Child Labour Free Zones

What are CLFZs

- A CLFZ is a zone in which no child works and every child goes to school
- Where the entire community has internalised the Non Negotiable principles
- An area based approach is required for creation of these zones
- Areas with high intensity of working children and children out of schools are the main target zones

The beginning

- In the initial phase the education volunteers for child rights enter such zones and interact extensively with the local persons especially the youth.
- The purpose of the volunteers entry, agenda of education, child rights and non negotiable principles are discussed in detail with them.
- Subsequently efforts are made to reach out through them to the entire zone for knowing the details about children, families and prevalent customs and traditions in the area.
- As the volunteers move around the zones they become familiar faces in the zone establishing rapport with the local families and other institutions

Survey and sensitisation programs

- A survey is planned and conducted with the help of the youth to know number of children attending and not attending schools. The information on work profiles of all children are gathered and consolidated.
- Survey details on number of children attending schools is cross checked with institutions for establishing the exact statistics.
- Sharing of obtained statistics is done with all the members of the zone through mass public meetings followed by discussions and debates on withdrawal of children from work and enrolling them into schools
- This is followed by enormous awareness and sensitisation programmes across the zones using the local means of communication viz., drum beating, slogan raising, wall posters, wall writings, rallies, marches etc., .
- An all inclusive approach is adopted to reach out and involve every section of the society viz., parents, teachers, youth, elected representatives. Govt. officials and the employers of children.
- The non negotiable principles are discussed in detail with all the stakeholders

The Non Negotiables of the Programme

- All children must attend full-time, formal day schools
- Any child out of school is a child labourer
- All labour is hazardous and harms the overall growth and development of the child
- There must be total abolition of child labour and
- Any justification perpetuating the existence of child labour must be condemned.

Establishing support groups

- Suitable programmes and strategies are designed to reach out to every family and every child in the zone.
- Door to door visits and motivation programmes are carried out.
- Residential bridge courses for older children are established to mainstream them into age appropriate classes.
- The programme takes on board every individual who stands up firmly for child rights and forms child rights protection forums with atleast 10 to 15 members in every zone.
- These forums are subsequently established at the different levels of the zonal administration.
- Elaborate training programmes are conducted for CRPFs, youth groups, women groups, elected representatives and officials

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

- The principle of inclusion must be adhered to with all social groups, classes, communities, and individuals in the programme
- Every occasion of conflict must be used to build a consensus.
- The programme must not set up institutions which are parallel to those provided by the State.
- The emphasis of the programme must be on building processes for total involvement of the community.

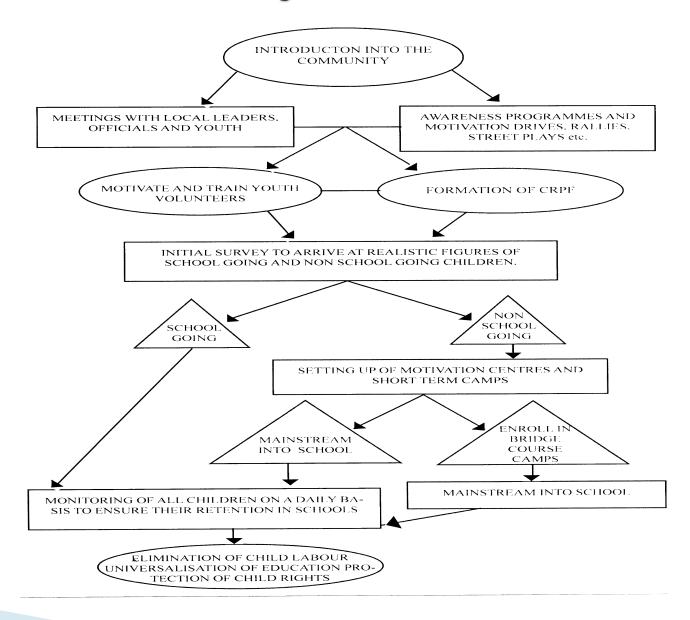
Retention of children

- Retention of children in school is as important as enrolment and mainstreaming them
- Addressing school infrastructure problems is very vital for realisation of the goal of education for all
- Tracking mechanisms like head count, physical verification of attendance, following up with absent children and reaching out to the doorsteps of the dropout children are very essential for retention of all children in schools
- Community can play a significant role by giving petitions to concerned officials and making contributions for development of school infrastructure.

Sustainability

- The programme for elimination of child labour is not a simple programme of mainstreaming children. It is a programme of creating awareness, change in attitudes and changing of mindsets.
- Community will take ownership of the programme once it imbibes the non negotiable principles of the programme
- Sustainability is gained when the first generations of learners are mainstreamed to schools and complete their school education.
- The role of an NGO will be minimised or become unnecessary on achieving this objective

Flow of activities for achieving child labour free zones



Thank You