International Conference on “Out of Work and Into School – Children’s Right to Education as a Non-negotiable”
2-5 November 2004, Hyderabad, India

Report
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Report

Tell me and I will forget
Show me and I may remember
Involve me and I will understand

(Confucius)
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Foreword

At the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 the international community agreed that Universal Primary Education will be guaranteed to all the world’s children by 2015. The first milestone on that path is to be met this year 2005: equal access to education for boys and girls. However, today’s harsh reality shows us hundreds of millions of children still working instead of going to school, the majority of them being girls.

The perspective that all forms of child labour be regarded as hazardous and that all children must attend full-time schools, has gathered whole hearted support from several individuals and institutions engaged in the programme for abolition of child labour and universalisation of elementary education in several countries. In order to reinforce this positive movement towards a worldwide eradication of child labour and enrolment of all children into full-time formal education M.V.Foundation in co-operation with the European Campaign ‘Stop Child Labour – School is the best place to work’ organized an International Conference in Hyderabad, India taking as its theme “Out of Work and into School – Children’s Right to Education as a Non-Negotiable”

On Friday November the 5th 2004 over 5,000 voices called for immediate action to give all children on this planet that where they have a full right to: good quality education and protection from any form of child labour. From all over the world representatives of NGO’s, trade unions, (inter)national organisations and donor agencies, governments and (inter)national politicians, social activities, teachers, volunteers, parents and children themselves had gathered in Hyderabad and spoke out their concern about the current situation and their commitment for concerted future action. Experience they had brought from the field and the international political arena showed that, with real commitment and political will, the ambitious goals set by the International Community can be met.

The outcome of that Friday reflected a memorable week of field visits, workshops and presentations in which strategies to get child labourers ‘out of work and into school’ were demonstrated, presented and discussed thoroughly in the field, on stage and in the vineyards. With this report we hope to give you an impression of the dynamics of these lively discussions, reflections and the positive energy that was generated during those days.

We would especially like to thank Rekha Wazir as the main author of this report and all the co-authors that gave their valuable input and feedback: Aparna Adhikari, E.M. Bhargava, André van Dokkum, Sandeep Ganesh, Neha Jain, Ramya Juwadi, Pratap Kumar, Reena Lal, Margaret, and Raman Nageswara, Smitha Naik, Sofie Ovaa, Aruna Prasad, Venkat Reddy, Sushmita Sanyal, Dipha Sinha, Naren, Jeanine Stienstra and Pieter van Veenen.

Yours Sincerely,

Monique Lempers, ‘Stop Child Labour’ campaign, Alliance2015/Hivos, Campaign Coordinator
Mario van de Luytgaarden, ‘Stop Child Labour’, Dutch Federation of Trade Unions (FNV), Policy Advisor
Shantha Sinha, MV Foundation, Secretary Trustee

January, 2005
Introduction

A four-day international conference on “Out of Work and Into School – Children’s Right to Education as a Non-negotiable” was held in Hyderabad, India from 2-5 November 2004 under the auspices of the MV Foundation in co-operation with the European Campaign. This campaign is run by three members of the Alliance2015 network of European development organisations: Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (Germany), Concern (Ireland) and Hivos (Netherlands). Within the Netherlands, it is a joint initiative of Hivos, the India Committee of the Netherlands (LIW), the Dutch Teachers Union (AOb) and the international branch of the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions (FNV Mondiaal). Hivos is the lead agency and responsible for overall co-ordination. The campaign receives financial support from the European Union.

The objective of the Alliance2015 campaign ‘Stop Child Labour – School is the Best Place to Work’ is to lobby for the integration of international policies in the areas of education and elimination of all forms of child labour in developing countries. The European Union recognises that education is a key aspect of poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As an intrinsic part of a policy to achieve education for all, it is imperative that more attention should be given to the significance of helping working children enter full-time formal education, and hence to abolish child labour. The Campaign calls on governments and international donor agencies to create a coherent policy on the elimination of child labour linked to the provision of formal, full-time and quality education for all children up to 14 years of age. The vision of the campaign is foremost based on the innovative and successful approach of the MV Foundation.

The MV Foundation is based in the South Indian State of Andhra Pradesh and has been working on the twin issues of child labour and education since 1991. It opens a valuable window on important current experience and provides an inspiring example of successful intervention. It takes an uncompromising position on child labour, embodied in the Non Negotiable Principles, as it perceives every child out of school as a child labourer.1 It employs a wide range of strategies to achieve its objectives of eradicating child labour and universalising education. Over the years its programme, which involves the highest possible degree of participation by the local community and centres around the concept of bridge schools to help children catch up with missed schoolwork, have spread from just a few mantels in Ranga Reddy district to cover over 4000 habitations in eight districts. The organisation has successfully mainstreamed over 300,000 children into the formal education system. Moreover, the government of Andhra Pradesh now defines child labour as all children who are out of school.

