party for supply of food and in several panchayats in CWCs working areas began supplying hot mid-day meals to the children.

Alongside the campaign, CWC also advocated for systemic changes in the anganwadi programme through inputs into a High Court constituted Committee on addressing malnutrition in the state of Karnataka. CWC prepared a detailed set of recommendations for the devolution of the anganwadi programme to the local government level and submitted this to the Court along with publishing its views in the media.

3. Ensuring the practice of child marriage is curbed

In Bellary, children's organisations continue to actively monitor and prevent child marriages. Bhima Sangha representatives continue their participation in a Committee constituted by the local government to verify the documents submitted by families for mass marriages. They are engaged in awareness building across the district and have also stopped many child marriages through peer-to-peer interventions. The work by Bhima Sangha in preventing child marriages in Udupi has also been strengthened. Children are constantly collecting information and following up with families that are likely to perform child marriage. Children in Bangalore have been trained to use tools of mapping and research to identify their resource uses and dangerous zones in their wards. They have been using this information in their advocacy with their governments.

4. Amendment of the Child Labour Act

A recent decision by the Union Cabinet that approved a proposal to amend the Child Labour [Prohibition and Regulation] Act 1986 and enforce a blanket ban on the employment of children below the age of 14 in all occupations and processes, hazardous and non-hazardous has been welcomed by NGOs and educationalists alike. It is a given that no child should be engaged in any work that does not contribute to her/his growth and development and that every child should have access to quality education. This goal is not just praiseworthy because of its altruistic stance but because these are the rights of every child and the obligation of the state to all its citizens. The complications lie in how this end is met.

So far the legislative approach towards child labour has been to ban industries and processes for children below the age of fourteen. This approach is implemented through consequent punitive action against employers and the criminalisation of the children who labour and the only way we have seen fit to implement this legislation is through compulsion. For all concerned, especially the child labourers themselves, this approach has been crippling rather than enabling; criminalising rather than empowering and marginalising rather than inclusive and participatory.

We, at CWC have been pushing for a comprehensive, multi-pronged, bottom-up, decentralised and participatory approach to addressing the problem of child labour that include working children themselves as actors in finding solutions that are relevant and sustainable. To this end we continued our crusade against demand based top-down policy approach to child labour and have been engaging across several forums to share views, build alternative approaches, create awareness etc.

4. Contributions to education related policy

The year 2012 provided many opportunities to take the models we have created in AEP into several advocacy platforms. During the Namma Nalanda Vidyapeeta inauguration, a consultation was organised with experts in the field of education, pedagogy, senior government functionaries and other concerned individuals. The discussions looked at how current education policy and practice

needed to be challenged. Many advocacy threads were debated and a follow-up meeting will be held in 2013. During the inauguration a public meeting was also organised with ministers, community members and parents to discuss a vision of education and education policy.

At the national level, contributions were made to the Planning Commissions Sub-Committee on Adolescent Education. At the state level, CWC is one of the key organisations that have been critiquing the decadal planning process of the Department of Women and Child Welfare. The only department to have had a serious consultation, albeit with a very small number of representatives, was the Department of Education. The organiser's of the Education Consultation were extremely open to inputs, comments as well as critiques and have clearly communicated the outcomes of the meeting to the Department of Women and Child Development. These are indicators that CWC is being appreciated as a serious and important voice in the education debates in the state and country.

5. International project on monitoring and evaluating tools for children's participation

Since 2012 CWC has been part of an international pilot project on monitoring and evaluating tools for children's participation as a steering group member along with UNICEF, SC, World Vision and Plan International. We continue to be part of one of the 10 global projects that will pilot the examination of monitoring and evaluation tools for children's participation. This collaborative effort will lead to pilot tested training manuals that will be available for all agencies in the future. Our participation in this project has resulted in closely monitored, well documented application of several new monitoring tools in our field areas, in addition to ongoing review and evaluation processes that have been carried out every quarter of 2012. Through this process we have received feedback on our work in Kundapur field areas which is enabling us to sharpen our work. We have initiated similar discussions in our Bellary field area and Bangalore field areas.

