

Oxford Notes
Documenting Bhima Sangha's process

For

**'Children in Adversity: ways to reinforce the coping
ability and resilience of children in situations of
hardship'**

Oxford
September 10-12, 2000

By

Kavita Ratna

Director

The Concerned for Working Children, India

Website: www.workingchild.org Email: cwc@pobox.com

Introduction

Bhima Sangha is a union of working children in Karnataka, India. The members of Bhima Sangha have chosen Praveen Kumar, President, State Committee of Bhima Sangha as their representative to make a presentation at the consultation 'Children in Adversity: ways to reinforce the coping ability and resilience of children in situations of hardship'. The process by which Bhima Sangha's presentation was formulated is documented in this paper.

Process:

Discussing the Invitation:

The invitation sent by the Center for Refugee Studies, Oxford University was discussed by the State Committee of Bhima Sangha at their meeting. Given the background of the workshop, the Concerned for Working Children, (the private development agency that facilitates Bhima Sangha), highlighted the following points for consideration during the discussion:

- There is very little experience in the world of what children do together or collectively, to cope with the difficult situations they find themselves in.
- There is very little understanding about what children do for themselves as individuals, participating in the definition and solution of their own problems and the importance of this to their resilience and ability to cope.
- There is very little analysis about whether children feel they have been strengthened as individuals and as groups through their participation in addressing their problems and those of their communities.
- The key issue of the workshop is to find out how children's own resilience and ability to cope can be reinforced by policies and programmes to protect them rather than undermine them, as is so often the case.

The members of Bhima Sangha felt that the topic of the consultation was very relevant to their own work.

They felt it provided them with an opportunity to examine ways in which they cope with adverse situations, the lessons they have learnt from their experiences and now to identify positive and negative ways of coping. They felt this exercise

would help them to plan their programmes and strategies better, hence the time they spent preparing for the consultation would be justified. They felt they could gain from it as well as contribute to it.

So Bhima Sangha decided to take part in the consultation.

Preparation:

Bhima Sangha¹ delegated two of its district chapters to take up the responsibility of putting together information for the presentation at Oxford. The members of Kundapura Taluk (rural) and Bangalore (urban) were chosen in order to get a feel of both rural and urban experiences. This part of the process was started on July 6th².

In order to find out what the current opinions were about children, their difficulties and their abilities to cope with these difficulties, the members of Bhima Sangha decided to draw from:

❖ Their own organizational history:

They felt that the members of their union of working children, who range from the age of 6 to 18, have a significant collective experience in dealing with adverse situations.

❖ Case studies of their members who have dealt with very difficult situations in their lives

Bhima Sangha decided to carry out detailed case studies of some of their members who have been in very difficult situations. Some have overcome their problems while others are still in the process of grappling with them.

❖ Interviews with a wide range of adults and children in their communities

The members of Bhima Sangha thought it a good idea to collect information and thoughts from adults and children – both organised and unorganised – on how children cope – individually and collectively.

They wanted to discuss the responses within Bhima Sangha and include their analysis of the responses in their presentation at Oxford. They emphasised that this exercise will give them information and ideas about what various sections of their own communities feel about children's problems and their abilities to cope. This too, they felt would be very useful to their work.

Two teams of eight children each took on the responsibility to prepare questionnaires, list of respondents and the time schedule for the interviews.

¹ Bhima Sangha has members in several districts of Karnataka.

² For information regarding the schedule followed by Bhima Sangha, please refer to annexure 2

Bhima Sangha first identified the categories of individuals they wanted covered in the interviews. Next, they identified individuals under each category. Among child respondents, they strongly felt the need to make two sub-groups, namely, children who are organised and children who are not organised.

Adults	Children - organised	Children - unorganised
Employers Governments officials (example: Police) Parents Youth Community leaders Non-governmental organisations Teachers Elected representatives of people (example: members of the Panchayats, the local government)	Disabled children Working children School going children Boys & girls	Disabled children Working children School going children Boys & girls

The members of Bhima Sangha prepared questionnaires for each of the categories:

Adults:

What problems do children face?	As individuals how do they face these problems?	As members of an organisation/collective how do they face the problems?	What difference do they see in children as individuals once they get organised?

Children – organised:

What problems do you face?	As individuals how did you face them?	As members of an organisation/collective, how do you face them?	What difference do you see in yourself after you got organised?

Children – unorganised:

What problems do you face?	As individuals how do you face them?	If you were organised how would you face them?	If you were organised, what difference do you think it would make to you as an individual?