The objective of the international conference was to reinforce the worldwide movement for the eradication of child labour and enrolment of all children into fulltime formal education by 2015, as agreed upon in the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, it also aimed to:

1. consolidate the movement in India and especially in Andhra Pradesh where the MV Foundation has had considerable success in achieving the twin objectives of eliminating all forms of child labour and enrolling children into school;

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1 The full text of the Non Negotiable Principles is available in Appendix I.
2. motivate and convince agencies to work with the principle that all forms of child labour are unacceptable, and that children’s right to formal full time education is non-negotiable; and
3. Identify policies and working strategies for NGOs, trade unions, international organisations and governments to get children out of work and into schools in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The delegates included representatives of NGOs, governmental organisations, international organisations and donor agencies, trades unions, politicians, academics, social activists and Members of the European Parliament. Approximately 150 NGOs and trade unions from nearly 30 countries across the world were present. Most significantly, however, the conference was also attended by some 5000 representatives from the field consisting of children, parents, teachers’ forums, women’s groups, youth groups, members of local government and Child Rights Protection Committees.

The four-day programme was a multi-layered event providing an opportunity for field visits, interaction with peers, discussions about emerging needs and future strategies in thematic workshops and a publicity forum for NGOs who are a part of the movement to eradicate child labour and universalise education. The first two days - 2 and 3 November - were reserved for field trips to allow delegates to get first hand exposure to the field setting within which MVF works. They provided an opportunity for dialogue and debate with the beneficiaries of the programme as well as with the various volunteers and partners who make it work. The following two days - 4 and 5 November - were devoted to the conference and catered to the interests of all present. The inaugural and closing plenary sessions were meant for all participants and translations were provided as and when necessary. Smaller workshop sessions were held to discuss new themes and programmatic areas such as Trade Unions and the fight against child labour, NGO intervention strategies on the eradication of child labour in the context of HIV/AIDS, children living in conflict and street children, and the roles and responsibilities of different actors in international policy. While the workshops were going on activists, civil servants and representatives of NGOs and trade unions delivered public addresses to the large contingent from the field. A range of parallel activities such as street plays, cultural shows, media events and publicity stalls organised by delegates from the field and participating organisations were taking place simultaneously in the environs of the conference lending an air of celebration to the event.

The conference was a remarkable and unique event in at least one important respect. Usually, such events take place above the heads and without the direct participation of those people whose lives and concerns form the subject of debate and discussion by ‘experts’. Sometimes, there is a token presence of the ‘target group’. This conference stood such conventional practice on its head. Over 5000 children, local activists and volunteers - in other words the real owners of the movement - came to Hyderabad from districts of Andhra Pradesh, and further a field, to give to the event a dramatic energy and a charged atmosphere in which the experts and the owners could interact, learn and draw strength from each other. The intellectual excitement was palpable; the experience was uplifting and memorable for all.

2 For a full list of participants, see Appendix II.
3 See Appendix III for the detailed field visits programme.
4 See Appendix IV for the detailed conference programme.
Executive Summary  
On the Proceedings of the Conference

Inaugural session: a call for joint action

After the two days of field visits had given participants in the international conference a sense of the local situation on the ground, the time had come to start the actual conference days. Dr. Shobha Raghuram, Director of Hivos Regional Office India, opened the inaugural session on behalf of MVF and the “Stop Child Labour - School is the Best Place to Work” campaign. All participants were invited to work in solidarity and share an agenda that promotes the universal values of free and compulsory education for all children through uncompromising concrete action in the field. Most prevalent in this session was the overall call for cooperation between all actors and expansion of the movement to realize the eradication of all forms of child labour linked to the provision of formal, full-time and quality education for all the world’s children.

MVF’s non-negotiable principles and working strategies: awaiting replication

“*Our project will be enriched through the expanded way of looking at children out of school and child labourers, using the diverse methods such as MVF's.*” – David Rugaaju, Concern, Rwanda

Shantha Sinha, Secretary Trustee of MVF, presented MVF’s non-negotiable principles and working strategies. She gave an account of MVF’s journey since its inception to the present. The success of MVF in developing and scaling up its programme testifies to the effectiveness of its approach. What makes the organization most unique is that it has shattered traditional views on child labour and education that are anti-children and go against their real development. Most important in this aspect has been the mobilization of entire communities to debate the possibility of abolishing child labour. This meant involving all stakeholders and working towards a social norm in favour of children’s right to education, in doing so all children and their rights became central to society as a whole. The argument that poor children must work to survive became inadequate as it was shown that within an enabling environment the poor can assert themselves and bring about permanent change for their children. Indeed, that children must not work and should be in school was the poor parents’ own script and their non-negotiable agenda. It was pointed out that MVF has served to inspire similar ventures in other environments inside and outside India. The success of these initiatives support the view that MVF’s model, sometimes seen as only applicable in India, does in fact have important universal characteristics, and that its replication, albeit with somewhat different modalities, is possible in other environments as well.

