



Annual Report 2008

CWC@25
Empowering Children and Enabling Adults



**The Concerned
for
Working Children**

Annual Report
The Concerned for Working Children
2008

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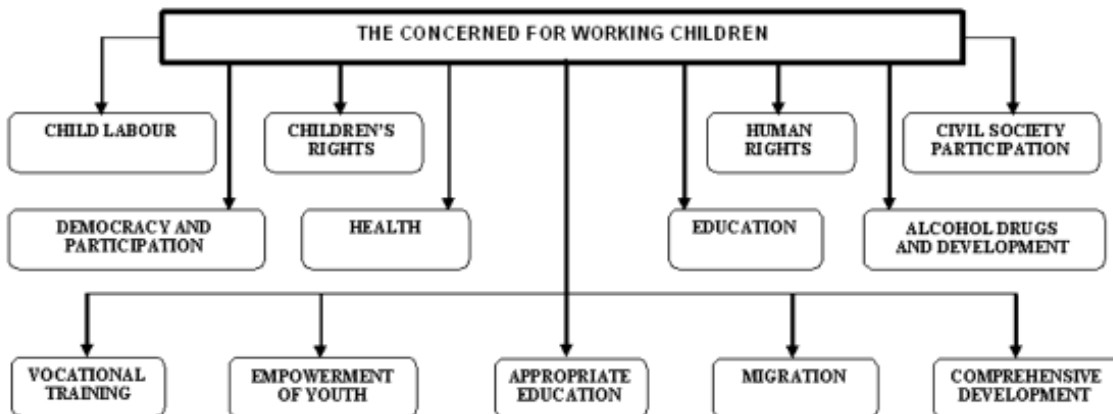
Children are Citizens Today

Organisation at a Glance

The Concerned for Working Children (CWC) is a secular and democratic development agency committed to the empowerment of children, especially working and other marginalised children and their communities through their participation in decision making and governance on all matters that concern them.

The CWC is proud to celebrate 25 meaningful years as a pioneering organisation in the field of children’s rights and civil society participation with an emphasis on children’s participation. As a secular democratic, national, private development agency, CWC is the first organisation in India to work exclusively on issues of child labour and children’s rights. Over the years it formed very strong partnerships with children’s own organisations, local governments, national and international agencies to create, nurture and sustain an environment where children are citizens of today.

Issues we are engaged with



2008 at a Glance

CWC's field programmes are located in 4 rural districts and one urban district of Karnataka in Southern India. During the year 2008 CWC, through its rural programme in 56 Panchayats in Udupi, North Kanara, Bellary and Davenegeri Districts, CWC directly reached 57,200 school going children, 1600 working children, 500 youth, 19,000 adults and 2500 members of migrant families.

Its Regional Resource Center, Namma Bhoomi has gained academic as well as aesthetic acclaim and is seen as a role model for the entire state. 5000 individuals representing various institutions have visited Namma Bhoomi in 2008 to gain an exposure to its philosophy and functioning. This year, Namma Bhoomi effectively hosted 36 workshops and training programmes during the year on wide range of issues for local, district, state, national and international participants and is well established as a resource centre not only for the region, but for the country.

The information management, communication, advocacy and capacity building aspects of CWC's work have National, Regional and International reach through policy interventions, campaigns, media interventions as well as collective action. The programme report reflects this.

Our Vision

'A world where all children are respected citizens and able protagonists, who realise, experience and practice all their rights through their participation; where children and adults are in responsible partnerships to establish and maintain together a secular, equitable, just, non-exploitative world where there is no discrimination based on ethnicity, caste, religion, gender and language; and where all life coexist in harmony with nature and resources are used in a sustainable and need based manner'.

Dhruva, a consultancy and capacity building unit of CWC, was set up, precisely to meet these and other challenges facing society in the translation of participatory democratic principles into action. It is committed to children and people's participation in governance processes and the realisation of their rights.

Programmes at a Glance

Ankur: CWC started its urban programme, Ankur in 1985. Ankur works in three major sectors and in over 30 wards of the Bangalore city. Ankur's activists work towards the empowerment and mobilisation of working children, their families and communities in the urban areas. This programme is actively engaged with appropriate education that is children's rights oriented. It is increasingly involved in countering the ill effects of the present model of globalisation through enhanced civil society participation of the most marginalised communities.

Gramashrama: CWC's rural project was started in 1989 in order to address the issue of child labour in a holistic and sustainable manner by stemming the trend of migration of rural children to urban centres in search of work. Gramashrama presently works in 4 rural districts and in over 70 Panchayats in order to evolve a child centered, comprehensive development paradigm in partnership with children, women and other stakeholders.

CWC's Regional Training Center, Namma Bhoomi provides Vocational training for former child workers in order to empower them and to enhance their professional skills. Their training includes inputs in rights and life-skills as well as opportunities to pursue formal education. CWC's regional resource centers are -

located in Udupi, North Kanara and Bellary districts to cater to the needs of the three regions it works in. These centers are also the venue for capacity building programmes for a wide range of stakeholders who include members of the Education Department, Panchayat members, Police, media persons etc.

CARD: The Center for Applied Research and Documentation (CARD) was established (1989) in response to the need for a sound information base on the issue of Children's rights. CARD aims to consolidate the work experience of the CWC, its constituencies and other grassroots organisations into transferable forms of information; to forge links with other organisations for the purpose of advocacy and to provide the information base required to make interventions at the national level and State levels.

Samvada: In order to place increased emphasis on advocacy and communications, the programme, Samvada was established 1999. Samvada aims at advocacy and policy interventions by CWC and its constituencies, primarily, children. It enables the children to access the spaces and tools to advocate for their issues. It also attempts to keep all the issues that are central to CWC alive in the --

public domain in order to inform and influence programmes and policies.

Dhruva: The Training and consultancy unit of CWC, Dhruva was set up in 1998, to meet the challenges involved in translating the principles of rights into practice. It is committed to enabling organisations, institutions and persons concerned with children's participation, protagonism, governance and related issues to perform their roles effectively through training and consultancy.