Collection of information:

Several teams were formed by Bhima Sangha to collect information from their own organizational experience, interview adults and children and draw up case studies.

Those involved in revisiting the experiences of Bhima Sangha referred to earlier documents produced by Bhima Sangha such as the outcome of focus group discussions on topics like 'perception of adults about children's participation' and 'situation of girls who work'. They had in depth discussions with senior members of Bhima Sangha. The results of their study were noted.

The Bangalore Chapter as well as the Kundapur Chapter of Bhima Sangha selected eight representatives each to interview adults and children. The interviewers were asked to state if they had any preferences about whom they should interview. If the rest of the team was convinced by the reason given for the preference, the interviewer could proceed. Some of the senior members of Bhima Sangha waited for all the others to make their choices. They said they were comfortable about interviewing any of the respondents.

Two members of the team requested for and got assistance from other members when they had to talk to employers. The interviews were carried out from July 7th to August 29th. The interviewers in Bangalore had a set back due to the kidnapping of a famous film star in Karnataka. The police in the city were busy handling the tense situation in the city and the teachers were on leave because the schools had closed down. This affected the schedule of the interviewers by two weeks.

After the 56 interviews were completed, both the teams met for a day to compile the responses they had received. In a couple of situations, they felt that clarifications were required and the interviewers were asked to return to the respondent and to seek clarifications. The compiled information was put up on charts.

Discussions and analyses

All the members of Bhima Sangha responsible for collecting information from various sources presented their findings to their respective chapters at Bangalore (on August 20) and Kundapur (on August 30). The findings were discussed and important issues were recorded. I have presented them in this paper as 'Key issues'.

It was in these large group discussions, that they selected one representative, Praveen Kumar, to represent them at Oxford on the basis of the criteria they drew up.

Key issues:

Adverse situations:

When all children, irrespective of whether they are organised or not, talked about the difficulties children face, they came up with the following list. They said that children face violence at homes, work places, schools and in the communities; When they talked about work related difficulties of children, they referred to both working conditions as well as to deeper causes that put them in situations that make work inevitable. They said children face discrimination based on age, gender, class, ability/disability and caste; they lack space to express their needs, their feelings, their ideas and their dreams; they did not have time to play and are ridiculed when they try to express themselves; they feel children are not taken into consideration when decisions are taken about their lives; they do not know who to turn to, who to trust at times. All children made repeated references to the discrimination faced by girls – at home, at school, at work and in the communities.

The Bhima Sangha's interviewers found that when adults discussed the problems children face, they linked poverty to children finding it difficult to combine school and work. They said that children's difficulties had to do with bad employers, difficult working conditions, inability to get education and inability to get good employment. They also made repeated references to disability and health related problems of children. Few adults felt very strongly about the bad quality of education in schools and emphasised that schooling did not necessarily provide a guarantee for good employment in the future. There were references to children being harassed by alcoholic/difficult parents. One adult felt that in many ways employers, police and adults exploit children and put pressure on them and that children are under the hold of adults.

The members of Bhima Sangha who did the study pointed out that the difficulties which adults felt children face were significantly different from what children thought were their difficulties. Many children highlighted problems dealing with the negative attitudes of the adults whereas adults rated poverty on the top of the list and saw children's inability to access facilities as the most important issue. One of the observations made by the child interviewers was that adults found it difficult to point out to them that many adults treat children badly. While illustrating this point, Sashikala a member of Bhima Sangha said "Children are humiliated in school. Teachers will not admit this about themselves. They will not say bad things about other adults in front of children". Praveen made a significant observation during the discussion about the differences between adult and children's perceptions, "When adults talk of children's problems, they do not include problems such as scarcity of fuel, scarcity of water. They do not connect these things to children and work; or to children and schooling. Probably they are not aware of these links".

Members of Bhima Sangha also pointed out that children who did not know about children's organisations had no problems saying they did not know, where as adults in the same situation found it difficult to make such an admission to children.

While comparing the responses of organised children and the unorganised children, Bhima Sangha felt that children who were not organised found it difficult to express themselves; even though they were obviously in situations of adversity, they were either not able to recognize it or were not willing to talk about it.

However, as a contrast, I observed that organised children were able articulate clearly what their problems were, often able to make the links to root causes and had strong ideas about what needs to be done to improve their situations in life.