Movements on child labour

“At the field trips I felt almost like travelling through some places of my own country, feeling an environment of brotherhood, with comparable circumstances and with the same problematic issues, where the adults make efforts for the children. I saw the children speaking out for their rights. That was an enormous emotion.” – Julia Escobar, Caja Ludica, Guatemala

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5 All italicised quotations in this summary are made during interviews at the final conference day.  
6 See appendix I for non-negotiable principles and working strategies of MVF.
It was recognised that MVF has initiated an important process in favour of children’s rights that has brought forward enormous results. The issue now demands that the several small movements that already exist unite in a wide-scale movement to challenge traditional views that perpetuate child labour and ensure that every child can enjoy its right to education.

Building alliances and campaign strategies in the South and in the North

There was consensus on the need for coalition of forces and a coordinated effort at the local and international level to fight child labour. This implies building alliances and networks. Governments are main responsible for eradication of child labour and providing education to all children. However, all NGOs, trade unions and other stakeholders have an important role to play and should be involved in the process. Commonality of purpose, shared values and mutual trust should be the basis for alliance building between different actors in the field as well as between Southern actors and European institutions. The Alliance2015 campaign ‘Stop Child Labour – School is the Best Place to Work’ provides a good example of successful cooperation since it is run by members of the European Alliance2015 and mainly based on MVF’s principles and working philosophy. These form the leading principles for their joint lobby activities in Europe. The campaign aims to further expand the movements and Hivos – as lead agency of the coalition – will take initiative to broaden the campaign coalition and organize regional meetings for promoting cooperation and concrete working strategies in the field.

International policy on child labour and education and its implementation

“It concerns a political decision, in favour of children, in favour of education, in favour of the future.” - J.E. Guatemala

Delegates from different countries and sectors agreed that the issues of child labour and education should be at the heart of any developmental agenda. There is a need to finance education for public good, for merit good, as an investment in human capital and human development, for reasons of equity and efficiency and because it is a basic minimum need and a fundamental right. There are some disturbing trends with regard to the economics and financing of education. However, elimination of child labour and universalization of education are realistic goals in the short and medium run as long as these issues are prioritised. There cannot be made any distinction between children of Western nations and children of developing nations, therefore we cannot plead compulsory education in the first and tolerate child labour in the latter. It has to be realized that the formal tools to fulfil children’s rights are already there, incorporated in several international agreements as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Working Age, the ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the Millennium Development Goals on education. Summing it up, every child has the right to formal, full-time and quality education and no child may perform any work that interferes with this right and/or is hazardous to the child. This combined mandate can offer all working and other out-of-school children access to formal and full-time education – provided political will, concerted action and financial resources.

Government commitment on child labour and education in India

Representatives of the state governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra discussed the commitment of the respective governments to eradicate child labour and universalise education as well as the legal and social framework within which this should be done. State policy on
child labour is broadly the same in the three southern states. It was said that governments are committed to the cause of realizing children’s rights. However, they face several challenges and practical difficulties in the implementation of aims. Solving this problem requires the convergence of all institutions. Since the government is never a separate entity, support and cooperation is needed for its proper functioning. Essential is a strong and purposeful legislation. Along with a legal approach and compulsory education, it remains important to implement awareness raising campaigns and rehabilitative measures.

**NGO intervention important for awareness raising and consensus building**

The international conference’s session on NGO intervention provided a unique opportunity for NGOs to address obstacles to the achievement of universal education and formulate measures to overcome them. Workshops focused on the disadvantaged position of children affected by HIV/AIDS, children living in conflict and street children. The session allowed participants to share information about experiences and discuss good practices for getting children out of work and into school. The session reconfirmed that the work of NGOs remains important in at least three areas. NGOs in the field are often the first to respond to the specific needs of communities; they are best placed to identify working and other out-of-school children and to implement strategies within the own context that best enable the transition of children from work to school. In addition, NGOs are well placed to raise awareness about the implications of a child working instead of going to school and to build consensus around the norm that education and protection from work are basic rights that should be guaranteed to every child. Moreover, NGOs can stimulate community-based mobilization for needed political change. The workshop sessions have resulted in a reinforcement of the commitment and motivation to define lessons learnt to address the actual situation in the own context. It was concluded that MVF’s structural approach should be promoted worldwide and that country strategies should be developed accordingly.

