

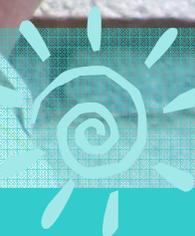
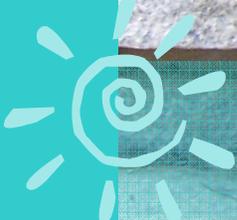


THE CONCERNED FOR
WORKING CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT



2009



Annual Report
The Concerned for Working Children
2009

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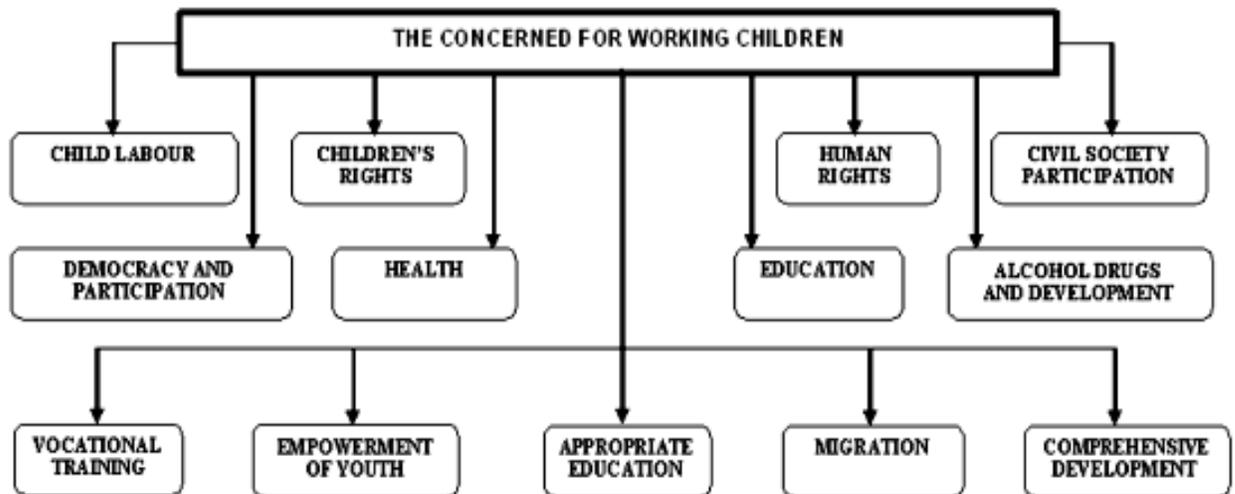
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Organisation at a Glance

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 29 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



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' .



Programme Highlights

Decentralised Democracy– Andolana fights its way to a landmark victory

CWC is the State Convenor of the Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana with members in 26 Districts. In the light of proposal to reintroduce the infamous Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill 2007 in the 2009 session of the Legislature, Andolana held peaceful demonstrations and raised black flags of protest across Karnataka. It has send out a very strong message to the legislators of the state against the Governments attempts to curtail the powers of the local governments.

We worked closely with the members of the Movement - to interact with the Governor of the State, the Chief Minister, members of State Assembly, leaders of the opposition and the media to mobilise the protest against the retableing of Karnataka Panchayati Raj Bill in the 2009 Assembly. Several MLAs and MLCs met with members of the Andolana and addressed the gathering at Bannappa Park including Sri U. T. Khadar, MLA from Ul-lal; Sri S. M. Anand, MLC from Hassan; Sri Meadappa, MLC from Madekeri; and Sri N. Manjunath representing Chamrajnagara and Mysore. They all pledged their commitment to decentralisation and Panchayat Raj and promised to raise the matter of the pending Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill 2007 on floor of —

the House and oppose its movement at all cost. The opposition party in the Assembly took a decision to pass a party Whip against its motion.



All 24 Members of the Legislative Council representing local governments decided to oppose the proposed amendment in the legislature.

We worked closely with the members of the Andolana here in Bangalore to send out their letters to all members of the Assembly, to meet with senior ministers, CM, Governor, opposition leaders form both the Assembly houses to interact with media and to mobilize the protest against the tabling of Karnataka Panchayati Raj Bill in the 2009 Assembly.

A convention was held in Bangalore on 5th July against the re introduction of the bill in the assembly. More than 500 elected representatives marked their protest by joining the programme. Mr. Manishankar Ayer deputed Ms Vijaya Dharani representing the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Raj Sangatan who is the Coordinator for

the Southern States to take part in the programme in Bangalore and to extend their solidarity. In her address, she referred the Andolana as a “Historic Movement”

During the meetings at the Central Level with the Mr. Joshi, Central Minister for RDPR, we were able to present GPHA and our struggles to present and the former Ministers of RDPR and senior officials.