Children's Resilience & Coping mechanisms:

Children as individuals who are not organised:

Responses from children who are not organised on how they deal with difficult situations:

- The members of Bhima Sangha reported that some of the children who are not organised were not able to speak openly about their problems.
- **Many members of Bhima Sangha recalled that even though they worked from morning to night, they had not realised that they were working children until they became members of Bhima Sangha.**

- Many unorganised children said that sharing their problems with friends and finding out that other children have the same problem helps them to bear their problems, not necessarily to deal with them.
- Few of the unorganised children said that as they are a part of the family, they feel it is their duty to take on a part of the family's burdens and problems.
- One unorganised child said that in order to help his family, he left school and started to work. That was the way he thought he could assist the family to deal with their difficult situation.
- Few unorganised children felt that when they confront a problem, they have to bear the brunt of it. Some times they felt it was worth it, some times not.
- They also said that some times they felt that they were able to solve problems positively. At times they took the help of other children or family members who were sympathetic.
- Many unorganised children said that when faced with severe pressures at home, they might take to smoking, drugs and other diversions.
- They added that when a situation got impossible, 'running' away from it was the only way to cope with it.
- **Several unorganised children specifically pointed out the disadvantage they had because they were not part of a collective.**

Responses from adults on how children who are unorganised deal with adverse situations.

- Adults felt that it is difficult for unorganised children to face problems alone. They said that when individual children bring up problems it goes unnoticed. So such children rarely confront problems alone.
- Many adults said that unorganised children try to find supportive adults and take their help – these adults included family members, members of the Panchyats, neighbors, police etc.
- One adult said that only intelligent children could find ways to face problems. According to him, if the child is not intelligent, no amount of information will help her out.
- **Some adults felt that unorganised children in inevitable situations get used to such situations. They will not try to challenge it or change it.**
- Some adults said that when children face financial problems some of them talk about it to others. Sometimes children migrate seeking jobs or work as

labourers or try to combine work and school. They do this because they think they can assist their families by this.

- Few adults had observed that some unorganised children discuss the problems they have at work with their employers and try to find solutions.
- Adults felt that if children who are not organised go to the police, they may be scolded or they may be pacified and sent back. Police do not pay attention to their problems.
- **One of the adults said that when a child is alone, the information he has is very limited. So there is more likelihood of him getting into difficult situations and less likelihood of him getting out of it.**
- Adults had noticed that sometimes children who are not organised take the help of children's organisations because they recognise the strength of children's organisations. They gradually become members of the organisation.
- They said that at times individual children gather information from media and other sources, take the help of adult agencies and deal with their problems.
- They said some unorganised children, like those who live on the streets, find clever ways to escape. They later join other children to protect themselves.
- Adults said that at times children who are not organised may take the help of family members to deal with an exploitative situation – at times they may hide the problems within themselves. If children face a very severe problem and they are unable to face it, they leave their homes.

As children's organisations/collectives:

Responses from children who are organised on how they deal with difficult situations:

- Members of Bhima Sangha said that when their membership increased, there is changes in the way people see them and their problems. Because of this, they have been able to solve many of their own problems speedily. Through their organisations, they feel, they have brought about a change in the minds of people and that now people take the problems of children seriously.
- From experience, they said that when their organisations get recognised by the community, they also get heard at home.
- Members of Bhima Sangha had many examples where they had systematically collected information about the problems they faced and had presented this before decision-making bodies in the Panchayats. As a result

They had put several bridges has been put in place, extension schools for working children have been started and adults who had abused children were taken to task.

- They also noted that when they go as an organisation, they find it easy to meet the police, the Panchayat members and take their help. When any of them help Bhima Sangha, Bhima Sangha gives them publicity and builds good relationships with them. This helps them in the future.
- **They felt that as an organisation it is easier for children to talk to adults. They say, when they convince adults that by listening to them not only children benefit, but adults too, adults then listen to children better.**
- Children pointed out how they deal with not only problems with children face, but also with problems which adults face. When adults recognise this, they give more support and respect to children.
- In an organisation, when one individual has a problem, that problem is collectively discussed, the opinions of all are taken and the individual's problem is addressed. Nagaraja Kolkeri, the founder president of Bhima Sangha had once said "Adults always talk about democracy. But normally, we children, at no point experience democracy". When democracy is practiced in its true sense, each one of the citizens will find a forum to articulate her/his problems and find ways together with others to address those problems.
- Members of Makkala Panchayats³ had selected Makkala Mitras (children's friends) who are adults in the Panchayat committed to assisting children in crisis. The Makkala Mitras also have close links with the Children's help lines. Members of Bhima Sangha explained how they had taken the help of such structures for children in difficult situations.
- Elaborating the same theme, Gunavathi, a member of Bhima Sangha said, "When we went to talk to the police they say 'you kids are doing such good work.' Because of this new relationship with the police they give us a lot of respect. This is not true for other districts".