**Trade union intervention: the interplay between adult labour conditions and child labour**

“I was touched especially by the children themselves. They showed interest in going to school and they were also encouraging us to bring more children out of work and into school. They now have a vision, whereby they can imagine their future.” – Viola Shamu, General Agricultural Plantation Workers Union Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ)

The international branch of the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions (FNV Mondiaal) had used the international conference to organise a workshop on trade union intervention to exchange information, own experiences and ideas, as well as to discuss in detail issues and concerns with regard to trade unions and child labour. The workshop reconfirmed that the trade union position on child labour is guided by its commitment to promote human/labour rights in the work place. The focus on the minimum age for employment ensures the right of children to childhood and education. In addition, child labour undermines the employment, wages and working conditions of adult labour, as children are exploited and poorly paid, have few possibilities for organising and demanding better conditions of work and are often employed in hazardous work and experience problematic treatment. Furthermore, child labour is also a brake on social development because it squanders – and indeed destroys – the human resource skills of children. And finally, the four areas of fundamental rights at work: trade union freedoms, freedom from forced labour, child labour and discrimination are mutually interdependent and reinforcing. The conclusion was that a coalition building between NGOs, trade unions and teachers’ unions in the fight against child labour should
be promoted. In this case it is important that the trade union’s perspective is given adequate attention and included systematically in joint programmes targeting child labour and education.

Role of teachers’ unions with respect to accessible quality education

“I thank especially the children in the bridge school camps. They contributed a lot in the way they expressed themselves about how they benefited from MV Foundation’s project. [I also thank] the teachers who took this long walk around in the name of fighting child labour.” – David Rugaaju, Concern, Rwanda

The international conference reconfirmed that teachers and their unions play a special role in the fight against child labour. The event brought together teachers’ unions from all around the world. Lessons were learnt and recommendations were made, above all with regard to providing quality education as an important precondition for eradicating child labour and providing education to all children. Education International (EI) stated that teachers’ unions and the whole labour movement fully support the five non-negotiable principles of MVF. They are strong and there is no compromise on them. However, EI seeks support for the three non-negotiables of the teachers and their unions. In the first place, schools should provide quality education. This requires quality teachers who have received adequate training. In addition, primary education must be full-time, formal and free of costs to further ensure that children are in school instead of work. Finally, education is the full responsibility of the government. Private education reinforces the social divide and disrupts the functioning of the formal school system. Therefore, the government education system must be strengthened and assisted in coping with the influx of formal dropouts, nowhere children and erstwhile working children. It is of utmost importance that the school system itself takes a proactive role in encouraging children to come to school. It was concluded that it is essential to stimulate cooperation with teachers’ unions in order to make education accessible and attractive so that students are not only enrolled but also retained in school and indeed receive an education that well equips them to cope in a world as adults.

Closing plenary: The way forward out of work and into school

“I brought excuses that it [child labour and being out of school] was because of poverty, because of this or that. But in just these few days I have been persuaded that it is not about poverty. If anything, it is the other way around; we have been approaching the debate from the wrong end. Child labour perpetuates poverty so all my excuses have been destroyed.” – Nduta Kweheria, Legal Resources Foundation, Kenya

Speakers expressed appreciation for the work of MVF and support for its non-negotiable principles. Education is a fundamental human right. It is vital, not only for the protected childhood of children and the fight against poverty, but also to promote democracy, equal opportunities and the observance of human rights in practice. All should cooperate to realise the key goal of getting children out of work and into school. MVF has set in motion an important movement for children’s rights. Inspired by the vivid discussions at the conference and the field trips, it is now the task for the participants as well as others to catch the momentum and wipe out child labour from the face of the earth. All participants were encouraged to keep the dialogue alive and to maintain the dynamics. For the future of all children and nations it is essential to expand the movement, join efforts and support initiatives that enhance the fulfilment of every child’s rights. Ms. Shantha Sinha, Secretary Trustee of MVF concluded the conference by reading the final statement7.

7 See appendix V for the full text of the international conference’s final statement.
Report on the Proceedings of the Conference

Thursday 4 November, 2004

Inaugural Session

Dr. Shobha Raghuram, Director, Hivos India Regional Office opened the session on behalf of the MV Foundation and the Stop Child Labour: School is the Best Place to Work Campaign and welcomed members of government, multilateral institutions, private institutions, research organisation and trade unions who had gathered in an unprecedented show of commonality of purpose and with respect for every local effort that has mobilised families, school teachers, private companies and state functionaries to bring children back to school and out of work, out of indignities and out of bondage. She invited all participants to work in solidarity and share an agenda that promotes the universal values of free and compulsory education for all children through uncompromising concrete action in the field. She called for an expansion of the movement to touch the lives of all children in the world who live in the shadow of social neglect and extreme deprivation.

Mr. Smarajit Ray, Retired Principal Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh performed the task of spelling out the non-negotiable principles that have been developed by the MV Foundation. He stated that these principles should be the corner stone of any agency involved in eradicating child labour. Donor agencies, in particular, should pay attention to them when they develop their attitudes and strategies on child labour.

Mr. Anil Bordia, Retired Secretary Education, Government of India stated his appreciation for the persistent efforts of MV Foundation in eradicating child labour and making it possible for children to attend school. He expressed concern for the large numbers of children still out of school in India, for the poor school infrastructure and the quality of teachers. He said it was important for international agencies, local NGOs, donors, state governments and the government of India to work together on a common platform with a common understanding and do whatever it takes to bring children to school and keep them there. There was a need to work simultaneously on issues of school drop out, quality of schools and of the education provided in them.

