

WORKING CHILDREN TAKING FORWARD LOCAL LEVEL CAMPAIGNS ON CHILD LABOUR AND ON WORKING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Children engaging with decision making

Asia and the Pacific: India

In India, Child Advisory Committee (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 - from four districts of Madhya Pradesh organised a local level advocacy campaign for one month on Child Labour in their respective villages/slums along with other children. The aim of the campaign was to identify the children involved in work in their area and motivate them to go back to school, and also to create awareness on Child Labour in their community through rallies, street-plays and wall writing.

Following, It was decided that the Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) along with Time to Talk! and other supporters will organise a state level consultation where the CAC members along with other active children, and would raise their voices and interact directly with government officials and share the present status of child labour and status of implementation of Right to Education in their respective State, as well as the State as a whole. The children presented an 11-points charter of demands to the government officials mentioning their demands and expectation from government.

Messages presented

- Lack of identification of children in work.
- Lack of facilities in schools which force us to go to work.
- Parents not having regular source of livelihood due to which we have to work in order to support our families.
- Due to poverty, our parents take loan from moneylenders and in return, we have to work as bonded labour.
- There are no middle or high schools in or near our villages, due to which we cannot pursue our education after 8th grade, and are forced to get in child labour.
- Employers employing child labour should treat the children properly and provide them with basic facilities at the work place.

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