The prime objective of Dhruva is to enable the participation of children and adults in democratic processes to take decisions on all matters that concern their lives.

Based on extensive experience in several countries of the world and that of the Concerned for Working Children's fieldwork for over 25 years and other successful examples in the area of children's participation, protagonism and governance, Dhruva has been a global actor in the area of children's rights.

DHRUVA offers a wide range of consultancy services to Governments, International Non Governmental Organisations, Non Governmental Organisations, Children's Organisations and Corporate bodies. Our expertise includes field visits to countries to facilitate assessments, facilitating strategic planning processes in collaboration with children and a wide range of stakeholders, conducting capacity building and planning workshops designed and tailor made to the needs and context of specific countries.



Important strides ahead.....

Defending decentralised democracy:

CWC's role and as the convener of the State Wide Campaign against the recent Amendment to Panchayat Raj Act – has resulted in a very strong and wide base group for our work. We now have well established contacts in every district of the State – and a national recognition for our work in relation to decentralisation. This is a very important base for us to not only strengthen civil society participation and local governance – but also to take forward that Makkala Panchayat Concept to the entire State.

The unprecedented response to the cause of the Panchayat Raj Andolan has enabled CWC to have a strong State Wide presence with access to over 5000 Panchayats of the State. This also opens up tremendous opportunities that we need to build on.

In search of commitments: An analysis of the election manifestos, Karnataka State Elections 2008: Manifestos are a good source of what the parties stand for and what they promise to do if they are elected. Hence we carried out an exercise to analyse if these manifestos are well informed and address the fundamental issues faced by our society. Manifestos of five main political parties were analysed by a panel of experienced citizens from various sectors. Our attempt was to review the commitments being made to citizens and to gauge the larger picture that is reflected in these manifestos.

The individuals and organisations involved in this exercise have also been facilitating —

partners such as representatives of urban poor, members of Gram Panchayats, children, women, migrant communities and civil society groups to state the issues they wish to place on the political agenda – sadly most of their concerns go unnoticed in the political manifestoes.

The path being paved for us, as is evident from the review of the manifestoes of the main contenders in the Karnataka State Elections 2008 – creates a dismal picture that should not only alarm us – but should spur us to greater collective action to respond as citizens, as holders of rights, not passive beneficiaries.

Migrant workers get organised: Our work with mobilisation of the migrant community has born very significant results early this year. We have to build further on this momentum and use the precedent set by the Migrant Worker's organisation and the District Administration of Udupi District to facilitate similar processes with the other members of the migrant communities that we are associated with.

Children's Recommendations for the Election Manifestoes - Karnataka:

Over 520 children, including representatives of working children, children from migrant communities, school going children, specially abled children and elected members of the Makkala Panchayats (Children's Councils) in the three regions of Karnataka have carried out discussions among themselves for the over two months to arrive at the key commitments they demand from all the political parties.

Representatives of children who have drafted this memorandum have met the representatives of the Manifesto drafting Committees of all the political parties. Children requested all those who endorse and support the points raised by them to send messages of support and to join hands with their movement to make Karnataka truly Child Rights Friendly.

The children's process has been facilitated by the Concerned for Working Children.

Makkala Panchayats in 56 Panchayats:

In 2007, as a result of our sustained work in the region and its impact, 56 Panchayats in Kundapur have taken a decision to assist the formation of Makkala Panchayats. **Over 80,000 children are part of the Makkala Panchayats in Kundapur Taluk**

Special Children's Grama Sabhas: The Concerned for Working Children was consulted by Panchayat Raj Ministry, Government of Karnataka, during the drafting process of the circular which makes it mandatory for all Panchayats to provide an opportunity for children to articulate their issues directly with their elected representatives at Special Children's Grama Sabhas and this circular was officially circulated to all the 5659 rural Local Governments of the State. It recognises children as citizens of today and highlights the accountability of elected representatives to children of their communities.



After much insistence, this year, the state sought the support of CWC and the Child Right Trust to design and conduct a three-phase 'capacity building programme' for members of Grama Panchayats and all other stakeholders with the support of the Abdul Nazir Sab Institute of Rural Development (ANSIRD), Mysore. The first training of this series concluded last week, where 25 representatives from nine districts and 55 children from Harohalli took part. The highlight of this programme was that the entire process of preparing for and conducting an Children's Grama Sabha was inbuilt into the design to provide the trainees with a real hands-on experience of all the principles, ethics, process and logistics involved in 'listening' to children's concerns and aspirations. In addition to capacity building, the media campaign of the department is reaching the concept of Children's Grama Sabhas to every corner of the state.



News in detail

Defending decentralised democracy: Gram Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana

In the past, Karnataka was hailed as a trail blazer in decentralisation of governance. It served as a role model when the Panchayat Raj system was scaled up in the entire country. However, for the past few years Gram Panchayats (local self governments) in Karnataka have been endangered. A new threat had appeared in the form of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Amendment Bill of April 2007 which had been passed in both houses of the Karnataka Legislature.

It blatantly violated the authority and mandate of the Panchayats as it imposed conditionality on the power of the Panchayats to identify beneficiaries – and hands over this power to “any Committee or authority of the Government constituted in this behalf” headed by Members of Legislative Assembly.” This amendment violated the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution and also several legislations and orders passed by the State that highlight the actual transfer of powers and functions to the three tiers of Panchayats. Besides, this was also a violation of separation of powers between Executive and Legislature.

In order to counter this silent confiscation of power, a huge state-wide Movement ‘Panchayat Raj Hakkottaya Andolana’ was launched to oppose this amendment and to demand the retention and strengthening of the powers of the Panchayat Raj and the Grama Sabhas.



Even from its inception, the Movement not only aimed to protect the rights of the local government, but also to strengthen local governments to play a proactive role to promote and nurture vibrant civil society participation.

The Campaign today has 80 Panchayat Federations as its members and covers all the 27 Districts of the State and has over. More than 2300 (two thousand and three hundred) representatives of Gram Panchayats from 23 of the 27 Districts of Karnataka participated in the Convention and Rally convened by the Panchayat Raj Hakkottaya Andolan 2007.