Mr. David Rugaaaju, CONCERN, Rwanda said that his country is best known for the 1994 genocide that destroyed families, left children homeless, orphaned and with experiences that they will never forget. It is against this backdrop that Rwanda is trying to grapple with issues of education. He said that there was a need to break through the sob stories and share the success stories. In this context, the MV Foundation needed to spread its message all over India and scale up its work in the country. It should also expand its strategies to other countries but define them to address the actual situation within each context. The MV Foundation experience should also be used to address other forms of marginalisation.

*See Appendix I for the list of Non-negotiable Principles.*
Swami Agnivesh, Human Rights Activist said that it was a cause for celebration that such a large number of people had come together on a common platform to address this basic human rights issue. He extended his full support to the cause to stop child labour and universalise education for all children, irrespective of caste and gender. He reiterated that poverty is not the cause of child labour. In fact, by prioritising the abolition of child labour poverty would be abolished. He went further to say that issues of quality education and health should be integrated for the total development of the child. Good quality education and good quality food in full day formal school can help break the cycle of poverty. Political support and will for this cause is the need of the hour.

Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, Former Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh said that Andhra Pradesh should emerge as a model state in the total eradication of child labour and availability of good quality education for all children. He was happy to associate himself with this cause and listed the various government programmes that had been initiated during his term for the benefit of children. Awareness about child labour should be so widespread that no one would employ a child. At the same time, parents should be motivated to educate their children. The bridge schools had proved to be a great success in assisting children to get back to school and it was necessary to develop more schools of this kind. He ended by saying that in a seed there is a Banyan tree, similarly in every child there is a citizen of tomorrow.

Mr. K.R. Suresh Reddy, Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly said that it was an honour that this important conference, which is likely to become a landmark in the field of education, was being held in Hyderabad. He congratulated the MV Foundation for its consistent and determined approach toward this basic human rights issue and extended the full support of the government for the eradication of child labour from the State of Andhra Pradesh. He went on to say that all political parties should come together for this noble cause and converge to support NGOs in their work with child labour and education.

Dr. M. Krishnamurthi, Managing Trustee, MV Foundation welcomed all the dignitaries on the dais and reiterated that all present had provided decade long support to the MV Foundation and identified with its cause. It was an honour for MV Foundation to have been selected by the Alliance 2015 committee to host this international convention. The main objectives of the conference were to consolidate successful approaches world wide to eliminating child labour, motivate and convince agencies to work with the principle that all forms of child labour are unacceptable, and identify improved policy and working strategies for NGO’s, international organisations and government to get children out of work and into school.

Mr. Pieter van Veenen, Alliance 2015 Stop Child Labour Campaign, Hivos welcomed the all the delegates to the conference on behalf of the Stop Child Labour Campaign. He said that it was an honour for a European development organisation to be invited to co-organise this conference with the MV Foundation in India. Within his organisation – HIVOS – there was a realisation that they had to change their policy and not take a half hearted approach to universalising education but adopt an approach to bring all children to full time education. With the support of Alliance 2015 partners they will be able to spread this message to organisations in the European Union and to the European public. A public campaign has been organised by the European co-partners for this purpose.
Ms. Monique Lempers, Campaign Co-ordinator, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign, Hivos welcomed all the delegates. Inspired by the success of the MV Foundation, the campaign had started with a fourfold launch in Dublin, Bonn, Amsterdam and Brussels. The co-operating organisations within this campaign are Concern Ireland, German Agro Action and the Dutch organisations Hivos, the Dutch Federation of Trade Unions, the general teachers’ union and the India Committee of the Netherlands. The Campaign is funded by the European Union. From a modest beginning it has now reached a stage where they can draw more attention from policy makers, actors in the field and the general public. They have become a recognised discussion partner in meetings with governments, in the European Union and with international agencies. The campaign is expected to become a powerful instrument to reach a general consensus on the recognition of education and protection from child labour as fundamental human rights.

Introduction to the Non-negotiables on Child Labour and Education

Ms. Shantha Sinha, Secretary Trustee, MV Foundation gave an account of MV Foundation’s journey since its inception in 1991 when it started working in three villages of Ranga Reddy district in Andhra Pradesh to the present when it covers over 6000 villages and has successfully withdrawn 300,000 children from work and put them into schools. The organisation started with releasing bonded labour children but found that this isolated them and their families and resulted in hardening attitudes in the village. Also, girls were left out of this campaign. This made them realise that they had to broaden the scope of their work and include all children out of school in the category of child labour. They decided to mobilise entire communities to debate and discuss the possibility of making their village and their society’s child labour free. This meant working towards building a social norm in favour of children’s right to education, in doing so all children and their rights became central to society as a whole. This was not an easy task. Rallies, marches, door-to-door meetings, protests, petitioning, cajoling and convincing of one and all was carried out to build support for the poor. Institutions like Child Rights Protection Forums, Youth Forums and Teacher’s Forums Against Child Labour were formed to consolidate this work at the village level. These institutions worked with the state and with the school system to bargain and bring pressure to ensure that the schools functioned. There were no enemies or adversaries. The process of enlisting support or resolving conflicts was based on principles of trust, tolerance and magnanimity. Issues related to the quality of education and the inadequacies of the school system, especially in dealing with first generation learners, are now coming to the fore.

