



# CHILD HOPE

Newsletter on Child Labour

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## From the Director General's Desk

Child trafficking is a gross violation of child rights. Children of the poorest and most marginalised sections are more vulnerable to trafficking for labour exploitation. Preying on their vulnerability, children are lured or forcibly taken out of their protective environment and pushed into work that endangers their health and safety and hamper their right to education. Poverty, domestic violence, family disputes, natural disasters, communal and armed conflicts coupled with the demand for cheap and docile labour in hazardous work exposes children to the risk of being trafficked.

Separated from their families, and cut off from their community, trafficked children remain isolated in geographical regions where they may not know the local language, cannot get help and have no way to return to their home. Totally at the mercy of their employers or the traffickers who control their lives, they are victims of abuse of power and different forms of violence. Child trafficking has adverse impact not only on the trafficked children and their families, but also on their communities and on the society as a whole. The devastating consequences last their lifetime.

While there are different legislation to deal with the exploitation of children, coordinated efforts with collective determination is required to deal with the root causes and the ramifications. Socio-economic-political empowerment of the vulnerable sections should be done simultaneously with the rehabilitation, re-integration and post re-integration of the children rescued from the traffickers and employers.

Placement Agencies continue to be the chief source of trafficking of women and children. Mushrooming growth of such agencies need to be checked. Different social partners including the Youth Organizations should come forward to provide support to the Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in timely victim identification, placing them in safe environment, providing them with social services, health care, psycho-social support, and reintegration with family and community. Rescue operations should be carried out with a lot of sensitivity and in the best interest of children where children could be heard, fed, oriented and children are protected free from the trauma of moving from place to place and from the exhaustion of paper work.

Also different social partners should come forward to support the government departments and agencies that are involved in the task of rehabilitation. NCLP project societies across the country have also played a significant role in rescue and rehabilitation of children trafficked for labour exploitation. Children are enabled by NCLP Instructors to acquire education, learn vocational skills, avail health-care, etc. Government of India has not only taken initiative in ensuring coordination and alignment among different national plans, but also has made resources available for effective implementation of these national plans.

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## Training Programmes/Workshops conducted by the National Resource Centre on Child Labour

### Awareness Programmes on Making National Child Labour Projects Effective

The National Resource Centre on Child Labour at the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute organized Four Awareness Programmes on Making National Child Labour Projects Effective during the months of November and December 2016 for different geographical regions of the country. The first Workshop was organized on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016, second on 30<sup>th</sup> November, third on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and fourth on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016. These Programmes were organized for the Programme Managers of NCLP Districts. The specific objectives of these workshops were to apprise Programme Managers (PMs) of the District Project Society with the recent developments related to NCLP Scheme and removing difficulties or for smooth implementation of the project. 20 Programme Managers from the Districts Agra, Kanpur, Moradabad, Rampur, Mirzapur, Aligarh, Fatehpur, Shahjahanpur, Bulandshahar, Hardoi, Allahabad, Lucknow, Barabanki of Uttar Pradesh attended the Programme on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016. There were 26 Programme Managers from the Districts Birbhum, Howrah, Purba Midnapore, Purulia, Burdwan, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Kolkata of West Bengal; Districts Khamman,

Hyderabad, Mahbubnagar and Adilabad of Telangana and Districts Guntur and Nellore of Andhra Pradesh for the Programme held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016, 36 Programme Managers attended the programme. They were from the Districts Pakur and West Singhbhum of Jharkhand; Districts Shivpuri, Katni, Rewa, Badwani, Mandsaur, Damoh and Shajapur of Madhya Pradesh; Districts Begusarai, East Champaran and Katihar of Bihar; Districts Baran, Chittorgarh, Dausa and Alwar of Rajasthan; Districts Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Amritsar of Punjab; Districts Hasanpura of Jaipur; Districts Malda and Murshidabad of West Bengal; District Faridabad of Haryana; District Thane of Maharashtra; District Bangalore of Karnataka and from New Delhi. 41 Programme Managers from the Districts Dharmapuri, Vellore, Kanchipuram, Erode, Namakkal, Tirunelveli, Virudhnagar, Salem, Coimbatore and Krishnagiri of Tamil Nadu; Districts Jalna, Nandurbar, Beed, Nasik, Aurangabad, Purbhani, Gondia, Dhule, Jalgaon and Amaravati of Maharashtra; Districts Kamrup and Lakhimpur of Assam; Districts Bangalore, Belagavi, Bellary and Raichur of Karnataka; District Cooch Behar of West Bengal and District of Jharkhand attended the programme on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016.