This is the first time that Gram Panchayats have demonstrated their protest against interference in their functioning in such a united large scale state wide campaign.

The Convention and Rally on July 5th marked the beginning of true solidarity of Gram Panchayats to assert their constitutional and legal rights. With 2300 Gram Panchayat representatives from 23 districts of Karnataka and more than 40% of them women, this unprecedented event, the first of its kind in the state and perhaps, even in the country, was a tremendous show of strength, demonstrating their active participation and validating their capacity to run their local government efficiently.



CWC's role and as the Convener of the State Wide Campaign against the proposed amendment has received national recognition now. The Campaign was successful in creating an extensive lobby against this proposed amendment and finally the Honourable Governor of Karnataka returned the Bill to the amendment is now null and void.

Legislative Assembly with a strong note of dissent urging the houses to reconsider the bill as it clearly violated the Constitution of India. Subsequently with the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly the members of the Movement have interacted and made submissions regarding the reforms required to strengthen local governance to the Central Minister of Panchayat Raj, to the Chairperson of the 3rd Finance Commission of the State and the Chairperson of the National Administrative Reforms Commission. This struggle now has national acclaim as the first ever Movement of the elected members of the Panchayats – the local government that is closest to the people.

The unprecedented response to the cause of the Panchayat Raj Andolan has enabled CWC to have a strong State Wide presence with access to over 5000 Panchayats of the State. This also opens up tremendous opportunities that we need to build on. Our work resulted in the creation of a very strong and wide base group for our work related to democratic decentralisation. We now have well established contacts with members of the Grama Panchayats in every district of the State – and a national recognition for our work in relation to decentralisation. This is a very important base for CWC to not only strengthen civil society participation and local governance – but also to take forward the Makkala Panchayat Concept to the entire State.

The campaign has been covered extensively in national and regional press, TV and in alternate media as well as in e-publication.

Children are Citizens Today

CWC's involvement in the Panchayat Raj Campaign was a steep learning curve for all the members of the organisation – it involved intensive research, consultations with legal and other expertise and extensive involvement of all the team members of CWC including the administrative staff.

This learning now forms the foundation on which we will be further developing our strategies related to Democratic Decentralisation.

Migrant Workers get organised



The first ever State Level Union of Migrant Workers:

The impact of globalisation, privatisation and the booming financial and infrastructure activities have made the rural

and urban poor more vulnerable. Laborers and their families are moving to urban centres in huge numbers in search of any kind of jobs. With very high cost of living in the cities unaffordable for them, their life in the city is abysmal. However, lives in the villages do not provide any means of survival for them as agriculture is unviable and no other employment options.

On May 20, 2007, two thousand migrant workers marched to demand their rights as citizens of this district – to the first ever convention of migrant workers in this State at Udupi District.

Declaring a peaceful struggle to realise their rights, they announced the formation of the Karnataka Migrant Workers Union and unfurled their flag to display their symbol 'footprints' that visualises their long journey and their aspiration for a new world. This has had great impact in our negotiation with the government for their rights, as the government agencies do not have any information on the status of unorganised migrant labour. We have helped them to meet and interact with government officials and elected representatives to present their case effectively.

Sri. Damodar Acharya, Executive Director of the Concerned for Working Children described the long and hard path taken by the movement since its inception, two years ago, to this day, when a dream came true for the members of the Karnataka Migrant Workers Union. 'The members of the migrant communities are ignored as they are not voters. One of the main demands of this movement is for the Government to implement 'Income guarantee Schemes' in the districts these communities come from. If that is effectively done, they do not wish to migrate from their home towns. This movement is to make sure that their voices are heard – and their demands are met' he explained on behalf of CWC has been facilitating the movement.

The chief guest at the programme, Sri. A. G, Kodagi, Chair person of the State Finance Commission said 'Today opens a new chapter in the struggle of Migrant families in Karnataka.



The issues raised here are relevant, not just for Udupi, but for the entire State. Until now, the government has not faced any pressures from the migrant communities – from now on, things will be different. The government has a responsibility towards the members of the migrant communities. In fact, providing services to the workers should become a part of the labour contracts. I will totally support your cause’.

CWC has enabled the members of the Migrant workers Union to register themselves for the first time this year after along struggle with the Government departments. Due to the sustained efforts of the Union, its members in Udupi District accessed Ration Cards, which will make it possible for them to access food supplies at subsidised rates. These cards will also serve as one of the documents which will support their application for Voter Cards.

Tent School for migrant children:

Tent school is a facility provided by the State Education Department by setting up a temporary shed or in a tent in such communities where children are not able to attend the regular schools. Government is also required to provide all facilities available to children in the regular schools also to children in the tent schools. The members of Bhima Sangha and CWC have negotiated and successfully accessed 6 such schools for the migrant communities.

Our work with mobilisation of the migrant community has bore very significant results early this year. We have to build further on this momentum and use the precedent set by the Migrant Worker’s organisation and the District Administration of Udupi District to facilitate similar processes with the other members of the migrant communities that we are associated with.



Children are Citizens Today

Survey of Migrant's families in Udupi district:

This study has been completed and forms the basis of the advocacy programme carried out by the members of the migrant communities. A full report of the study is available on request. A survey of the families in Udupi District was carried out by The Concerned for Working Children (CWC) during June-October 2007. There are totally 916 Migrant families and 4367 members in Udupi District. Most of these are from northern parts of Karnataka. Among the 916 families in Udupi District, 837 families are permanent migrants, 53 families are seasonal migrants and 26 families are nomadic. Following a period of over two years, the Concerned for Working Children has assisted the members of the migrant communities to form their own organisation. There are 20 Migrant Labourer's unions in Udupi District at present. Intensive negotiation and advocacy resulted in District government sanctioning 35 acres of land at Anjar area for Migrant families. Three tent schools have been started in three areas. Also applications for ration card for 700 hundred families were submitted to the concerned authorities.

Medical Camps Conducted for Migrant Communities in Bangalore:

In three different field areas of CWC, with the help of the primary health department medical camps were organised and medicines were given free. Camps were benefited by children as well as adults of the migrant communities. CWC Urban Programme - Ankur played the key role in organising those.