The argument that poor children must work to survive became superfluous and were replaced by new ethics and new moral spaces in support of children’s right to education. The emphasis on the universality of children’s right to education appealed to one and all across political, caste and other affiliations. The shift in norms has given poor parents the confidence to withdraw their children from work and mainstream them into formal schools. Indeed, that children must not work and should be in school was the poor parents’ own script and their non-negotiable agenda.

Mr. Babu Mathew, Country Director, Action Aid pointed out that the MV Foundation has taken the lead in bringing together two very difficult issues - child labour and education – and demonstrating that they must be dealt with together. They have set in motion a civil society process that has confirmed beyond a doubt that even poor children can go to school. This is against a backdrop where there is no clarity on these issues from international institutions, mandarins and the research community. Even the Constitutional amendment to make education a fundamental right is
not free from this ambivalence. Only a people’s movement such as the one sparked off by the MV Foundation that has practical experience of working successfully with these twin issues can show the way forward.

Mr. Marc de Silva, Country Director, Catholic Relief Services explained that CRS was set up in 1946 and now works in 94 countries to promote education among the marginalised. They believe that education is the right of all, irrespective of caste, class and sector. They work on the concept of building solidarity between countries and nations and in the community. They make the community aware of the injustices done to the marginalised in their midst. In this process they develop a sense of responsibility in the community for protecting everyone’s rights, even of those who are outside their own family? They make them reflect and introspect on their motives for wishing to help others.

Professor Aditya Mukherjee, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi said that the movement to get children out of work and into school that had been spearheaded by the MV Foundation was one of the most vibrant movements in India at present. It was reminiscent of the Indian National Movement – one of the largest mass movements in the world – from which it borrows the following features:

- it identifies the worst forms of oppression in society and works for the most vulnerable and marginalised, right down to the last person;
- It mobilises the entire community to work for the most deprived. In this process the community liberates itself;
- It does not polarise society but uses a strategy of inclusion and scratches out the moral spaces available in society. It evolves new forums such as the Child Rights Protection Committees and the Teachers’ Forum Against Child Labour in village after village;
- it turns the focus of society on the poor without isolating the poor;
- The movement has no headquarters. Instead, it has its main laboratory in Shankarpally in Ranga Reddy district which works as a training centre for volunteers who are not paid;
- it has made revolutionaries out of ordinary people; and finally
- It restores dignity to the poor.

Mr. Partha Roy, CINI ASHA provided a report about the work of his organisation with street children in Calcutta. They found that most schools are not willing to accept these children because of their background and status. This applies also to children of sex works or children who are HIV positive and those infected with sexually transmitted diseases. The organisation has fought a long battle with local government to get these children accepted in the schools. They have set up drop in centres for them, run bridge courses; motivate the community and liaise with the government to address the issue of street and working children.

Mr. Shamshad Khan, CREDA, UP shared information about the interventions made by his organisation in eliminating child labour in the carpet belt. They have formed Child Vigilante Groups and mothers’ committees to fight against child labour and encouraged community partnerships. He asserted that support from donor agencies is very important in allowing them to continue their work.
Ms. Radha Koirala, Aasaman-Nepal explained the initial struggles within her organisation to change the mind set of their own staff on child labour. But after three years they are now in a good position to work on this issue in the Terai (plains) area of the country. They reach 62945 children in three districts and form a bridge between the people, the government agencies and the donors. Their success in working in this difficult terrain has convinced them that it is possible to bring about change anywhere. They have received constant support and guidance from the MV Foundation in implementing their action plans and strategies in the field.

Mr. Bawa, International Federation of Building and Wood Workers represents more than 10.5 million workers worldwide in 124 countries. The IFBWW strongly condemns exploitation of children in all forms. As a model initiative, it has started activities in India since 1995 targeting the brick kiln sector. The comprehensive strategy adopted includes the provision of schools for child labourers in the states of Bihar, Punjab, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. This has been backed up by trade union campaigns for betterment of the condition of workers and increase in wages. Among the various success stories of this project is that of Pinki Jain, a child labourer, who was enabled to complete her education and is now a teacher in one of the schools run by IFBWW in Agra. Mr. Bawa called upon Pinki Jain to share her experience.

Pinki Jain, Teacher, IFBWW school, Agra recalled her experience of being rescued from child labour by IFBWW. She has dedicated her life to the cause of eradicating child labour in appreciation of what was done for her.

Workshops on NGO Interventions

Workshop 1: Additional Efforts to Reach Children Affected by HIV/AIDS as Part of the Norm that Every Child Must be in School Instead of Work

Ms. Shobha Naidu, Head Communications, Aide et Action-India chaired the session. She said that five million new cases of HIV/AIDS are identified every year in India. Half of these are in the age group of 15 to 24 years.

