

Press Release

World day for prevention of child abuse Observed

Walkathon against Child Labour, Exploitation & Violence in Bhubaneswar City

19th November is being observed as the “**World day for prevention of child abuse**” all over the world. *Take action and prevent child abuse is taken as theme for 2019*. 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.**

In 2017, the WHO estimated that up to **1 billion minors between the ages of 2 and 17 years of age have endured violence** either physical, emotional, or sexual. Sexual abuse (from groping to rape), according to some UNICEF estimates from 2014, affected over **120 million children**, representing the highest number of victims. In 2017, the same UN organization reported that in 38 low and middle income countries, almost 17 million adult women admitted having a forced sexual relationship during their childhood.

At least 3 of every 4 of the world’s children have experienced violence .**Child labour is one of the worst forms of violence against children**. According to ILO, 152 million children are still in child labour. Child labour occurs in almost all sectors, yet 7 out of every 10 of these children are working in agriculture.

In November of 1989, nearly every country in the world signed on to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. Countries across the globe signed onto the CRC, of which one of the articles stated that **all children have the right to be protected from violence**.

Thirty years later, the world has undoubtedly changed for children. While only five countries had prohibited corporal punishment against children in 1989, today, 58 countries have issued bans of their own. The number of child labourers has decreased by a third since 2000, from 246 to 152 million. And over the last decade, 25 million child marriages were prevented due to increased gender equity and widespread progress. **This year the whole world is observing the 30th anniversary of United Nations Convention of Rights of the Child.**

To mark the occasion a “ **Walkathon against child Labour, Exploitation and Abuse**” , From Ram Mandir Square to Master canteen Square and Signature campaign 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 Sj. Niranjana Sahoo, Labour Commissioner & Anshika Routray, PECUC Goodwill Ambassador, for promotion Right of the Children to Play, inaugurated the walk and signature campaign. Other dignitaries like Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Secretary PECUC & Chairperson of NACG EVAC, India, Mrs. Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC, Pradeep Kumar Mohapatra, Divisional labour Commissioner, Anuradha Biswal, Olympiad, Sulata Deo, Adviser, WCD, Govt. of Odisha, Mr. S.N Acharya, Assistant Labour Officer, Ms. Dharashree Mohapatra, Assistant Labour Officer, Mr. Pravakar Biswal, Labour Inspector & Kaliputra Kuldeep Prasad, Labour Inspector 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. A large number of youth from Baneswar Higher Secondary College and youth volunteers from around 10 districts of Odisha participated in the programme.

Ms. Ratna Dash, Ms. Prashant Kumar Mallick and Mr. Jyotisankar Mohanty, Mr. Panu Behera facilitated the programme.