

# WORKING CHILDREN ORGANIZING AWARENESS RALLIES

Children advocating, mobilizing, raising awareness, informing and communicating.

Asia and the Pacific: India

In India, Child Advisory Committees (CAC) members of Time to Talk - a global campaign supporting working children to take forward child-led advocacy for improving their working conditions and eradicating all forms of child labor - took forward many activities like Body mapping, Flower of support, H-assessment and Hot air balloon activities, and prepared their CAC action plan for advocating the challenges / problems faced by the working children. The CAC members took out awareness rallies in the villages on issues like child marriage, and illiteracy. They wrote letters on various issues or problems that working child experiences during work, to their local government authorities, demanding for an urgent redressal of issues like registration of children who go to other states for work, parent counselling on educating children of 6-14 age groups, reducing dropouts, arrangement of life skill training for adolescent girls and career counselling for tribal youths.

The CAC members sought the help of the local authority leaders in motivating the parents and the elders of the family so that a healthy environment can be created for them and their peers. The tribal children have an aspiration for higher studies but their financial condition is a big hindrance in achieving their dream. They can fulfill their desires if a good environment is ensured in their working place.

Messages delivered by children:

- Zero tolerance policy by government and local authority on child marriage cases.
- Children of age groups 6-14 must be enrollment and utmost important should be given to their elementary education completion.
- Life skill workshop and trainings to the adolescents and youths by NGOs, Local bodies and by government.
- Displaying of emergency child helpline numbers on major places for creating awareness.
- More meetings and workshops for addressing the views of working children.
- Campaigns and awareness rallies by school children and generating support to CAC members for addressing views of working children at various national and international forums with the support of government and non government organisations.
- Panchayat level survey of all orphan, single parent and neglected children and advocating for their rights
- As illiteracy is very high in the interior tribal pockets of Mayurbhanj. Here, parents hardly know children's rights. More awareness on child rights in villages and open discussion on the needs of working children.

**Time to Talk / From Advocacy Actions Document**