Dr. Sunitha Krishnan, Prajwala, India, showed a documentary film titled “ASTHA- An Ode Of Life”. Prajwala runs home care centres called ‘Asthha Nivas’ for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Proper nutrition and caring support for the children is the main focus of these centres. They form students committees to help children resolve their own problems. Teachers committees are also formed and they meet once a month to discuss the problem and welfare of every child.

Mr. Philippe Talavera, Namibia said that HIV/AIDS would pose the most serious development challenge for the next 10 to 20 years. In Namibia 931 out of 4227 pregnant women are infected with HIV/AIDS; crude HIV prevalence ratio is 22%; HIV prevalence among pregnant women ranged from 9% to 43%; 12.2% of children are one parent orphans and 1.3% of children have lost both parents. The Namibian government has adopted three strategic plans: the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2004 – 2009 which calls for a multi-sector approach and involves all ministries including the Ministry of Education & NGOs; the Namibian HIV Charter of Rights which provides equal protection of the law and equal access to public and private facilities and benefits; and the National Policy on HIV/AIDS for the education sector which formalises the rights and responsibilities of every person involved directly or in-directly in the education sector. This policy is an important tool
to ensure that children receive formal full-time education irrespective of their HIV status or that of their parents or care givers.

These schemes have been very successful but much still remains to be done, especially given the rising number of AIDS orphans and the number of educators who will be lost to the epidemic between 2002 and 2010 – estimated at 19% of the total workforce.

Mr. Talavera provided information about Ombetja Yehinga Organization (OYO), a Namibian welfare organisation officially launched in 2003, which involves youth in programmes to eradicate the spreading of HIV/AIDS. OYO publishes a magazine written by young people for young people and newsletters on topics like discrimination, stigmatisation and isolation and produces documentary films. He concluded by saying that infected children should be kept in school, not be isolated or separated; they should be allowed to talk about issues that are difficult for them to tackle by themselves; and there be home based and traditional care for all children whether or not they are affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Doreen Naymukapa, African Network Against Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Zimbabwe:** The survey conducted by the government of Zimbabwe in 1999 reflects the presence of child labour in commercial agriculture, domestic and mining sector. High incidences of child labour in the informal economy were also recorded. Seasonal child labour is found in tea, coffee and banana estates and girl child trafficking for commercial sex is high near the South African border. Adult death and loss of income leads to lower investment in schooling with children being withdrawn from school to substitute adult labour. Young children between 8-11 years of age are becoming the main caregivers of their family.

Child labour is aggravated by the impacts of HIV/AIDS that is closely related to poverty, under-development and illiteracy. It is estimated that in 2003, 2 to 3 million Zimbabweans out of a population of 11 million were living with HIV/AIDS. Since the identification of HIV/AIDS in 1985, HIV infection rate has increased by 33.7% in 2002, the third highest in the world. 60% of secondary school age groups, 10% of primary school age groups are infected by HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe. According to UNICEF reports 12% of children aged 0-15 years were infected by HIV/AIDS in 2002.

**Dr. Sunitha Krishnan, Prajwala, India** provided some statistics on HIV/AIDS in India and said that there are several myths, misconceptions and fears about the issue, there is an absolute dearth of support systems, and stigma and discrimination are rife as is child trafficking for the purposes of labour, sexual exploitation and begging. She concluded that:

- It is the responsibility of the State to take care of all the children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. No child should be out of school. This should be a non-negotiable.
- The state and the community can be effective in the long term if they build the capacities of educational institutions.
- Community based care and support centres are required for fighting against stigmatisation and discrimination.

**Ms. Nduta Kweheria, Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), Kenya** shared the experience of Kenya where the government implemented the policy of providing free Universal Primary
Education (UPE) for all in January 2003 and also removed school levies suggesting poverty as the main reason for children to be out of school. The population of school going children rose since then by over 3 million. However, in June 2004, media reports indicated over 1 million children had dropped out of primary schools countrywide sited reasons other than poverty as well.

Many NGOs in Kenya are involved in work relating to protection of rights of children. Kenya ratified the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) in 1990 and subsequently enacted the Children Act in 2001. However, child rights are mainly taken to mean protecting children from sexual abuse, parental neglect, child trafficking, access of children to basic health care and access to education. There is no clear consensus regarding child labour as a violation of the child rights internationally. Poverty is regarded as the greatest influence that pushes children into child labour. Gender discrimination also plays a major role where a boy child is sent to school whereas the girl child is made to work. HIV/AIDS also plays an important part as HIV/AIDS orphans are left to fend for themselves. They have no option but to engage in work and thus schooling becomes secondary. Many communities in Kenya practice Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Male Circumcision as cultural rites at the tender age of 12. Both these practices too have their effect on retention of children in schools.