Children's Participation

Makkala Panchayats have a strong presence in 56 Panchayats: As a result of our sustained work in the region and its impact, 56 Panchayats in Kundapur have taken a decision to assist the formation of Makkala Panchayats.

In a massive process that included about 2500 children in each Panchayat, the election process in 53 Panchayats took place in an extremely well coordinated manner in active partnership with all the stakeholders in the community. Prior to the elections, over 30 children in each Panchayat were involved in developing the reservation criteria for each other their Panchayats. These criteria were based on the social, cultural, political and economical realities of children in their specific communities. **Over 80,000 children are part of the Makkala Panchayats in Kundapur Taluk.**

Children are Citizens Today

Capacity building processes for the elected members of the Panchayats are underway. All the elected members from the 45 Panchayat have received inputs related to the roles and responsibilities of the elected members of the Panchayats. They have also been oriented to the issues related to 'representational participation' and one of the outcomes from this orientation is the identification of 35 representatives of Makkala Panchayats who have the mandate to represent them in all advocacy initiatives. One of their representatives took part in the international programme at Luxembourg.

Rajeshwari, representative of Bhima Sangha and Venkatesh, representing Makkala Panchayats were been invited by the organisation, Aidea' l'enfance de l'Inde (AEI) in Luxembourg to share their experiences as child protagonists with a wide range of audience that includes the Labour Minister of Luxembourg and representatives of organisations, schools, youth groups, and media. Rajeshwari, the president of Bhima Sangha made presentations related to the child labour and the

existing strategies to address child labour that often violate children's rights and fail to provide sustainable solutions to the problem.

In 2007 the Makkala Panchayat Members have met **Sri. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of India** in a State level meeting during which children shared about the Makkala Panchayat, process and the outcomes. He was interested in nationalising the idea of Makkala Panchayat. They created a strong impression regarding the significance of children's participation in governance and has extended all support to the Makkala Panchayats.

In 2008 Makkala Panchayat in three panchayats were part of a study on the impact of alcohol ban in their communities and in their own lives. Members of the Makkala Panchayats identified Child Researchers (CRs) for the study, using criteria developed by them. They are also involved in setting up processes and mechanisms for child-friendly child rights Panchayats in a few Panchayats.



Children are Citizens Today

Ms. Parvathi of Namma Sabha, is a member of the Indian National Youth delegation to China: Ms. Parvathi, an active member of Namma Sabha (an association of youth, composed of artisans, crafts persons and others engaged in various occupations, founded by former members of Bhima Sangha) was selected by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as part of this year's Indian Youth Delegation to China. The main purpose of this programme was to showcase best practices in children's and youth' participation and to promote mutual understanding of values and cultures among youth in order to strengthen relations between India and China. Parvathi was one of the three representatives from Karnataka in this 100 member delegation.

During this exchange programme in China, Parvathi shared her experiences as a member of Bhima Sangha, Namma Sabha and as a founding member of Makkala Panchayat with the Chinese Youth.

Last year, CWC had urged the Government of Karnataka to ensure that the Special Children's Grama Sabhas become a permanent and mandatory part of the functioning of all Panchayats in Karnataka where children are enabled to effectively use them as platforms to realise their rights through their active participation and in partnership with adults. We are glad to see this intent reflected in the circular of 2007. In Udupi district, 43 Grama Sabhas were conducted and total of 32,900 children participated in these. Issues related to school, community and transport were raised in Grama Sabha with adequate background data to support them. The representatives of the local governments have reported back

to children about the status of the demands they have raised during the previous Grama Sabha. Though the demands have been raised by children, most demands have directly benefited the most marginalised members of the adult population as well.



As an organisation that has over two decades of experience in facilitating children's participation in governance which, as a **pilot project of the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka since 1996**, facilitated the very first children's Grama Sabhas in the country in 2002, CWC has designed a **Handbook** and a **training module** to facilitate all the adult stakeholders responsible to conduct the Special Children's Grama Sabhas to understand its significance and to enable them to conduct the Sabhas.

Children's participation in Governance

Children recognised as citizen today – by the Government of Karnataka-Special Children's Grama Sabhas, 2008

At a time when the implementation of 'Children's Right to Heard' as encapsulated in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (Article 12) is being considered with utmost seriousness by international policy makers, Panchayat Raj Ministry, Government of Karnataka issued a circular which makes it mandatory for all Panchayats to provide an opportunity for children to articulate their issues directly with their elected representatives at Special Children's Grama Sabhas is indeed very significant.

The Concerned for Working Children was consulted during the drafting process of drafting process of the circular and this circular was officially circulated to all the 5659 rural Local Governments of the State. We welcome this order which recognises children as citizens of today and highlights the accountability of elected representatives to children of their communities. Most importantly it makes it mandatory for the Panchayats to report back on the action taken regarding the issues flagged by children. Hence on an average 2.8 million children would have participated in Gram Sabha in the state of Karnataka.

CWC has also developed a Handbook specially designed for children to equip themselves to use the Grama Sabhas effectively. These have been well received and used by Panchayats in different parts of the state – some of which have not yet had direct contact with CWC.

Training on Conducting Makkala Grama Sabhe: After much insistence, this year, the state sought the support of CWC and the Child Right Trust to design and conduct a three-phase 'capacity building programme' for members of Grama panchayats and all other stakeholders with the support of the Abdul Nazir Sab Institute of Rural Development (ANSIRD), Mysore. The first training of this series concluded last week, where 25 representatives from nine districts and 55 children from Harohalli took part. The highlight of this programme was that the entire process of preparing for and conducting an Children's Grama Sabha was inbuilt into the design to provide the trainees with a real hands-on experience of all the principles, ethics, process and logistics involved in 'listening' to children's concerns and aspirations. In addition to capacity building, the media campaign of the department is reaching the concept of Children's Grama Sabhas to every corner of the state.