Responses from children who are not organised on how things may be for them if they got organised:

Children who are not organised, but are familiar with Bhima Sangha said that if they were organised, they would have shared their problems with other children and found ways to deal with them. They would have sought the help of other children; they would have saved money and tried to help their families in times of need; they would try to collect relevant information to help themselves as well as others.

³ Makkala Panchayats are children's councils which are elected by all the children of a Panchayat. They were set up by Bhima Sangha. They exist in 8 Panchayats of Karnataka.

Children who were not familiar with children's organisations could not visualize how children can work collectively.

As an observer to the process, it appeared to me that due to the positive experiences of Bhima Sangha and Makkala Panchayats (children's councils) their members have a lot of confidence in the power of collective action. Bhima Sangha and Makkala Panchayats have created forums for children to speak out about their problems, support children at times of crisis and deal with community's problems. Through their actions, they have drastically reduced discrimination meted out against girls, children of marginalised communities, children with disabilities and working children. They have demanded and received facilities due to them. They have brought children's issues to the forefront and are making effective use of the political space they have acquired within their local communities.

Based on these successful experiences, the members of Bhima Sangha seem to extrapolate that they, as an organisation, are capable of addressing all the problems children face.

Some of the examples given by Bhima Sangha illustrate coping mechanisms where they have used the existing norms of the society to their advantage. Lalitha's story is a good example for this. Lalitha is an active member of Bhima Sangha. She was being ridiculed for her involvement in the organisation and was under a lot of pressure to quit. She then wrote a letter to Sri Veerendra Hegde, a very important religious leader of the region, describing her work at length. He sent a reply to her, complementing her work. He also wrote that he wished more girls and women of the country were like her. Sri. Hegde is to South Kanara region what the Pope is to the Catholic community. A letter from him holds the sanctity of a religious verdict. As soon as she received his letter, Lalitha made sure that the news of his letter reached all those who were trying to undermine her good work. Next, she pasted the letter on her front door. Today Lalitha continues her active involvement with Bhima Sangha unhindered. When a feeble dissenting voice is sensed, all she needs to do in order to silence it is to point out to Sri. Hegde's letter!

Bhima Sangha and Makkala Panchayats also have many examples where they have challenged the existing rules of the society and have gone beyond 'coping' because they have actually set their own agenda. The act of resilience, in these situations has moved from being defensive to being proactive.

Responses from adults on how children who are organised deal with adverse situations:

- Adults said that if children who are members of organisations are well informed, and then they can face any problems.

- As members of organisations, they felt children have the capacity to access the facilities they require. They have the confidence to face any problems. For this to happen all the members of the organisation should be upright and should be determined to pursue a problem until it is solved.
- Adults felt that it is not possible for individuals to face difficulties alone. This is why children become members of collectives. Some adults felt that only when a large group counters a problem collectively, will the process move fast and results be quick.
- Adults felt that when anyone protests against injustice in public they get redressed. This kind of public demonstration is difficult for individual children to carry out but relatively easier for children's organisations.
- When children are part of an organisation, they have the backing of their organisation. So they are able to speak out bravely.
- **As members of a Sangha, children are respected as `individuals'. So their needs and problems get due attention.**
- If they have problems, the members of children's organisation meet the concerned officials because they have good contacts. They meet various organisations and have a lot of information on how to solve their problems.
- One adult said that when a child is a member of an organisation, she does not even have to spell out her difficulties, the other members sense it even before she speaks about it.
- The members of an organisation have information about the local governments, the police, the law etc. Because of that they find it easier to face problems.
- Damodara Acharya the Executive Director of CWC said, "When children find benefits even within a difficult situation, they refuse to give up those benefits. Children are capable of making the best of any given situation. We have to recognise that capacity and build on that".
- Manjakka, a Makkala Mitra said, "Earlier Bhima Sangha did not have enough support. Once they grew stronger in membership, they were able to question their adults when required. Some families tried to discourage them from being a part of the organisation. At that time children said, `you may not want anything more from your lives, we do. We want the world.' Now Bhima Sangha gets a lot more support because of all that they have achieved. A few people still criticize them, but Bhima Sangha does not pay heed to them'.