The Convener of the Goa Bachao Andolan – who fought a similar struggle in Goa and was also successful to return the Goa Bill, said, ‘our movement has drawn inspiration from the work of the Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana. All the materials you sent out, including the letter of the Governor to the State Legislature – we drew a lot from them’.

Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana had organised a meeting with Sri. A.G Kodagi, the Chairperson of the 3rd Finance Commission to urge for the Implementation of the Commissions recommendations by the Government. Two of the MLC candidates from local self government constituency were also present at the meeting. They have committed themselves to put pressure on government for the implementation of the Commission. These two have been elected to the Legislature.

The members of the Movement were highly involved, motivated and also well equipped to play a central role in this

process. As a result of the past contacts, coordination and our own organisational preparedness to move forward – we were able to achieve this with a relatively small group and within a short period of time

In the same spirit, the fight will continue until the Government irrevocably drops the Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill – 2007 that subverts the rights and responsibilities of the Grama Panchayats and the Grama Sabhas.

Making a Difference– Migrant Communities being heard



The migrant labourers are organised in 51 settlements in Bangalore city and Udupi districts. The Karnataka Valase Karmikara Sangha (unregistered) and Kattada mathu ithara nirmana karmikara sangha –

(registered under the Trade Union Act 1926) have been formed. There are over 1553 members to these unions. The children of these communities have been mobilised and have formed local chapters of Bhima Sangha (working children's union) in their communities.

The organised members and others of the migrant community have succeeded in impacting on their local governance in a limited way. They have been able to exercise their agency and articulate opinion on matters of their living conditions and resist efforts by the government to evict them. Some have obtained voter identity cards and ration cards.



They have represented themselves to local governments and the State government demanding for their rights; they were consulted by the Planning Commission on mid-term review of the 11th 5-year plan;



some of the basic amenities in a few of the communities have been addressed, such as water and access to schooling. Protection mechanisms for children in some communities have improved and Bhima Sangha enables children to participate in decision making and exercise their agency.

CWC works with 51 migrant communities in Bangalore city and Udupi district, focussed on empowering the migrants to realise their civil and socio-political rights. Of them 295 have acquired voter identity cards, 805 are registered with the Ministry of Labour and insured with labour cards; 65 have received ration cards.

Besides the children who are attending the nearby government schools, 90 children accessed education through Namma Bhoomi, and 2 tent schools sanctioned by education department.

Medical Camps Conducted for Migrant Communities in Bangalore:

Eight medical camps, participated by 775 members from the community were organised where different common ailments were treated and other complications referred.



An extensive survey of migrant families that covered 17 locations and 900 families indicated the key issues that affect them. As a result of the advocacy carried out based on that study, they have been assured of alternate accommodation by the State. One of the communities consisting of 180 families in one of the settlements in Udupi have already been provided with residential facilities. This will enable them to access their other entitlements such as their Voter identity Card, schooling, health facilities etc.

Children's participation

Children's participation in the decision making

In all the 56 Grama Panchayats (local governments) in Kundapur Taluk and 5 Panchayats in Bellary children's Panchayats or/other mechanisms for direct elected representation of children are functioning effectively. 49 Grama Panchayats have conducted Children's Grama Sabhas and Children's representatives have effectively identified issues, discussed on possible solutions and identified strategic options to influence decision makers.

24,935 children have directly participated in Children's Panchayat processes and 17,385 children have been the electorate of the Makkala Panchayats. During the year, the members of the Makkala Panchayats have met 135 times to discuss issues and to interact with local level decision makers either formally or informally. 40% of the issues raised by children are backed by the community in the Local Government meetings. This illustrates how adults and Panchayats recognise them as citizens and stakeholders in the development of their Panchayats. Representatives of Makkala Panchayat and Namma Sabha visited Cambodia as a follow up to the review of the children's situation there.



The National Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, based on the impact of Children’s Councils in Udupi District has sought a detailed note from the District Administration to learn more about it and to explore how it can be related to the National Children’s Parliament process.

National 11th Five Year Plan



In relation to the National 11th Five Year Plan, children analysed the previous plan and prepared the new plan which is officially accepted by the government. The work in relation to those plans is underway in the Village. Children’s specific priorities are strongly articulated in the annual planning and annual reporting meetings by local governments and more than 40% of the issues raised in the Makkala Grama Sabhas are addressed.

Election manifesto process

Over 540 representatives of children’s organisations have developed their own political manifestos – for their advocacy during the Parliamentary elections.

