

Press Release

World day for prevention of child abuse Observed

Walk against Child Labour in Bhubaneswar City

19th November is being observed as the “**World day for prevention of child abuse**” all over the world. Child abuse is a major cause of concern, which creates barrier for free growth of children. Adding to different form of exploitation, exclusion issues have played major role in damaging the child hood of millions of children. **Violence against children takes many forms i.e Child labour, child trafficking, Corporal punishment, sale of children, sexual abuse, child prostitution, neglect, child sex tourism, malnutrition, bullying, child pornography, harmful traditional practices, abduction, early and forced marriage etc.**

Atleast 3 of every 4 of the world’s children have experienced violence .**Child labour is one of the worst forms of violence against children.** The ILO’s Statistical Information and Monitoring Program on Child Labor recently estimated that 211 million children, or 18 % of children aged 5-14, are economically active worldwide. 60% of these working children live in Asia, and 23% live in sub-Saharan Africa. Most economically active children are employed in agriculture.

Child labor not only negatively affects a child’s health, but it also negatively impacts his/her ability to receive schooling and perform academically. When children are forced by their families to work, they no longer have the time to attend school. Though there are a significant number of children who go to school and work, the work may negatively impact their studies, told by many eminent dignitaries while addressing a programme held here today to mark the occasion.

To mark the occasion a “ **Walk against child labour**” , From Ram Mandir Square to Master canteen Square and Signature campaign and Street Play near Master Canteen Square were organized by People’s Cultural Centre (PECUC) a leading child rights organization in collaboration with **the Labour & ESI Department, Govt. Of Odisha.** Chairperson of Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers’ Welfare Board Sj. Subash Singh and Famous Ollywood Actress Archita Sahoo inaugurated the walk and signature campaign. Other dignitaries like Ananta Natayan Jena, Mayer, Bhubaneswar, Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson of NACG EVAC, India, Mrs. Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC, Eminent Journalist Pradosh Kumar Pattanaik, Ajay Kumar Pattanaik, Divisional Labour Commissioner, Pradeep Kumar Mohapatra, Divisional labour Commissioner, Ambika Mishra, DLO, Anuradha Biswal, Olympiad, Mr. B.B. Acharya, Technical Consultant Labour & ESI Deptt. and Sulata Deo, Social Activist were present on this occasion. Speakers emphasized to stop child labour and all form of child abuse in their talk. Child labour is the worst form of violence on children. We all need to work together to eradicate child labour and mainstream them through education .The Govt & Civil Society Organisations of Odisha are taking up various steps for development of children .However we all need to work together and also massive awareness is required to eliminate child labour, prevent child abuse, and end violence against children was stressed by speakers also told that it is our responsibility to aware people about not to engage children as child labour which destroy their childhood. It is the responsibility of the elders to give them safe child hood. A large number of youth from Ekamra College, Niswas College, Sanatana Harichandan Degree College, Madanpur and youth volunteers participated in the programme.

Ms. Jyotirmayee Mohapatra and Mr. Jyotisankar Mohanty, Mr. Panu Behera facilitated the programme.