6. Makkala Toofan TV

The *Makkala Toofan TV* project started as a pilot project last year when 14 episodes were aired on a local cable channel in Udipi, Smile TV. Based on the response this year 8 episodes were aired from

October to December 2012 on DD Chandana. The production for another 8 episodes has been undertaken and they will go on air from January to February 2013. The channel was chosen as it had the best outreach and was accessible to kids both in the villages near towns and cities as well as more remote areas.

Our main focus in terms of production was the collaboration with the children of Kundapur. Stories about familiar places, children, their issues and achievements were used to create the episodes. A lot of the episodes were drawn up with children from Namma Bhoomi and various other sanghas around the area. These experiences were often new to the children and through this process they were introduced to the basics of production, acting and some additional arts and crafts used therein. Based on the responses from the audience the strategies and stories have also been evolving. For example, we realised that many adults were also watching the programmes along with the children and hence the show was re-structured to appeal to a slightly older audience.

7. Dhruva – CWCs consultancy wing

International consultancies

a. Strategic review of child-clubs in Nepal

As a member of Dhruva, CWCs Director of Advocacy, Kavita Ratna, was the International consultant and the Team leader for the Strategic Review of Support to Child-clubs in Nepal (2011-2012). The Nepal Central Child Welfare Board (NCCWB) and the Consortium of 57 national and international organisations in Nepal re-committed themselves to the realisation of children's rights in collaboration with the UNICEF Nepal, Save the Children, Plan Nepal and World Vision International along the lines of this strategic review.

The review process focused on the development of child-clubs during the last decade. It drew extensively from the consultations held with children who represented 181 child clubs from 10 districts of Nepal and Kathmandu valley out of a total of 13,000 child clubs in 75 districts. The field

visits included, in addition to consultations with children, interviews or focus group discussions with representatives of local government, service providers, partners, front line workers, local political leaders and community based agencies at district, Municipality or VDC levels in 11 sample districts. The initial findings were shared with all those who were consulted including representatives of children's clubs.

This strategic review report has been official published by the Nepal Government's Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) and a Nepali version of the report is also being written to ensure wider dissemination. In addition to general recommendations to all the key organisers of the process, a separate set of specific suggestions to the UNICEF, Nepal have also been made for their effective engagement with and support to children's clubs.

b. Step Change in Monitoring and Evaluating Children's Participation

Kavita Ratna of Dhruva is a member of the Steering Group of the 'Step Change in Monitoring and Evaluating Children's Participation', an international project that is associated with developing, implementing and evaluating processes and tools to gauge the effectiveness of children's participation through a pilot project involving partner agencies in 15 countries. CWC is one of the pilot project holders and Roshni, the head of CARD, is coordinating this project in CWC.

National

A team from Dhruva led by Venkatesh Moodkeri, Assistant Director CWC, provided inputs directly to members of the Kishori Sanghas, children's organisations of adolescent girls from highly marginalised communities. They provided inputs in areas such as personhood, the right to self determination and reached 1322 children (285 in Chamaraja Nagar, 245 in Chikkaballapura and 792 in Gadag districts of Karnataka).

Dhruva has also carried out several national and state based capacity building programmes. In a two day workshop, Dhruva provided training inputs on child rights to the partnering organisations of

CRY from 18 districts. Dhruva also provided inputs on Child Rights Programmes to the Post Graduate Diploma Students of the National Law School of India and on Developmental Communications to the MS postgraduate students of the Christ University.

As part of the Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolan's capacity building process, Dhruva carried out training programmes for 100 elected women panchayat members from 7 districts of Karnataka to enhance their capacities to claim their political space and rights and also fulfill their responsibilities to their constituencies. As a part of this process, a training for the 12 trainers in the programme was organised. This was also in preparation for a similar training programme scheduled state wide in 2013. Additionally, a summer camp was organised for 20 students from the Blue mountain school, Ooty.