Our Director Communications Mrs. Kavita Ratna was a respondent in phone in programmes in All India Radio and Doordharshan along with Sarva Shiksha Abhyan to publicise the concept of Makkala Grama Sabhe .

Children are Citizens Today

The Film Makkala Gram Swaraj (Born with Rights)

In order to document the experiences of the Makkala Panchayats and their immense positive impact on rejuvenating democracy, we have made the film 'Makkala Grama Swaraj' (Born with Rights' in English). These experiences are set in the larger frame of democracy in the country – and in establishing the citizenship of children.

The film covers the Makkala Panchayats in Karnataka that have empowered the children who are associated with it and given the local governments a new lease of life with their active involvement in not only identifying the problems they face, but also proposing solutions. They have made detailed presentations regarding the issues and problems they identified related to education, basic facilities, personal problems, gender discrimination, disability and child labour. This film is set in Karnataka and depicts how children have been involved in the Governance of their Panchayat which has resulted in improved qualities of lives for the entire community. It also presents the result of the Children's Grama Sabhas that are taking place in the State.

Working Children as Protagonists

Bhima Sangha, a union of working children in Karnataka with members in four different districts is working for the realisation of their rights is active in their local communities and localities. It has conducted its State Committee meeting at Bellary in which the Committee has taken a decision to take part in the preparation of the alternate report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.



Bhima Sangha's activities: celebrating Children's Rights Week: Facilitated by Bhima Sangha Children of migrant communities celebrated child rights week. From the migrant communities living in Bangalore, around 100 children visited police stations as part of the week long celebrations. Children's interactions with each other and with the adults included inputs on Children's rights, games, painting and music. These interactions made police more amicable to the children who are extremely vulnerable, hence making the children's rights week a meaningful one.

Celebrating International Working Children's Day:

In the International meeting of Working Children's Movements from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, that took place in October, 2006 in Siena, the delegates present voted in favour of declaring the 9th of December as the "International day of Working Children".

This is a particularly important date for the Movement, because ten years ago on the 9th of December, 1996, in Kundapur (India), a long process was started that led the organisations of working children to found the International Movement of Working Children. The Concerned for Working Children and Bhima Sangha hosted the meeting in India in collaboration with the International Working Group on Child Labour (IWGCL).

The members of Bhima Sangha marked the International Working Children's Day here in Bangalore. They had discussions about the issues faced by working children in today's reality - and about the increased terrorism and violence that has a direct impact on their lives. They also celebrated their day with a theatre performance and with several songs and dances. Former members (now members of the youth association) of Bhima Sangha interacted with children and shared with them why the Kundapur Declaration is of historic significance and also about the International Movement of Working Children.



The representatives of Bhima Sangha in Bellary and Davenegeri have been expanding their membership with enrolment of new members. When members of Bhima Sangha were making house visits in Huvinagadali Taluk of Bellary, they identified children who were in bonded labour situation. Following their interaction with Bhima Sangha, the employers no longer kept the children in bondage. The children are now members of Bhima Sangha.

Representatives of Bhima Sangha and Makkala Panchayats made presentations about child labour and children's participation in Luxembourg. Rajeshwari and Venkatesh's visit was linked to Luxembourg and the neighbouring regions of France, Germany and Belgium celebrating their status as the 'cultural capital'.

Children are Citizens Today

‘Say No to Child Marriages’:

Awareness regarding child marriage was given during the mass marriage ceremonies and we were able to stop 11 child marriages by talking to the organisers of these ceremonies. Bhima Sangha children actively participated in these campaigns and wide coverage by news paper had a strong impact on the common mass. With the newly developed links due to Panchayat Raj Andolana, we could further expand the child marriage campaign to new areas.

The Child Marriage campaign: Awareness regarding child marriage was given during the mass marriage ceremonies as a result of which 11 child marriages were prevented.

CWC has an organisational level consultation to develop the frame work of organisational gender policy. Members of Bhima Sangha actively participated in these campaigns and the wide coverage of the issue in the newspapers had a strong impact on the common public.

2400 children from 5 regions collectively demonstrated against the practice of child marriage.

HIV/AIDS

Children’s campaign in temples against the practice of devotees piercing themselves with used needles (Sutra) followed by thread that binds many of them. In the villages of Bellary and Davanagere members of Bhima Sangha have carried out a campaign against HIV/ AIDS in village festivals and in weekly markets. Through creative means we have been able to raise the issue for discussion and awareness building.



School Children’s Organisation

The formation of over 195 school children’s organisations during the year indicates a very positive trend, which will be built on during 2008. They are also in link with Makkala Panchayat talking about the concerns and have collected supporting data related to the issues raised in Children’s Grama Sabha and ward Sabha.



Alcohol, Drug and Development (ADD)



Prior to our intervention in our field programme areas, alcohol and substance abuse were not issues that were discussed openly in the public domain. Problems associated with alcoholism and substance abuse was considered as a problem of the family. Hence those who had to live with affected people had to suffer and bear with it at a personal level. This phenomenon was not viewed as a problem linked to larger policy and fiscal matters. It's impact on the development of the village was not recognised. In a nutshell, the causes that created and perpetuated problems related to these abuses and their social and political impact were not viewed and understood in totality.

Our programme, for the first time, provided this overview. As a first step, it provided children as well as adults, avenues to discuss these issues openly with others. Deeper analysis led them to the larger picture.

As children in our programme areas were already engaged with issues related to the development of the entire Panchayats/areas, they were quick to see the linkages between issues related to substance abuse and that of development. Also, at a personal level, they have begun to appreciate the medical/physical nature of alcohol/substance dependence and appreciate the need for medical and psychological support to those who need to come out of addiction.

It must be noted here that in all our activities, we have incorporated the elements of alcohol abuse in an integrated manner along with other cross cutting themes such as discrimination, sexual abuse, HIV etc. Our work related to ADD is totally integrated with our larger programme concerns. All the 55 Makkala Panchayats have identified and raised the issue of alcohol abuse in their areas. There is wide spread recognition among children about the ill effects of alcohol abuse and right now they are more concerned about ensuring that there is reduced use of alcohol related abuses in their communities and also reduced consumption.