It highlights the rights and entitlements of children, especially the most marginalised. Their interactions with senior political leaders of all parties got their issues highlighted in the media as well. During this children also demanded for ‘adults to be their role models’ as citizens and to vote in an informed manner

Nationally as a member of the India Alliance of Children’s Rights, CWC is playing a critical role in developing the Alternate Report to the CRC, in critiquing the Mid Term Reviews of the National Five Year Plan and the MDG, from the perspectives of children’s rights and rights of the marginalised. CWC is also a member of the National Working Group to develop Child Protection Protocol to the State Run Child Line programme. CWC is one of the lead members of the India Alliance of Children’s Rights to develop the new National Policy on Children; the Citizen’s Report to the CRC, the critique of the Mid Term Reviews of the National Five Year Plan and the MDG – with inputs from children.



1400 children participated in the Makkala Habba (Children's festival) for celebrations and direct interfacing with key decision makers in the community including the local government.



Communal Harmony - Sadbhavana

To counter the rising of the ugly head of communal violence in the State and to proactively promote harmony, a programme called Sadbhavana has been launched in 2008, in 8 panchayats of Udupi district. It had to face, head on, the frequent moral and religious disturbances occurring in Udupi District. It includes several vigilant groups of adults from different religious communities and it consciously included youth members. 1400 citizens are now a counter conscience and an active force against communalism and they have reached over 2, 240 individuals directly.

In 2009 36 panchayats have created village level committees to contribute towards Sadbhavana programme. 120 panchayat members and 73 members at the taluk level joined hands with it to advocate for the victims and to create awareness in their panchayats. District level committee had organised an essay competition for children which was attended by 113 children. 'Sadbhavana Samvada' a face to face Interaction between citizen and District Authorities such as DC & DIG carried out in Kundapura Taluk. Around 800 citizen of were present in the programme. Various village level committees have identified CWC as one of the NGOs to facilitate Sadbhavana programmes.

Screening of 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.



Excerpts from Pratham Website: About the film 'Children's Grama Swaraj'

Given the right support, every child has the potential to effect change. Education is a basic right of every child according to the UNCRC. The document was adopted 20 years ago, and to celebrate this convention, CWC showed an excellent documentary called 'Makkala Grama Swaraj'. Produced by CWC and Antonia Hungerland, the film documents the rise and triumph of the makkala panchayats (children's councils) in Kundapura Taluk in coastal Karnataka.

The film shows how duly-elected children of the grama panchayats draw up plans and present them to the local governing bodies. Their detailed presentations regarding the issues and problems related to education, basic facilities, personal problems, gender discrimination, disability and child labour have resulted in several positive outputs like the building of a bridge across a river. The whole exercise of selecting child members, electing them and running the panchayats is an excellent live lesson to all the children in the area, far more effective than any lesson in a classroom.

Children have clearly demonstrated how they can use political space to negotiate with the local governments and influence decision-making processes.

CWC has played an instrumental role in capacity building for both adults and children. This has resulted in children involved with the Makkala Panchayats becoming increasingly equipped with the means to deal with local government structures.

Mala Kumar
Editor, Pratham Books
Bangalore.

Training on Conducting Makkala Grama Sabhe:

We conducted '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 trainees include members of Andolana (as identified by us) and also NGOs who we are in contact with us. During the Grama Sabha training programmes, evening discussions are also slotted regarding the Andolana – to interact with the existing members and to also introduce it to new members.

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. As part of these training two such Makkala Grama Sabhas were conducted .

Civil Society groups including children's groups from Karnataka and other States have begun to recognise the importance of Makkala Grama Sabhas and their importance and have been proactively receiving capacity building inputs from us in this regard. .

This may form the foundation to influence more states to take similar steps

Team from Tamil Nadu and Assam are pursuing their state governments to implement Makkala Grama Sabhas in their State. Child Representatives from Makkala Panchayats visited and also shared their experience in a Convention organized by the TN team where over 1000 marginalised children took part. They are now more equipped to take up the issue of children's base organisations, demanding accountability from the State and to claim their entitlements from the State.



A TOT was organised for Mahila Samakhya Karnataka and Capacity building programme for the Panchayat representatives from the 15 districts they work with. MSK has decided to help these Panchayats to conduct Makkala Grama Sabhas in 2010.

Working Children and their Organisation - Bhima Sangha

CWC facilitated the formation of Bhima Sangha, the first ever working children's organisation in Asia in 1990. Bhima Sangha is one of CWC's key partners. Bhima Sangha was created to provide a platform for working children to engage in a dialogue with each other as well as society, and most importantly to assert a collective and visible identity. The Sangha has been central to CWC's strategy of reaching out to working children, talking to them, enabling them to articulate their fears, concerns and dreams. It has provided them with a congenial space to talk to each other about the circumstances that have forced them to become child workers, why they left school, and their aspirations for the future.

The members of Bhima Sangha are active in their local communities and localities. There are 12 Bhima Sangha chapters with over 370 active members.