As an observer I note that there was a distinct difference between the responses of adults who are familiar with children's organisations and those who are not. Those who are, drew upon their information about Bhima Sangha or Makkala

Panchayats. Those who are not, could not visualize how children's organisations work even though they had some ideas about how adult unions work.

Children as members of an organisation:

Responses from children who are organised on how children who are members of an organisation cope with difficulties:

- They said that once children become members of an organisation, they no longer feel inferior to other children or adults. So they resist discrimination. They are able to retain their individuality. This gives them great confidence to interact with other adults and children.
- They said that children who are members of organisations do not feel shy or hesitant to talk to adults – officials, senior members of the community etc. Because of this they are able to solve many of their problems as well as the problems of the community. Because they get more support from the people of their communities. This helps them to take on even more problems and solve them.
- Some children felt that because they joined the organisation they are able to carry out savings and learn many things. Through the information they have got through the organisation, they have been able to enroll in vocational training courses. This gives them more control over their lives and their future.
- Girls within organisations felt that they face situations boldly and are able to do things to improve their situations. If required, they take support from other members especially other girls who have faced problems similar to theirs.⁴
- Prema, the president of Makkala Panchayat, Uppunda and a senior member of Bhima Sangha said, “ When I was at school my teacher used to tell me I was only good for breaking the heads of fish. I was forced to leave school because I had difficulties learning at School. Recently when I went to interview the schoolteacher, he gave me a lot of respect. He actually said that he was very proud that a student of his had become the president of Makkala Panchayat. I immediately reminded him about the fish head”.
- Prema added that these days when people ask her unreasonable questions, she replies to them with more questions. For instance when her brother asked her “Do you think it is right for a young girl like you to go out for meetings?” Prema's reply was “Do you think only boys have the right to do that?” Prema says this technique usually silences people.
- When girls become strong, they also help their own families in many ways. Because of this, their status in the family improves and many of their problems within the house are solved. For instance, Shamala managed to

⁴ From Bhima Sangha's focus group discussion about 'girls who work', May 2000

acquire the land documents for her house and since then, her family does not put any restrictions on her participation in Bhima Sangha.

- Children said that they noticed that when they have gained information and respect in the eyes of the officials, the people in the community begin to respect them and their families even though they may belong to poor or low caste families. This helps them to change many discriminatory attitudes in the community.
- Narrating his story, Praveen, the president of Bhima Sangha said, “ When I was younger, my family members were forcing me to do things the way they wanted them done. They thought it was useless to be a member of Bhima Sangha. They wanted me to stop my vocational training and get back to do some work in my own village. In spite of all that I continued to be a member of Bhima Sangha and I also continued training. Now my family has realised how much respect Bhima Sangha receives. I am now self-employed. Because of both these reasons, I get much more respect at home. Now they do not try to impose any of their decisions on me.”

Responses from children who are not organised but are familiar with children’s organisations on how children who are members of an organisation cope with difficulties:

Children who are not organised said that if they were organised, they would have the ability to talk to adults without hesitation, discuss their problems and find ways to deal with those problems; they would have had opportunities to learn many things, they would have made new friends, they would have a good environment and relaxation/entertainment; and that they would have had strength and patience.

When Bhima Sangha wanted to know on what basis they said these things, they said it was from their observation of Bhima Sangha.

Responses from adults on how children who are members of an organisation cope with difficulties:

- The adults pointed out that there were several positive changes in the personality of children who are members of an organisation. They said children became braver, more articulate, and more confident to speak out their problems and to seek solutions to those problems. They can face up to anyone. They are able to explain things in such a way that others are able to understand them well. Their intelligence is enhanced. They are enabled to think about issues from different angles and to take decisions.
- They gain a lot of information about their organisation. They maintain contact with various officers and individuals. Once they make contact, they strengthen the contact and share the contact with other children.

- They have opportunities to take part in many programmes. They find ways to get different opportunities and to make good use of the opportunities they get.
- They gain the ability to not only address their problems, but also the problems of their families and their communities.
- When children are in an organisation, they gain the capacity to easily address personal problems.
- They children are ready to help other children to form their own organisations so that they also get stronger and more able to cope with difficulties than before.
- Children who are in an organisation get recognition as individuals. So they can directly approach the Panchayat members or Makkala Mitras (friends of children) and deal with their problems.