The local governments have received the opinions and demands raised by children in this connection with utmost seriousness and it is coming up repeatedly for discussion in the adult government's meeting well.



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Study on the Impact of Ban on arrack:

The State of Karnataka has recently banned the sale of arrack (a lower cost drink) and our initial round of discussions among children about the impact of this did not yield a clear picture. An in-depth study on the impact of this ban has been done and the report will be available with CWC soon. The study was done in three panchayats of Kundapur Taluk with the help of Makkala Panchayats, Adult Panchayats as well as school authorities. Child Researchers as well as adult participants are beginning to view the problem of alcoholism from a different perspective; understanding the real implications of ban and are beginning to explore the viable strategies to deal with the problem.

The World Health Organisation (W H O) it's currently developing its policy to address harmful use of alcohol worldwide. As a part of the Alcohol Drug and Development Network (ADD) which has been initiated by FORUT, Norway, we had made a collective submission which has been sent to the WHO.

Regional Resource Centre: Namma Bhoomi

In 1996, the Concerned for Working Children set up the Regional Resource Centre (RRC), **Namma Bhoomi**, Namma Bhoomi began to take shape to create an environment that was not constrained by caste, class or gender discrimination. Children, members of the community, CWC (The Concerned for Working Children) and individuals with expertise in the field of education collectively examined several



systems of education in order to identify positive elements from each of them. The curriculum of the formal education system, inputs related to professional training, management, development and empowerment related issues collectively formed the syllabus. CWC's Appropriate Education Programme covers not only the formal syllabus, but the development syllabus, the empowerment syllabus, and the professional (vocational) syllabus. Since its inception, 100 children from marginalised communities and former working children have graduated each year with professional education. Here children are exposed to both theory and practical, traditional as well as modern practices.

Namma Bhoomi is recognised under Rural community polytechnic hence certificate is recognized by HRD ministry. RUDSETI (as a Training Institute to train rural youths in self employment) continues to provide management input training for children. Namma Bhoomi has a continues alliance with TMA Pai Hospital , AV Baliga Hospital, Dist Govt Hospital, Manipal Institute of Communication, Artist Forum and Cultural forum Udupi.



Graduation 2008: The graduation ceremony of 2008 felicitated the 12th batch of professionally trained youngsters graduating from Namma Bhoomi. The training programmes at Namma Bhoomi have gained academic as well as aesthetic acclaim and are seen as a role model for the entire state. This programme was presided by Sri. Raju Poojary, President, Udupi Zilla Panchayath, Udupi. Convocation was done by Sri. M.V. Kamath, Ex President, Prasara Bharathi and Hon. Director, M.I.C. Manipal. 74 children graduated from Namma Bhoomi trained in different sections and found jobs.

Children engage in Organic Farming: Bio-Diversity and Livelihood

There is on going implementation of Bio- diversity and livelihood activities in Namma Bhoomi and Bio-diversity programmes are integrated in the daily activities

Namma Bhoomi increases her agro-produce and the fertility of land is enhanced. Dairy and poultry activities that are carried out by children is also contributing added resources. These are quantified and recorded. Human waste and other bio-waste is converted to gas that used as fuel. Rain water harvesting is systematically carried out in all the areas of Namma Bhoomi. Plant nursery has been started. Re-cycling of waste material into utility product is carried out.



Membership in the Experts Group to discuss the General Comments of the UNCRC Article 12

As a result of its significant work related to children's participation of over two decades, the Concerned for Working Children was invited to take part in an expert group meeting to discuss the third draft of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment regarding the implementation of Article 12 by all State Parties. A very detailed written submission has been made by the CWC in addition to taking active part in the meeting jointly organised by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the UNICEF in Italy. During the discussions in Italy, some of the key issues that CWC was able to strongly advocate for were:

- The need for an 'Exclusive General Comment on Child Labour' by the members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child – providing guidelines to the government regarding their response to the issue of child labour – within a children's rights based framework.
- The need for Committee's clear directions to the State to report on how children's right to participation is reflected in every action of theirs as children's right to self-determination is fundamental to the realisation of all their rights.
- The need for the State parties to ensure that there are appropriate 'Structures' for children's participation at all levels.



All these recommendations have been incorporated into the report by the Expert Group.

Kavita, Director Communications is a member of the Guideline Drafting Committee set up by the UN- Committee on the Rights of the Child and the UNICEF.

Study on Juvenile Justice

The study has been done in Karnataka which gave the organisation a better understanding of the issues and concerns in the Juvenile Justice System specific to observation home, bala mandiras, CWCs (Child Welfare committees) and JJB's. Report on each discussion held with stakeholders, meetings attended, Bala Mandira and —

Observation Homes visits are available. The various reports documented should facilitate towards helping the organisation for an advocacy strategy on the JJ issue, at the state and national level, towards a better child-rights focused practice. While formulating the draft for Model Rules for the State we were able to bring out children's participation as an important aspect in these discussions and rules.

Media Code at the Symposia on Communication for Social Development:



This Media code has been discussed in the recent the Symposia on Communication for Social Development, 2007 held at Hyderabad, India. The Media Code to Realise Children's Rights has been welcomed by organisations, engaged with children's issues because they feel this was urgently needed and extremely useful to protect and promote children's rights.

Several journalists and professors from various colleges and media institutions across India have expressed deep interest in promoting the code within their organisations and through their publications.

Campaign against Water Privatisation

As a member of this campaign, CWC has been involved in the following: Planning and participating in awareness generation events and protests; Media coverage through radio; Information dissemination and accessing information about different projects in Karnataka through RTI.

Most recent Papers and Publications

Children as Research Protagonists: Children in the Drivers' Seat: Children Conducting a Study of Their Transport and Mobility Problems: The article, 'Children in the driver's seat' has been published by Children, Youth and Environments, 2007. It is a brief account of how children in Kundapur (India), Ghana and South Africa conducted an intensive research into their transport, access and mobility problems, came up with appropriate solutions and negotiated with the local governments to address their problems. These children have been research protagonists who have used information generated by them to change their lives and that of their communities. Children's participation in social planning and research is not an end in itself, but a process that continuously —

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needs to be re-evaluated, altered and evolved according to their needs. Research and advocacy by children has successfully enabled their active participation in democratic processes.