These and other children discuss various issues of their rights and equip themselves with information on issues such as child marriage, violence, sexual abuse, communalism, democracy, decentralisation, begging, child labour, juvenile justice etc. These have enabled children to strengthen their mechanisms to protect themselves.

Members of Bhima Sangha organised Child rights week, celebrating the 20th anniversary of UNCRC. And for the April 30th, Child labour day programme, they came together at Cubbon park, two dramas were enacted on corruption and child labour. The first was also staged during a City Level Programme organised by Maraa media collective in Bangalore

Bhima Sangha members actively participated in the production and submission of Children's manifesto which later received a lot of national and international attention – and came up for repeated references from other networks are several national level meetings.

Excerpts from the “Eradication of Child Labour in India – Need to protect children from collateral damage”, an open letter to the Prime Minister, Government of India by CWC

‘Child labour programme’ consists of identifying or locating working children below the age of 14 years, removing them from the work place and installing them in an educational institution or brought into the Juvenile Justice System – by ‘raid and rescue operations’ – that are often carried out in ways that are extremely traumatic to children and concluded with piecemeal actions. This approach is implemented through punitive action against employers while branding parents as irresponsible – leading to criminalisation of children who labour. The only way the State has seen fit to implement this legislation is through compulsion with the assistance of the ‘inspectors’ from both the governmental as well as non governmental sectors.

The blind and sanctimonious faith in schooling as the ‘magic wand’ that solves all problems and the conviction that all work is a curse upon childhood are both flawed and simplistic generalisations. It must be realised that the present ‘schooling’ available for children from marginalised communities have little to do with the development of independence, critical thinking and an inquiring engagement with the world.

What is the status of all the children who have been ‘rescued’? Have their expectations raised by ‘education’ been fulfilled? Do they benefit from interventions even after they have crossed the magic age of 14 years? Does the ‘rehabilitation’ package guarantee children protection, meaningful education, respect, access to dignified employment, a secure future and democratic citizenship?

Does it guarantee a viable employment for the adult members of their families and adequate livelihood for their communities? Does it provide them with safety nets to deal with adversities such as droughts, cyclones, AIDS, communal violence?

What of all the children who have not been ‘rescued’? What is their fate?

The majority of children work in sectors and occupations that are not listed under the ‘worst forms’ and do not find a mention in the schedule of banned sectors and occupations. What is to be their fate?

And what of all the ‘forgotten’ children between the age of 14 and 18 years, who are still children yet let to fall between the cracks, their aspirations stifled to erupt as disillusionment, bitterness and anger that we as a society have to address.

Way ahead

All existing strategies and plans of action need to be reviewed in great depth from the perspective of child workers and what is in their best interest for a new, appropriate and viable strategy that provides solutions that are a definite improvement on their present predicament. Existing programmes, both governmental and non-governmental, will have to be reviewed for their impact on working children and their families and a comprehensive, multi-pronged, bottom-up, decentralised and participatory approach to addressing the problem of child labour should be evolved.

The School Children's Organisation – An Emerging Force

Our experience has shown us that children who are the most marginalised and who face the most severe constraints to participate actually need facilitation to partake most urgently.

Most of the children we work with, especially in the rural areas, are attending either the Government schools or the Extension Schools. This year 86 school children's organisations have participated actively in the programmes that are directly concerned to their lives.

Members of School children's organisations have participated in Adult's Grama Sabhas and raised several issues regarding lack of basic facilities like water, toilets, schoolrooms, alcoholism and the formation of Makkala Panchayats in their areas with facts and figures. They have also had regular interactions with the electoral candidates for higher levels of governance. These interventions have resulted in significant recognition for their organisations in the community and in the local government.



Acceptance of the CRC General Comments on Article 12 (Children's Right to participation) by UNCRC committee

The Acceptance by the CRC Committee of the General Comment Article 12 – which contains several of our inputs – has implications on 190 Member Countries that have ratified the CRC. This GC will provide a framework for all the countries to work on and also report on Article 12, which they have been very inadequate in so far.

The GC also makes a strong case for the participation of the most marginalised children, the need for 'representation' and for children's participation in Local Governments. All the 190 governments who have ratified the UNCRC will have to adhere to it.

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.

Nationally as a member of the India Alliance of Children's Rights, CWC is playing a critical role in developing the Alternate Report to the CRC, in critiquing the Mid Term Reviews of the National Five Year Plan and the MDG, from the perspectives of children's rights and rights of the marginalised. CWC is also a member of the National Working Group to develop Child Protection Protocol to the State Run Child Line programme

Addressing Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

Prior to our intervention in our field programme areas, alcohol and substance abuse were not issues that were discussed openly in the public domain.

Our programme, Alcohol, Drugs and Development supported by FORUT - 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.