**Workshop on State of Child Labour in India: Mapping Trends** was organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 in collaboration with UNICEF. The primary objective of the workshop was to disseminate the findings of the research study “Census Data Analysis on Child Labour” conducted by the V. V. Giri National Labour Institute. The purpose was also to share the specific reasons for concentration of working children in some districts and the occupational shift of working children in 2011 as compared to 2001. The workshop deliberated on providing inputs to the states in planning for prevention and elimination of child labour and

informing the UNICEF as well as the States in their plans on child labour prevention. Sixty-five participants attended the workshop including the senior officials of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, UNICEF, ILO, and other International Organisations; representatives from the Trade Unions, Employers’ and Business Associations, Corporate Houses, Civil Society Organizations, Childline, Research Scholars, Academicians from the Departments of Social Work, Economics and Sociology, and others Development Sector organizations dealing with the issue of child labour.



**Workshop on Technical Consultation Ending Child Labour in Supply Chains: Sharing of Experiences** was jointly organized by National Resource Centre on Child Labour (NRCCL) at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute and ILO at the VVGNLI Campus on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016 observing the **World Day Against Child Labour, 2016**. The Consultation facilitated sharing of the strategies

adopted by various enterprises for keeping their supply chains free from child labour and their experiences of implementing them for replicability. The Consultation also enabled discussion on key strategies that can reinforce and inform policy and action to ensure child labour-free supply chains in India. Participants of this Consultation include officials from the Ministry of Labour and

Employment, ILO, Trade Unions, Employers' and Exporters' Organizations, Childline, Faculty and Students of Social Work, Corporate Social Responsibility Executives (CSR), Civil Society Organizations, Academicians and Research Scholars working on the issue of child labour.

**Workshop for Content Finalization of Training Module on Child Labour** was organized during 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The objective of the workshop was to present the training module developed by the National Resource Centre on Child Labour for getting suggestions from practitioners / Trainers and from various Line Departments / Institutions / Organizations. The workshop was attended by Programme Officers, Directors, State Coordinators, CWC Chairpersons, Deputy Labour Commissioners, Superintendents of Child Care Institutions, Child Protection Specialists and Education Specialists from Raipur in Chhattisgarh, Bhubneshwar and Behrampur in Odisha, Mirzapur, Kanpur and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Hajipur and Patna in Bihar, and from the NCR.

In collaboration with State Labour Institute, Odisha, the **Training Programme on Combating Child Labour: Role of Social Partners** was organized in Bhubaneswar during

2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The objectives were to enhance understanding on the issue of Child Labour in Odisha, to impart skills, methods and techniques for identification, rescuing, releasing, rehabilitation and reintegration of child labour, and to enable the participants to locate their role and responsibilities towards combating child labour. Participants who attended this training programme include Officials from Labour Department and State Labour Institute, elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, representatives of Trade Unions, NGOs, School Management Committees, Self-help Groups, Child Protection Committees, Village Education Committees and Child Welfare Committees.



**National Consultation on Developing Effective Strategies and Techniques for Preventing and Responding to Child Labour in India Sharing Multi-Stakeholder Experiences** was jointly organized by National Resource Centre on Child Labour (NRCCCL) at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute & the UNICEF on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The Consultation focused on the four broad themes - prevention, identification, rescue, rehabilitation/reintegration and post-reintegration of child labour. The objectives of the Consultation was to obtain insights from practitioners to inform the content of the training module and handbook that were proposed to be developed for training multi-sector state and non-state actors involved in (i) prevention (ii) identification (iii) rescue,

rehabilitation, integration, and (iv) post-integration of child labour and to develop a better understanding of ground realities through identification of facilitating factors, leverage points, and priorities; challenges, impediments to preventing and responding to child labour. Sixty three child labour experts participated in the Consultation comprising Deputy Labour Commissioners, Superintendents of Child Care institutions, CWC Chairpersons, Programme Officers, State Nodal Officers, Project Officers, District Social Welfare Officers, Senior Consultants, Police Inspectors, Project Directors, NGO representatives, Child Protection Specialists and Officials from Ministry of Labour & Employment; Ministry of Human Resource and Development and Unicef.