They are leading the way to making governments accountable, proactive and responsible.

The process of the study and the information generated from the study in 2006 impacted over 1500 children. The information helped them to participate effectively through the Makkala Panchayats, understand some of their problems in depth, and negotiate with the Gram Panchayats /others to find solutions to their problems in collaboration with them. The information also assisted them take steps to address some of their problems on their own.



For example, in Hardalli and Mandalli village Panchayats, during their study, Rajendra and a team of other children documented that there was a stream cutting across a hamlet in which 18 families lived. The width of the stream was 15ft. The stream had no bridge, but a thin wood piece. Children especially found it scary to cross the stream as did the adults during the monsoon season.

After the study, children met the President of the Panchayat and raised this problem. But he was initially unmoved. With a lot of persuasion, they convinced the President to visit the location. When he saw how precarious the temporary bridge was, he was convinced of the gravity of the problem; So he took the responsibility of presenting the issue before the other members of the local government. They collectively passed a resolution to build a bridge. For this they managed to get money from the special development fund of Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and constructed a bridge across the stream. 25 children of the hamlet and the members of their families have been greatly benefited by it.

Children as researchers: A paper has been presented on Children doing their own Research “Children as Research protagonists and partners in governance” during Asia Pacific childhood conference held in Singapore. These presentations and discussions has resulted in extensive dissemination of CWC’s work enabling research by children.

Children as partners in mainstream Governance: A paper has been presented on Children “Rights based participation - Children as research protagonists and partners in mainstream in governance” during 2nd International Conference on ‘Research with and by Children’ at Hermann-Mainer Academy, Innsbruck, Austria. It generated extensive discussions on children and information management. There is a better level of acceptance of the research by the children and recognition of the significance of the research by the children in the frame work of children’s participation and children’s rights.

Income Generation

CWC believes in generating local resources for all programmes related to resource mobilization. The members of the constituency raise local resources to cover the costs related to their programmes to the extent possible. They are also assisted to identify sources – such as government schemes and programmes that may cover similar areas.

CWC received paintings donated by eminent artists who had organised a training camp in Namma Bhoomi. An exhibition and sale of these paintings have generated some financial contribution to CWC. The young trainees at Namma Bhoomi grew 25 per cent of the vegetables needed at the campus. In 2008, 150 individual donors were introduced to the organisation – and their support both financial as well as in kind.



Building Capacities

Dhruva, CWC's training and Consultancy Unit, has designed and conducted all the internal staff capacity programmes. This includes the programme reviews, individual evaluations, management training, strategic planning, and development of the Gender Policy for the Organisation and annual evaluations and organisational input sessions.

Designing and developing the model for Mainstreaming Children's Citizenship in the State of Karnataka, for the Government of Karnataka, India: The programme of the Concerned for Working Children (CWC) to ensure the participation of children in the local government and to assert their citizenship was initiated in 1996. The Children's Councils (Makkala Panchayats) which started as a pilot project in collaboration with the State Government has now received national and international recognition. The first ever Children's Grama Sabha (Grama Sabha in India is the most decentralised local government's decision making forum) that was initiated by CWC has now been made mandatory by the State in all its 5650 local governments as a result of their impact in the field coupled with sustained advocacy.

Presently Dhruva is involved in building the capacities of children, elected members, state bureaucracy and civil society organisations at the State level to ensure that this political space that gives full recognition to children's citizenship is used most effectively and ethically.

Assessment and Capacity Building of SCiSL (Save the Children), Sri Lanka:

Dhruva is contracted by SCiSL to assess all their programmes and develop the capacities of all the staff and children within a rights framework. The project is being carried out three phases – an assessment followed by capacity building of all the staff, including senior management, partners and children and mentoring which has been carried out in three districts of the Country that face unique socio-political challenges. The capacity building workshop facilitated the participants to do an intensive poverty mapping of children in Sri Lanka, which has resulted in reviewing their programme focus. The entire capacity building programme has resulted in significant changes within the organisation, towards a rights based and democratic approach to their work in the field, including bottom up planning.



These workshops were intended to build the capacity of the SCiSL staff so that they would be able to demonstrate capacity and confidence to translate child participation dimensions and principles into practice in their respective programmes and advocacy initiatives.

Through this workshops they were able to undergo a paradigm shift or attitudinal change with regard to their perception of 'rights based participation of children and come together as a team. In the final evaluations participants expressed a sense of achievement, they felt that they had gained 'new knowledge and skills' that were very relevant to their mission and most of all they were confident of applying it in their work.

Sustainability:

- 1. Empowerment:** The capacity building of all the stakeholders involved in every step of the process, with a special focus on Children and Young Persons, entails an internalisation of values and principles that contributes to long-term attitudinal, and therefore behavioral, change. Some of these children and youth have become the elected representatives as adults and have a vested interest in continuing what they were instrumental in establishing. The rest have remained citizens of the Panchayat and many will want their children to participate in governance just as they did.
 - 2. Structures mainstreamed:** The GoK's existing buy-in ensures that long-lasting links with them will be created. The Structures for CYP participation will be mainstreamed and the mechanisms and systems will be in place and mandatory.
 - 3. Social Monitoring:** As MPs and GPs monitor the programme it is possible for them to sustain the programme. Handbooks and manuals are available by the end of the project period and
- the support of CWC's Regional Resource Centre (RRC) will continue to be available for capacity building and refreshers.
- 4. Ownership:** CYP and their communities are closely involved in designing, implementing, and evaluating the project. Hence the sense of ownership over the process and the level of motivation to sustain and further develop the process are high. Even in the future they will have continued access to their data base, modules and protocols.
 - 5. Support of Regional Resource Centre:** Namma Bhoomi (Our Land) houses CWC's Regional Resource Centre (RRC). This centre provides appropriate technical know how; capacity building in the area of children's rights, participation and protagonism; and will continue to be available to support the Toofan Programme even after the project period is complete.
 - 6. Organisational Memory:** Manuals and Handbooks on every step of the process are developed and printed in Kannada (and a few in English) for use by the MPs, Child Governed Organisations, Youth Governed Organisations, Community Based Organisations, GPs and other activists. Code of Conduct and Protocols are being developed. A process document will be produced for dissemination and wider learning.
 - 7. Global Dissemination:** CWC will ensure that the lessons learned from the programme will be disseminated globally and establish links with most appropriate national and international partners.