As an organisation that works within a Rights frame, CWC's engagement with Alcohol and other substance abuses function in a holistic manner, focussing on empowerment instead of penalisation; it is well integrated with other programme elements with a special focus on children, youth and vulnerable adult communities. The highlight in this area was the alcohol study conducted by children.

Following that, as a part of local action, children found a variety of ways to disseminate their findings and their recommendations, including through plays. These have had a significant impact on how the community and decision makers view people in addictive behaviour.



CWC was actively involved in the ADD international network to develop the policy document on ADD (work in progress). We feel the children's rights frame should be taken into serious consideration in all engagement with ADD – so that no intervention or policy undermines the entitlements children have, including right to Self Determination.

Three Makkala Panchayats (Hallihole, Madamakki and Paduvari) identified alcohol abuse as a major problem in their research for 2004 five year plan. These Makkala Panchayats were committed to solving their problem of alcohol abuse, as well as to identify impacts of arrack ban in their communities. This led to a study on alcoholism.

They identified child researchers who came together for a capacity building workshop where they developed the framework of the study, designed appropriate methodology and tools (viz. mapping, drawing, interviews and focus group discussions), and worked out modalities for conducting the study. These discussions were facilitated by adults.

The findings revealed:

- In 60% of the families, at least one person consumes alcohol.
- Although the ban on arrack has reduced the overall quantity of alcohol sold, the overall amount spent on liquor has increased.
- Regular consumers have increased their consumption.

- Pressure on women and children to work has increased.
- Consumers either pawn or sell family assets due to additional expenses for drinking.
- Ban has resulted in unlicensed sales points or units.

Significantly from the study children came to the conclusion that people who consume alcohol are not 'bad' per se but it is their behaviour that is bad. "We don't call him a drunkard, because he is my father", said one of the child researchers about his father. Alcohol consumers should not be discriminated, because that will make their behaviour even more negative. Children also challenged the general presumption that alcoholism causes poverty.



Regional Resource Centre

CWC Regional Resource Centre, Namma Bhoomi (Our Land) is located in the Udupi district at the foothills of the Western Ghats on the bank of the river Varahi. The 6.25-acre campus was designed to give working children a chance to continue their education and also relieve the immediate burden of survival. The campus has residential accommodation, educational and training facilities for over 100 youth (girls and boys).

The aim of the RRC is to be a community resource that....

- Develops self-reliance
- Qualities of leadership
- Enables access to appropriate technology
- Provides mechanisms for soc-cultural, political and economic change

The vocational courses conducted in Namma Bhoomi have received recognition for their content and the calibre of the graduates. The graduates are widely accepted for their apprenticeship programmes. This has generated increased interest in the local communities and a large number of youngsters now apply for the courses. Namma Bhoomi has received a wide recognition for the principles it promotes through practice. Its culture, ambience and vocational courses have caught the imagination of the general public.

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.



This year 102 young people from highly marginalised communities are expected to graduate and going by the past records, 98 per cent of them are likely to be accepted into various vocations through campus placements.

40 children who were identified as likely to drop out of school due to various pressing reasons were identified and —

provided appropriate facilities at the Regional Resource Centre for schooling and residence.

Through our field programmes we have identified 62 marginalised children who wished to pursue academics. We have placed them in appropriate residential services linked to educational institutions to continue their education with due support from Namma Bhoomi. This has been a very important intervention in their lives and to impact on the school drop out rate as well as migration rates.



More than 90% of our graduates are able to earn a regular income, and/or increasing their regular income within 1 year of their graduation. Even those who discontinue their work due to reasons like marriage or pregnancy, soon resume their vocation within five years as they see the benefit of it.

The Regional Resource Center is consulted by most of the local Governments in Kundapura Taluk regarding governmental data, communications and orders.

They also provide extensive support to our graduations in their communities. At the centre, police training, meeting with Members of the Legislative Councils, health camps, adolescent workshops, training on various art crafts and workshops on decentralisation and democracy for the Grama Panchayat Raj Andolana were held last year at the RRC. The Artist forum held their yearly painters workshop and donated few paintings to CWC. 45 resource persons have been involved in these capacity building programmes.

Namma Bhoomi had 4594 visitors this year, including 1500 school children from Northern Karnataka and Udipi, who wish to learn from its educational pedagogy, eco friendly environment and Children's Panchayat that manages Namma Bhoomi.

Bhima Kalaranga from Namma Bhoomi tries to raise awareness through various art forms. This year children's groups have visited schools in the locality and performed on issues such as child marriage, alcohol related issues, need for communal harmony, decentralisation, democracy and environmental issues.



There has been a noticeable rise in the number of our graduates who have become social entrepreneurs and have set up their own businesses. Many of them also make good use of our Marketing Cooperative, Namma Angadi, to reach more clients.