In collaboration with the Department of Child Protection, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and with facilitation by Social and Development Research and Action Group (SADRAG), a **Training Workshop on Child Protection and Child Rights in District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh: Reality and Response** was organized by the National Resource Centre on

Child Labour (NRCCCL) at the VVGNI on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize on the rights of children and acquaint the participants with the provisions in various child labour legislation, and to make them aware of the eligibility criteria, procedure for applying and the benefits and services available in various child welfare schemes for the protection and

overall development of children, particularly those of the poor. The Training Workshop was attended by the Chief Executive Officers, Sub-divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Tahsildars, District Probationary Officers, rank and file of the Police Department, and Coordinators of Childline Project from Gautam Budh Nagar District.

**Dissemination Workshop on Dynamics of Employment of Children in West and East Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya** was organized on July 16, 2015 at the Secretariat, Government of Meghalaya, in Shillong. The objective was to share the findings and recommendations of the study and survey undertaken in 100 villages of Meghalaya entitled “Dynamics of Employment of Children in West and East Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya” and exchange field-level information realities relating to child labour in the study area. Shri M.S. Rao, Principal Secretary, Labour and Employment, Government of Meghalaya, presided over the deliberations of the Workshop. Thirty-two participants attended the workshop including Commissioner and Secretary, Labour Commissioner, Deputy Labour Commissioners, Labour Inspectors and Statistical Assistants.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 the National Resource Centre on Child Labour at the VVGnLI organized the **Workshop on Understanding the positive aspects of Amendments of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act**, at Shram Shakti Bhawan, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE). The objective was to discuss various aspects and dimensions of the amendments in the draft Child Labour Bill. The Workshop was attended by officials of MoLE, VVGnLI Faculty and other academicians, Labour Enforcement Officers, Consultants working on Labour Reforms and representatives from the Media houses, Institutions working on Child Rights.

#### **Technical Support Provided by NRCCL**

- Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGnLI, attended the Meeting to focus on the Bonded Labour, Child Labour, Human Trafficking, Denial of Health Rights, Encounter Deaths and Custodial Deaths on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

at National Human Rights Commission at New Delhi.

Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGnLI, attended the Meeting of Committee for Framing Rules under Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Ministry of Labour & Employment, New Delhi.

Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Senior Fellow, VVGnLI, attended the programme on Technology and the Future of Work on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The programme was organized as a part of the series of conversations related to the Future of Work, an initiative of the International Labour Organization and its member states.

**Presentation on Overview of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016** by Dr. Helen R. Sekar, Coordinator, National Resource Centre on Child Labour, VVGnLI, in the National Consultation “Stepping Stones for Creating Child Labour Free Zones” which was jointly organized by the Stop Child Labour and M. V. Foundation on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

**Presentation on Children Trafficked for Labour: Reality, Challenges and Realization of Policy Objectives through Effective Implementation of NCLP** by Dr. Helen R. Sekar in a Seminar on ‘Challenges and Innovations in Child Protection in India’ organized on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016 by the FXB Centre for Health and Human Rights Harvard University; M. V. Foundation; and International Association Francois-Xavier Bagnoud, India Suraksha.

**Presentation on Coming together to Ensure Childhood to every Child: Multi-Stakeholder Capacity Development for Preventing and Responding to Child Labour** by Dr. Helen R. Sekar in the event of Uttar Pradesh titled “Census Data Dissemination and Launching of State Action Plan on Child Labour in Uttar Pradesh” on the occasion of World Day against Child Labour on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at Lucknow.