Reviews and Collective Management:

CWC carried out internal programme reviews and staff reviews of every team member in 2008. These evaluations include self evaluations and team evaluations. Each of these evaluations is documented and feedback noted for follow up action by the evaluatee as well as their respective line managers.

The programme reviews are the starting point for the strategic planning of the entire organisation. In addition to reflections about the key achievements and challenges of individual programmes, they directly feed into the strategic planning sessions of the organisation where the overview for the entire organisation is collectively outlined collectively by all the members of the management team – and further developed and fine-tuned with active collaboration from all team members of the programmes and representatives of the constituency.

Based on the review in 2008, the organisation has taken a decision to focus on two major areas – one is the consolidation of the existing models created by CWC in order to mainstream them; and the second is to protect and strengthen decentralised democracy with emphasis on the participation of the most marginalised members of the civil society.

CWC's strategic Coordination – Networking

- The Concerned for Working Children is the **State Convener** of Campaign against the recent move by the State to curb political decentralisation in Karnataka - Panchayat Raj Andolana.
- **The first ever State Level Convention of Migrant Workers** has been facilitated by CWC.
- Its Director-Development is a member of the **General Council of the NCERT**.
- Its Director-Development is a member of the **Adolescent Sub-Committee of the Planning Commission of India**.
- **CWC's Director Communication is a member of the UN Expert Group on Children's Participation**.
- National Level Advocacy: Working group membership in IACR.
- CWC is the lead member of the **'say no to child marriage campaign', Karnataka**.

Members of the Executive Council of CWC

Mr. Ajith Kumar	President
Mr. Veeraraghavan	Vice President
Mr. Vinay Deshpande	Member
Dr. Rathna	Member
Mr. Lakshapathy	Member
Mr. Damodar Acharya	Secretary
M. M. Ganapathy	Member
Mr. Vijay Chandru	Member
Ms. Kavita Ratna	Member
Ms. Nandana Reddy	Treasurer
Mr. Nagaraj Kolkeri	Member

Finance 2008

PANTH & Co.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

AUDIT REPORT

We have examined the Balance Sheet of **THE CONCERNED FOR WORKING CHILDREN** as at 31st December, 2008 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the period 01.01.2008 to 31.12.2008 which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said Institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the above named Institution so far as appears from our examination of the books.

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to the explanation given to us, the said accounts subject to:

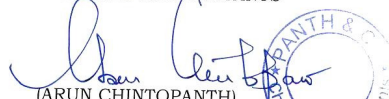
- (a) Fixed Assets written off worth Rs.16,04,708.04


give a true and fair view :-

- (i) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named Institution as at 31.12.2008.
- and
- (ii) in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the excess of Expenditure over Income for the period 01.01.2008 to 31.12.2008.

Place : Bangalore
Date : May 21, 2009

For PANTH & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS


(ARUN CHINTOPANTH)
PARTNER
Membership No:18241



THE CONCERNED FOR WORKING CHILDREN
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st December 2008

LIABILITIES	Amount (Rs.)	ASSETS	Amount (Rs.)
CAPITAL FUND	50000.00	FIXED ASSETS	
		As per schedule V	18243725.22
GENERAL FUND		INVESTMENTS	
As per schedule I	15641426.44	As per schedule VI	72213.31
LOANS & DEPOSITS:		LOANS & ADVANCES	
As per schedule II	3578049.42	As per schedule VII	301449.00
SUNDRY CREDITORS		DEPOSITS	
As per schedule III	107347.75	As per schedule VIII	158617.00
OTHER LIABILITIES		OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	
As per schedule IV	270854.00	As per schedule IX	17000.00
		CASH & BANK BALANCES	
		As per schedule X	854673.08
	19647677.61		19647677.61

As per our Report of even date

For Panth & Co
Chartered Accountants


(ARUN CHINTOPANT)
Partner
Membership No:18241




PRESIDENT


TREASURER

Place: Bangalore

Date:21.05.2009

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THE CONCERNED FOR WORKING CHILDREN
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31.12.2008

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT(RS)	INCOME	AMOUNT(RS)
<i>Programme wise Expenditure</i>			
<i>(As per Annexure 7)-</i>			
Regional Resource Centre	4558459.75	FORUT Receipts	8380221.00
CARD	1148982.29	SCN Receipts	937500.00
Samvada	2139264.24	SC Sri Lanka Receipts (Dhruva)	5320147.00
Ankur	781551.25	Ankur Receipts	20278.00
Namma Nalanda	128202.80	Namma Nalanda Receipts	1691789.00
Organisational Sustainability	439422.87	CARD Receipts - As per Annexure - 1.	69779.00
Bellary Field	340008.56	CORE Receipts - As per Annexure -2.	1406355.90
Panchayat Raj Hakkotaya Andolana	9179.03	GRAMA Receipts - As per Annexure - 3.	655890.50
Dhruva	829392.00	SAMVADA Receipts - As per Annexure - 4.	492460.99
Kundapur Field	3421961.96	Othher Receipts - As per Annexure - 5	285783.00
Risk Management Programme	188305.13	Prior Year Income	175094.00
Central Administration	1858624.28		
Depreciation	1506106.57		
Fixed Assets Written Off	1604708.04		
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	481129.64		
	19435298.39		19435298.39

As per our Report of even date


For Panth & Co
Chartered Accountants



(ARUN CHINTOPANT)
Partner
Membership No:18240



Place: Bangalore

Date:21.05.2009


PRESIDENT


TREASURER



THE CONCERNED FOR
Working Children

**303/2, L.B. Shastri Nagar, Vimanapura Post
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