The local and tribal artisans have effectively used the Marketing Cooperative. The expanded scope of the collective is reflected in its sale figures and the media exposure it now enjoys in the district. 38 children have specially received training in production, use and maintenance of appropriate technologies for the production and processing of local resources. Appropriate construction technologies are gaining popularity due to our efforts and the graduates of Namma Bhoomi, both individually and collectively use, advocate and promote low cost appropriate technologies.



In Brief.....

Critiquing the New Right To Education Act

At meeting organised by the Ministry of Education, GOI and the SSA of Karnataka we presented our critique of the new REA. We raised issues such as the impact of privatisation of education on poor children, problems related to providing 'age appropriate' education to children who have not accessed education before, the unique difficulties faced by children of migrant communities, the role of the local government, the exclusion of under 6 and above 14 from the State's education commitment etc.

On this theme, we have also taken part in several State level meetings, in a couple as a speaker, for example one organised by CRY and one organised by the Child Rights Forum that was a public consultation (including NGOs, politicians, trade unions, Dalit Organisations, students movements etc.

Kavita was also one of the key resource persons at the consultation held by Action Aid as an input into their Strategic Planning and Programme implementation related to education.

Designing a Module ‘Child Rights Programming’ for the National Law School of India’s Post Graduate Diploma.

For the newly announced “Child Rights’ Post Graduate Diploma by the National Law School, CWC was approached to develop the module for ‘Child Rights’ Programming’. This task has been completed and it has been well appreciated by the NLS. While the remuneration received for this module, with its emphasis on children’s right to self-determination, and the many examples we have included from the working children’s movements, Makkala Panchayats etc will have an impact on all the students.

Fight against National Express Highway in Kundapur

The CWC’s active campaign against an inappropriate Express National Highway construction involved several collaborators, 7400 children, youth and adults. Based on the survey carried out by the members of the campaign, (that included headcounts and vehicle count, focus group discussions and mapping) we have come up with an alternate route that will protect the interests of the local communities as well as improve transportation. **As an impact, the State Government has reduced the width of the highway by half and discussions continue.** All the Village Panchayats that are likely to be affected by this will also

file Right to Information Petitions to demand for all facts to be disclosed. A meeting with the National Transportation minister is also on the cards.

Building Capacities

The professional development plan of CWC has three aspects namely the capacity building of the constituency, of the other stakeholders and of the staff. Following are some examples of its implementation:



The Constituency:

1410 children have received information in 29 Panchayats about governance measures, expenditure of the local governments; about how sometimes bureaucratic measures can affect good governance.

In collaboration with Karnataka Legal Aid Cell, the members of the migrant communities were provided inputs in legal issues that are appropriate to them.

363 children and adults from migrant communities have received inputs related to gender, sexuality and HIV as a part of the awareness generation programme that was carried out in collaboration with the education department.

Other stakeholders:

CWC was requested to develop the modules of the Post Graduate Diploma Course on Children's Rights for the National Law school of India, the premier law school of the country. Two directors of CWC developed the module and they are considered as resource persons on the theme to that university.

CWC was requested by Child Rights Core Team of Sri Lanka which is a network of organisations such as Save the Children, FORUT, PLAN and World Vision to assist them to develop a Strategic Plan to consult children to formulate a children's alternate report to be submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Dhruva also conducted a capacity building programme for the members of the Core Team as NGO representatives from different districts of Sri Lanka to equip them to carry out the consultations. The Consultation process is presently underway.

CWC provides capacity building for local governments and NGOs as a key Resource Team of the State Government on the issue 'Children and governance'.

CWC organises exposure visits and conducts training programmes for International and national teams such as FORUT Serra Leone, PLAN international, India Literacy Project, Action Aid, Tamil Nadu Forum to Support Children's Movement for Participation, Mahila Samakhya etc.

"As the manager of the capacity building programme, I can confidently attest to the fact that Dhruva is eminently qualified for rights-based child participation capacity building. Dhruva has provided Save the Children with some of the most important and informed paradigms of child participation. Save the Children has engaged with, built around the remarkable experience of the team in empowering children in diverse locations around Asia."

Dharshini Seneviratne
Head, Learning and Impact
Save the Children in Sri Lanka

Staff

Based on the needs assessments carried out by programme heads, the staff members were provided with inputs related to their specific areas of work (such as organising large scale processes with children) or to macro issues that affect our work, such as Global Recession or tools that we can effectively use, such as the Right to Information Act. These were in-house training programmes.

There is a system of monthly progress reporting against objectives, plans and activities. The line manager, Field Coordinator and a senior Director, directly regularly monitor the project with inputs and guidelines at all stages.