Dr. Helen R. Sekar presenting study findings to Sh. Barkos Warjri, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya

Presentation of findings of the Study Dynamics of Employment of Children and Socio-economic Reality: A Study of Children in Hazardous Occupations in East and West Jaintia Hills Districts of Meghalaya by Dr. Helen R. Sekar and Dr. Otojit Kshetrimayum in a meeting chaired by the Shri Barkos Warjri, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, at the Secretariat, Shillong. The survey covered households, workplaces, labour camps and coal mine sites/depots. The total children surveyed was 66,921 in the total sample population of 1,32,636. The incidence of full-time working children identified through the survey was 3.3 per cent.

## Events of National Child Labour Projects from different parts of the Country

*News from NCLP, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh  
Commemoration of World Day Against Child Labour*

*News from NCLP Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh*







Observance of World Day Against Child Labour



Rally against Child Labour



Oath taking ceremony



Poster release



## *Awareness Generation Programmes*



Release and Pasting of NCLP stickers on RTC buses



Oath taking ceremony against Child Labour



Human Chain against Child Labour



Workshop in collaboration with Unicef

## *Towards Identification, Rescue and Rehabilitation of Child Labour*



Identification of Child Labourers







Rescued child produced before CWC for rehabilitation

Rescued Child labourers from Bihar at Vijayawada railway station



# STOP Child Labour

## 2017



**January**

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**February**

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**March**

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**April**

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**May**

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**June**

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\* 14<sup>th</sup> June World Day Against Child Labour

**July**

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**August**

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**September**

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**October**

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**November**

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**December**

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30	31					

V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, (Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India)



## NCLP Adilabad District, Telangana



Glimpses of Awareness programme on NCLP conducted at Khurshidnagar, Telangana



## *NCLP Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir*



Distribution of Uniforms, School bags, shoes and socks, sweaters and Rs. 150/- stitching charges to NCLP students

## *NCLP Burdwan, West Bengal*

### *Observance of World Day Against Child Labour*





## *NCLP Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal*

### *Glimpses of Annual Competition conducted*



Racing Competition



Prize Distribution

### *Highlights of World Day Against Child Labour*







## *NCLP Darjeeling, West Bengal*

### *Vocational Classes*



Stitching Class



Making of Paper packets

### *Observance of World Day Against Child Labour*









## Vocational Classes



## Success Stories

**NCLP - 12<sup>th</sup> Std. Result, 2015 (ERSTWHILE CHILD LABOURERS) TOP SCORERS (as on 07.05.2015)**

Student name	Marks	Rescued from	District
Karthik	1156	Agriculture	Dharmapuri
Mahalakshmi	1142	Domestic work	Trichy
C.Muthulakshmi	1135	Match work	Virudhunagar
Kousalya	1103	Fire works	Virudhunagar
P.Prabu	1085	Power loom	Namakkal
R.Alaguraj	1051	Saloon	Virudhunagar
Vijay	1012	Domestic work	Trichy
A.Kasthuri	1006	Flower selling	Trichy
G.Priya	1026	Power loom	Namakkal

**NCLP districts with 100% pass result in 12<sup>th</sup> Std. Result, 2015**

Name of the District
Coimbatore
Dindigul
Kancheepuram
Thiruvannamali
Thirunelveli
Trichy
Thoothukudi
Virudhunagar





# Rescued child labourers score well, set their aims high

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Virudhunagar:** A decade ago, they were dropouts working in fireworks units, brick kilns and commercial establishments, and toiling hard with their tiny hands to support their families. Rescued under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), these children were given special training and later admitted to regular schools. This year, 73 of them appeared for the Plus Two examinations, with every single one of them passing out successfully.

Among them, C Muthuselvi secured 1,135 marks, scoring 200 out of 200 in Accountancy, 199 in Commerce and 194 in Economics. Ten years ago, she was working in a small-scale unit that manufactured paper pipes for the fireworks industry. She still works there to earn some extra money to support her family. Her mother passed away a few years ago and she had to work to support her father with the wages she made in the evenings. Like her, K Kousalya who secured 1,103 marks was rescued from a manufacturing unit and R Alaguraj, who secured 1,051 marks, worked in a salon once.