The process continues:

The members of Bhima Sangha who were involved in this study are now all set to initiate deeper discussions on this issue in all their local area chapters. They have also noted the names of the respondents they need to get back to for more dialogue and collaboration. For instance, one of the elected local leaders in Bangalore has expressed a lot of support to their work and has assured them assistance to address several serious problems children in her constituency face. Bhima Sangha has already fixed an appointment with her.

To me, the observer, the inner strength of all children came through very strongly during the entire process. It was also clear that this strength is manifold enhanced when children identify themselves as members of a children's organisation. This is perhaps the only way many of the marginalised children get their 'personhood' recognised. It is also significant to note that this 'personhood' that children urgently demand is not individualistic – it is inclusive and embraces the needs of their families, their communities and their society. It is very inspiring to see that the process Bhima Sangha has embarked on has set several children led processes in motion and the ripples they collectively create will undoubtedly make this world a better place for all children.

ANNEXURE 1

The names of Bhima Sangha members who were involved in the preparation, information collection and analysis:

Sl.No.	Name	Place
1.	Prema	Uppunda, Kundapur
2.	Prema	"
3.	Darmavathi	"
4.	Parvathi	"
5.	Jayanthi	"
6.	Geetha	"
7.	Jayanthi	"
8.	Yamuna	"
9.	Nagarathna	"
10.	Chandravathi	"
11.	Shantha	"
12.	Kusuma	"
13.	Veerabadra	"
14.	Shoba	"
15.	Shantha	"
16.	Kalliamma	Belve, Kundapur
17.	Chandravathi	"
18.	Gunavathi	"
19.	Shyamala	Alur, Kundapur
20.	Shasikala	"
21.	Madhavi	"
22.	Sudha	"
23.	Jyothi	"
24.	Bharathi	"
25.	Sreemathi	"
26.	Dinesh	Balkur, Kundapur
27.	Ravi	Keradi, Kundapur
28.	Ragavendra	"
29.	Praveen Kumar	Belve, Kundapur
30.	Mallika	Aloor, Kundapur
31.	Savitha	"
32.	Balasubramaniam	Bhavaninagar, Bangalore
33.	Zikria	Islampur, Bangalore
34.	Sultana	Sarabendapalya, Bangalore
35.	Manjula	Byapanahalli, Bangalore
36.	Hidayat Pasha	Haricolony, Bangalore
37.	Anjali	"
38.	Mahaboob Pasha	"
39.	Mubarak	"
40.	Ahmed	Haricolony, Bangalore

41.	Iyyamma	Vandimode, B'lore
42.	Ravi	Nellorepuram, B'lore
43.	Basava	Bhavaninagar, B'lore
44.	Balaji	"
45.	Gandhi	Byapanahalli, B'lore
46.	Kalavathi	"
47.	Shaboo	Islampur, B'lore
48.	Salma	"
49.	Thabarasa	Haricolony, Bangalore
50.	Nadiya	Vandimode, B'lore
51.	Jayalakshmi	J.C.Road, B'lore
52.	Nanda	Nellorepura, B'lore
53.	Manjunath.K	Bhavaninagar, B'lore

The team also drew from the Focus Group Discussions Held by Bhima Sangha, May 2000 on the themes 'How adults view children's participation' and the theme 'situation of girls who work'

Names of adults facilitators involved in the process:

1. Manju.G
2. Savitha
3. Hemanth Kumar
4. Damodara Acharya
5. Ganapathy M M
6. Mohan Chandra
7. Shardakka
8. Kavita Ratna
9. Nandana Reddy

ANNEXURE 2

The process schedule:

June 2, 2000	Bhima Sangha discusses the invitation organisers of the Children and Adversity consultation and accept it
July 6, 2000	Preparation meeting at Bangalore
July 18, 19, 2000	Preparation meeting at Kundapura
July 7 – 11, August 2000	Information collection at Bangalore
July 19 – 10 August	Information collection at Kundapur
August 9 – 12, 2000	Victor Karunan visits Bangalore and Kundapur for discussions with members of Bhima Sangha, Makkala Panchayats, their parents, Makkala Mitras, members of the local governments and CWC
August 11, 2000	Compilation of information at Kundapur
August 12, August 18, 2000	Compilation of information at Bangalore
August 20, 2000	Discussions and analysis of information collected at Bangalore
August 30, 2000	Discussions and analysis of information collected at Kundapur
August 31 – September 7, 2000	Preveen prepares for the presentations