There is a system of quarterly reviews conducted by the Executive Director and focus group discussions with the children to monitor progress. There is also a system of half yearly evaluations by the senior management team of CWC along with representatives of Bhima Sangha and the school children's organisations. There will be a final evaluation at the end of the year and a report of outcome and impact with necessary follow up will be available.

Most recent Papers and Publications

'Children's impact on governments'

'Citizenship' of children remains a difficult concept and children's political participation is not acceptable to a large number of adults – world wide. However, it is time that all agencies realise that children have a right to actively determine the course of their lives and not enabling them to do so, to the best of their potential is a violation of their rights. They have proved, time and again, that they are political beings, capable of making extremely astute observations and evolving creative solutions.

The paper we presented at colloquium on Children and Governance : Holding States Accountable was well received and its emphasis on children's right to self-determination was well appreciated.

Following this HAQ requested for a more detailed version of the paper to be published as a part of a Book on Children and Governance compiled by HAQ and published by Routledge Taylor and Francis group.

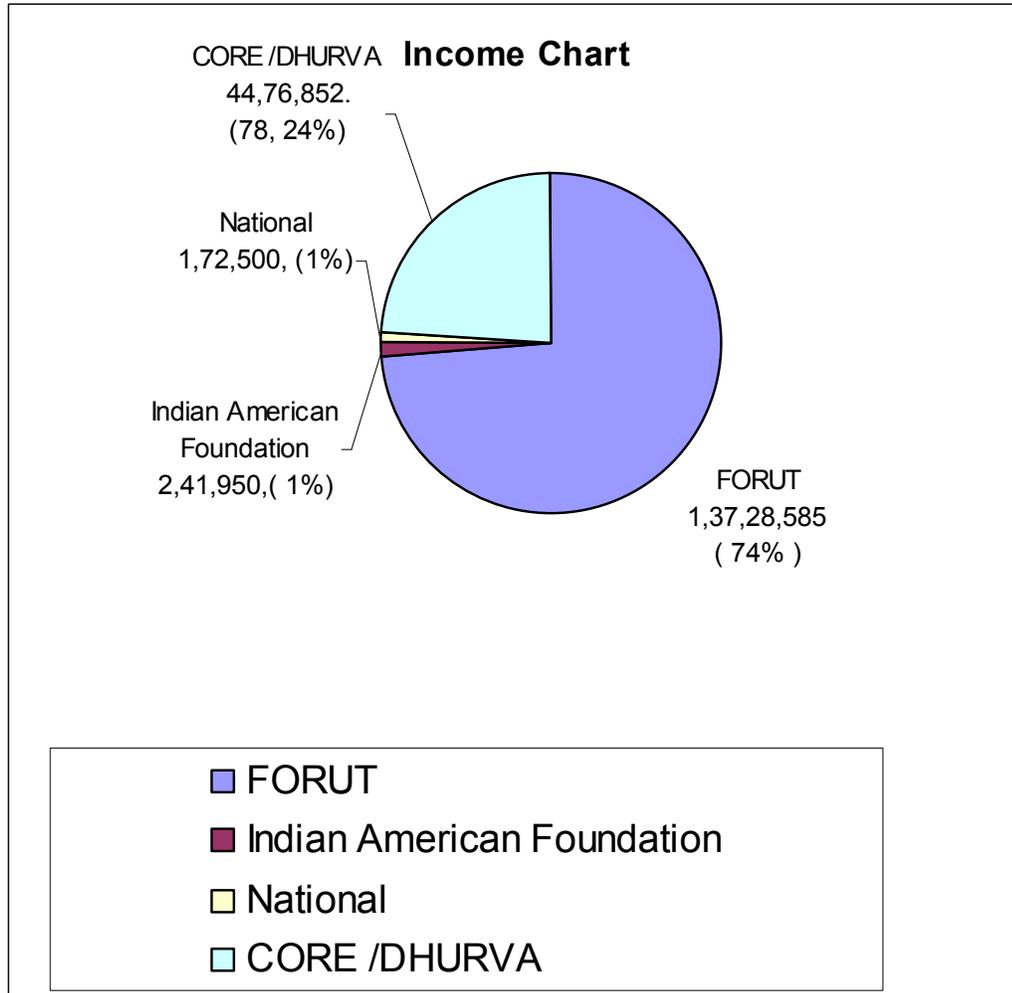
CWC's strategic coordination – Networking

- 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.
- 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.