Project director of NCLP, T Narayanasamy said they had been rescuing children from these units since 1987. Last year, 85 such children appeared for

## Once a housemaid, now a proud topper

**Trichy:** Twelve-year-old V Mahalakshmi was working as a housemaid in Sembattu in 2009 when members of the Child Labour Effective Elimination and Rehabilitation Society (CHEERS) in Trichy found her and rescued her. She was shifted to a special training centre and later got admission into a school in Namakkal which provided her free education for two years.



When the Plus Two results were announced on Thursday, it was a vindicating moment for Mahalakshmi and the people who stood by her. She had scored 1,142 out of 1,200 and a cut-off mark of 192.25. She was one among the seven child labourers rescued by CHEERS who appeared for the Plus Two examination this year.

"After my husband Venkatapathy's death in 2009 due to health problems, I had to discontinue my daughter's education due to financial constraints. I never thought my daughter will reach such a good position," said Mahalakshmi's mother V Kalaivani, who is a construction worker. "Hard work and the motivation I received from my school teachers helped me realise my dream of scoring good marks in Plus Two examinations. I am confident that I will get admission to pursue MBBS in a government medical college and be able to serve the people. I sincerely thank all the people who acted behind my success," Mahalakshmi told TOI. JNN

Plus Two examination but not all of them could pass. "It is a record this year as all our children have cleared Plus Two and seven of them have scored more than 1,000 marks," he said. At present, 677 children are under their care and they are planning to admit 222 children into regular schools. The state government gives them each a stipend of Rs 500. "After we rescue them, we train them in special schools for some years and based on their age we direct

them to government schools. Most of them stay with their families. Many of them study from residential schools run under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and stay in state-run hostels," he said.

On Thursday, the children met Virudhunagar district collector V Rajaraman who appreciated them for their dedication and hard work. Narayanasamy said they tried to find sponsors for children who wanted to pursue higher education.



V. Karthik - PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Former child labourers eye medical seat

B. Kolappan and P.V. Srividya

**CHENNAI/DHARMAPURI:** A few years ago, Karthik never would have dared to dream. The 18-year-old erstwhile child labourer has secured 1,156 marks in Plus-Two examinations this year.

His stoic tone belies the bygone struggles and downplays his current feat. At an age of nine, poverty drove him to a construction site with his father. It was the intervention of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP)

that rescued Karthik from a building site. "I wanted to help my family, my parents never forced me. It was poverty that forced me to discontinue studies," said Karthik talking about that dark period. He then attended a special school of the NCLP for two years, before he was mainstreamed for Standard VII.

In Class X, he proved his mettle with 475 marks. Jointly, with the help of the district administration, he was admitted to a private school and put in a hostel free of cost. Karthik now wants

to become a cardiologist.

V. Mahalakshmi's father died when she was eight. Her mother was eking out a livelihood as a daily-wage labourer.

Life took a turn when NCLP officials in Tiruchi readmitted her to school after her undergoing a bridge course in the special training centre. This Dalit girl, who would have lived as a child labourer, secured 1,142 marks in the higher secondary examinations.

"I confident of entering a medical college," said Mahalakshmi.



# Former Child Workers Labour Hard to Come Out in Flying Colours

Express News Service

**Dharmapuri/Coimbatore/Vellore/Virudhunagar:**

Thursday was a day of crowning glory for a batch of students in Tamil Nadu, who once slogged it out as child labourers but braved all odds and have come out on top in Plus Two examinations.

V Karthick of Kalkanjipuram in Palacode, Dharmapuri, who was rescued from a construction company in 2007, bagged 1156 marks and has secured the State first rank among rescued child labourers, said officials of National Child Labour Project (NCLP). Karthick was forced to work for ₹45 a day while in fourth standard until he was rescued. He was enrolled in a special school run by NCLP where he studied up to seventh standard before joining main stream school. He scored 475 marks in Class ten.

Later, with the help of the district collector and NCLP, he joined Vijay Vidyalaya where he studied classes XI and XII. His hard work has borne fruit as he scored 185 in Tamil, 188 in English, 200 in Maths 194 in Physics, 195 in Chemistry and 194 in Biology. Karthick wants to become a cardiologist and has requested the district administration to support him.

Five girls figure in the list of seven rescued child labourers who have performed well in Coimbatore district. M Manimegalai, student of government higher secondary school at Devanurpudur near Pollachi secured 995 marks, the highest in the group. She scored 176 in Tamil, 144 in English, 185 in history, 139 in Economics, 159 in Commerce and 195 in Accountancy. Manimegalai was rescued from a brick kiln in her village. Her father Murugan, who works in a grove, said he would extend all support possible to enable Manimegalai continue higher studies.

Other rescued child labourers include Vigneskumar (925 marks), S Manikandan (888 marks), A Vinitha (892 marks), S Kowsalya (970 marks), Am-saveni (745 marks) and A Gomathi (897 marks). The Central government provides Rs 6000

annually to each rescued child labourer towards higher studies, said NCLP officials.

Eighteen-year-old Najuma of Konavattam in Vellore is among the 15 labourers rescued by Child Labour Abolition Support Scheme (CLASS) officials nine years ago. She has now emerged with flying colours scoring 909 marks (Tamil - 177, English - 159, Physics - 156, Chemistry - 147, Biology - 130 and Mathematics - 140). The second daughter of Abdul Wahab and Mumtaz, Najuma had never been to school until a teacher attached to CLASS found her (then eight years) rolling beedis in 2005. The rest, as they say, is history. Najuma wants to pursue a course in fashion designing, a dream she has nurtured for more than three years.

In a district notorious for child labour, 73 drop outs, who were rescued and put through formal education under the National Child Labour Project, have

**In Virudhunagar district, notorious for child labour, 73 dropouts, who were rescued and put through formal education, passed the class 12 examinations**

passed 12 standard examinations in Virudhunagar. Of the 73 students, three have secured district ranks in the NCLP circle. Eight students have scored about 1,000 marks.

C Muthuselvi from Kalaimagal higher secondary school secured district first rank scoring 1135 marks with centum in Accountancy. K Gowsalya of SRN higher secondary school has secured district second rank scoring 1103 marks with centum in Accountancy and R Alaguraja of Thevar higher secondary school secured the third rank with 1051 marks. Collector V. Rajaraman awarded shields to the district toppers on Thursday evening.

However, it was desolation for the group that belonged to CE Higher Secondary School, Van-narapet, in Tiruchy as all four candidates failed in the examination.

## TURNING THE CORNER

# From child labourer to loco pilot

Born to parents working in match industry, Mayakannan's story is an inspiring example of can-do spirit

B. Kolappan

**CHENNAI:** From a child labourer to a train pilot of Southern Railway, it has been an arduous journey for S. Mayakannan.

With four siblings — all child labourers — and living under a corroded tin roof with his parents who are eking out a livelihood in the match industry, Mr. Mayakannan's life has finally turned the corner. On Monday, he will be reporting for duty in Tiruchi.

"It has become possible because of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and the sacrifice of my two brothers who quit their studies to support my education, as my parents are too poor to provide education to all of us," Mr. Mayakannan told *The Hindu*.

A native of Thiruthangal in Virudhunagar district, Mr. Mayakannan's family migrated to A. Ramalingapuram to work in the match industry when he was six year old. "I used to pack match boxes. Even after joining the special training centre run by the NCLP, I continued to work after school hours," said Mr. Mayakannan.

He was mainstreamed into the



**S. Mayakannan who will be joining Southern Railways as loco pilot on Monday. - PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

Government Stanislaus High School in Sattur and scored 438 marks in the SSLC examinations. Later, he joined S.R. Government Higher Secondary School and secured 1,024 marks in the Plus Two examinations. He completed Electronics and Communications Engineering at Anna University Campus in Tindivanam in 2013.

"But pursuing higher education is an extremely difficult task for me as the fee structure is beyond my means. Monetary support from Karvannan, owner of Sony Fire Works, where my father is an employee, and Sankar Mahadevan of Udavum Ullangam, offered help," said Mr. Mayakannan who worked in the outsourcing section briefly.

The State government stipend of Rs. 500 per month to former child labourers is nothing when compared to the fees in colleges.

# Rescued child labourers score well, set high aims

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Virudhunagar/Tiruchy:** A decade ago, they were dropouts working in fireworks units, brick kilns and commercial establishments to support their families. Rescued under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), these children were later admitted to regular schools. This year, 73 of them appeared for the Plus Two examinations, and each one of them passed.