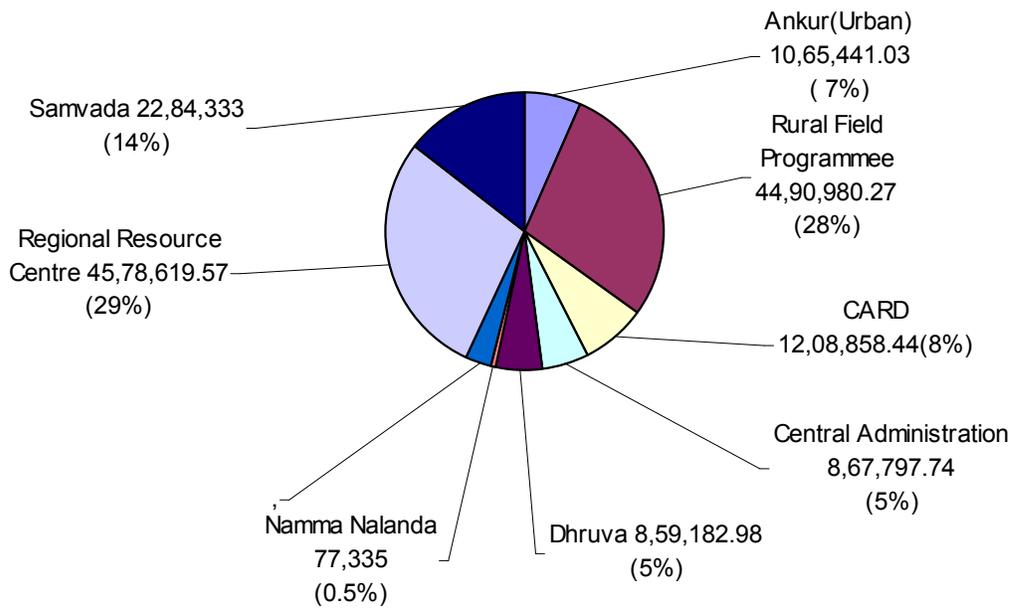
Members of the Executive Council of CWC

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



Expenditure Chart



- Ankur(Urban)
 Rural field programme
 CARD
- Central Administration
 Dhruva
 Namma Nalanda
- Organisational Sustainability
 Regional Resource Centre
 Samvada

THE CONCERNED FOR WORKING CHILDREN
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31.12.2009

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT(RS)	INCOME	AMOUNT(RS)
<i>Programmewise Expenditure</i>			
<i>(As per Annexure 7)-</i>			
Ankur	1065441.03	FORUT Receipts	13728585.00
Bellary Field	340132.18	Dhruva Receipts - As per Annexure - 1	1675927.00
Centre for Applied Research & Documentation(CARD)	1208858.44	Indian American Foundation Receipts	241950.00
Central Administration	867797.74	SSA Asha Kiran Receipts	120000.00
Civil Society Participation	414308.32	SSA Adolescent Training Receipts	52500.00
Dhruva	859182.98	Ankur Receipts	58836.00
Kundapur Field	3736539.77	CARD Receipts - As per Annexure - 2	107923.00
Namma Nalanda	77335.00	CORE Receipts - As per Annexure - 3	970295.80
Organisational Sustainability	456131.15	Gramashrama Receipts - As per Annexure - 4	828912.50
Regional Resource Centre	4578619.57	Samvada Receipts - As per Annexure - 5	671979.48
Samvada	2284333.48	Other Receipts - As per Annexure - 6	162979.00
Depreciation	1344750.00	Prior Year Income- Namma Nalanda	77335.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	2422531.20	Fixed Assets Adjustment	958738.08
	19655960.86		19655960.86

As per our Report of even date

For Panth & Co
Chartered Accountants

(ARUN CHINTOPANTH)

Partner

Membership No:18241

Place: Bangalore

Date: 05.03.2010

PRESIDENT

TREASURER



THE CONCERNED FOR WORKING CHILDREN
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31.12.2009

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As per our Report of even date

For Panth & Co
Chartered Accountants

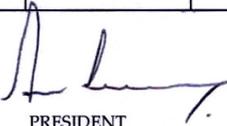

(ARUN CHINTOPANTH)
Partner

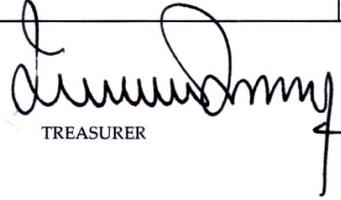
Membership No:18241

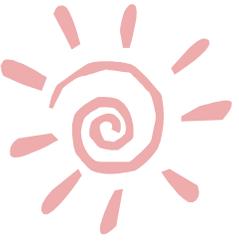
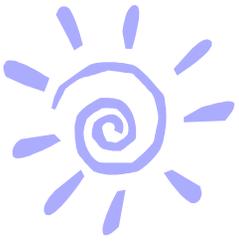
Place: Bangalore

Date: 05.03.2010




PRESIDENT


TREASURER



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WEBSITE: www.workingchild.org
PH: 91 80 25234270 / 611