Among them, C Muthuselvi secured 1135 marks, scoring 200 out of 200 in Accountancy, 199 in Commerce and 194 in Economics. Ten years ago, she was working in a small-scale unit that manufactured paper pipes for fireworks industry. She still works there to support her family.

Project director of NCLP T Narayanasamy said they had been rescuing children from these units since 1987. Last year, 85 such children appeared



**V Mahalakshmi**

for Class 12 examination but not all of them could pass.

Twelve-year-old V Mahalakshmi was working as a housemaid in Sembattu in 2009 when members of the Child Labour Effective Elimination and Rehabilitation Society (CHEERS) in Tiruchy rescued her. She was shifted to a special training centre and later got admission in a school in Namakkal which provided her free education for two years.

When the Plus Two results were announced on Thursday it was a vindicating moment for Mahalakshmi and the people who stood by her. She had scored 1142 out of 1200. She was one among the seven child labourers rescued by CHEERS who appeared for the Plus Two examination this year.





# Former worker wants to be a teacher

S. Annamalai

**VIRUDHUNAGAR:** Having lost her mother at the age of three, C. Muthuselvi of Tiruthangal was rolling dummies for firecrackers till she was admitted to the 'Rs. 100 school' (a reference to the special training centre run under National Child Labour Project) across the street in 2008. On Thursday, she walked into the Standard Fireworks Rajaratnam College for Women in Sivakasi to get an application form for admission to B.A. (English Literature).

With her score of 1,135, Muthuselvi of Kalaimagal Higher Secondary School, Ti-

ruthangal, can walk into any top-ranking college. When her peers clamour for professional courses with lesser scores, Muthuselvi says, "I want to be a teacher. This has been my childhood dream." She is among the 73 children, including 27 Dalit students, mainstreamed by the NCLP to have passed Plus Two this year.

The NCLP in Virudhunagar district has scored a centum with all its children getting through.

K. Gowsalya of S.R.N. Higher Secondary School, Tiruthangal, a former worker in fireworks, has scored 1,103. R. Alaguraj of Thevamar Higher



*C. Muthuselvi of Tiruthangal*

Secondary School, Sivakasi, who was assisting his father in hair dressing, has scored 1,051.

Muthuselvi's father works

in a printing unit for daily wages and her aged grandmother, Mariammal, takes care of her. "I assist my grandmother in her night idli shop in Muthumari Nagar from 9 p.m. to midnight. I wake up at 4 a.m. to continue my study," says Muthuselvi. She wants to do B. Ed. to become a teacher.

Virudhunagar district has 19 special training centres of the NCLP where child workers and school dropouts are provided elementary education before being integrated in mainstream schools. "We now have 166 former child workers of Virudhunagar district pursuing higher educa-

tion, of whom 14 are in engineering colleges and three are studying law," says T. Narayanasamy, Project Director, NCLP.

Integration of child workers with mainstream education is effected with the involvement of NCLP instructors, who closely follow the children right from a young age.

The children identified by the NCLP are aged 9 to 14 years. "We strive to provide the best education for these children. We get them admitted to private schools with private sponsorship," says M. Sivajothi, an NCLP instructor.



## Events on Child Labour at the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India

“Awareness Generation Training Workshops on Child Labour Rehabilitation” were organized by the Child Labour Division, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India on 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016 respectively. The training workshops were attended by Project Directors, Programme Managers, Field officers, Accountants of the NCLP. The specific objectives of these training workshops were to familiarize the participants with the situation of Child Labour in their respective districts, to disseminate policy objectives, to emphasize the role of Project Directors in Convergence and Survey, and to acquaint the participants with the revised NCLP Guidelines highlighting major changes, letter of intent, accounting system and

activities for facilitating timely release of funds, to inform the practical issues of DBT payment at Public Financial Management System Portal, to make the participants aware of the procedures with regard to preparation of Quarterly Progress Reports and Annual Progress Reports (QPRs and APRs), to highlight the importance of Community mobilization for Monitoring the NCLP projects.

Meetings as a part of the consultative process for Framing of Rules under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, were organized by the Child Labour Division Ministry of Labour and Employment on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