LRF has designed elaborate strategies on child labour and other aspects of child rights. For in-school children, LRF’s focus has been to discourage school dropouts through:

- Lobbying for the grassroots implementation of policies that allow girls to return to school after teenage pregnancies.
- Listening to the children’s views.
- Encouraging democratisation of school environment.
- Lobbying for Human Rights Education (HRE).
- Involving children in co-curricular activities.
- Networking with Kenyan chapter of Global education.

LRF has also taken up the Kenya Prisons Paralegal Project (KPPP). In KPPP the majority of under 18 years old inmates are in prison for offences related to their work particularly as domestic workers, plantation and factory workers on theft and/or assault charges. LRF works to give them their rights, allow them to lead a normal life and persuade them to attend school. They are also active in mobilising local authorities; parents and the community at large to rescue girls removed from school and forced into early marriages, often as second or third wives. The organisation publishes booklets, training-manuals and other simplified materials about the Children Act to be distributed among the District Education Officers as well as the common people. Although, there is no law specifically on HIV/AIDS, LRF has published a booklet that discusses its perception of what such a law should espouse. It also fights for the child’s right to free education irrespective of his or her HIV status. She concluded that society at large needs to address the issues of child labour, child abuse and HIV/AIDS in a more concrete manner.

James Kalimbuka, Yoneco, Malawi said that the situation of Malawi is not like that of other African countries. Almost half of the population of Malawi consists of orphans and almost half of the population is affected by HIV/AIDS. The NGOs working with HIV/AIDS organise home based care practices for the affected children.
Workshop 2: Additional Efforts to Reach Children living in Conflict as Part of the Norm that Every Child Must be in School Instead of Work

Mr. Eiichi Sadamastu, Save the Children-Japan, Nepal chaired the session.

Mr. Jose Fernando Arrelano Trejos, Escuela Nacional Sindical (ENS) Colombia said that children are the most vulnerable group in the economic and social crises that are facing his country e.g. forced displacement of populations, unemployment and armed conflict. There is a lack of educational opportunities for children, incidence of child and juvenile work has grown significantly, children enrol in illegal groups sometimes as early as 8, one in four rebels in the war is under 18 and the majority of children enrolled by armed rebels were engaged in coca production.

ENS works as an educational, advocacy and advisory organisation to support workers organised collectively and as individuals to play key roles as citizens and stakeholders in the democratic life of the country. It reflects and takes action on issues of child labour, workers’ organisations and unions. ENS promotes and generates public opinion to recognise human rights of working children and youth, it develops new methodologies for the Education system, produces materials and reviews new strategies for the reintegration of children out school affected by war.

Mr. Osiel Gomes Dias Junior, President, GAPA-CE, Brazil: GAPA is an NGO that was established in 1989 and focuses on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and STD. The RAP Project (Reconstruindo a prevenção) was initiated in 2000 and works with teenagers who live in conflict with the law or teenagers who are incarcerated or semi-incarcerated. RAP promotes the prevention of HIV/AIDS/STDs; improves the level of information for all; encourages the use of contraceptives and a reduction in the consumption of intravenous drugs. Their work methodology is based on creating self-esteem through improved self-worth, efficiency, ability to develop solutions to one’s problems and the understanding of values.

Mr. David Rugaaju, Concern, Rwanda said that the war in Rwanda (1990-1994) had diminished human resources, paralysed socio-economic activities, and destroyed infrastructure. More than 800,000 were killed, one third of the population fled the country, social economic activities came to a standstill and the general social order was destroyed. Educational institutions were specifically targeted by the Militia. Teachers, students, planners and administrators were killed and those remaining fled. Schools were destroyed and others served as shelters for refugees and soldiers. This had resulted in: 100,000 children lost/separated from their parents; child aggressors; 200,000 - 300,000 child-headed households; lack of parental and adult guidance; poor girls exposed to prostitution; child abuse; early pregnancies; high numbers of people exposed to HIV/AIDS, children included; children experiencing psychosocial trauma and frequent absence from school as children travel long distances visiting their parents in prison.

He concluded by saying that the problem is enormous and much still needs to be done.

Mr. P. Siva Prasangam, Human Development Organisation, Sri Lanka Twenty years of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka have resulted in: 60,000 people killed; 55,000 widows; 35,000 children killed; 1 million refugees; and 11,000 disabled. The population in the North East of Sri Lanka experience psychological trauma; disappearance of youth; torture, displacement, shelling, air bombing and land mines, children recruited as soldiers, malnutrition, and poor education and health care. Pre war Sri
Linka had a literacy rate of 92-93%, post war it has gone down to 70-75%. Although there is a cease fire in Sri Lanka there are still army camps in the North East, 150 schools are occupied by the army and there are land mines. Around 5,000 – 7,000 children have been injured by land mines. International Donors are not processing funds as they are waiting for peace negotiations to begin.

The Human Development Organisation (HDO) takes a right based approach and is working towards a political solution, peace negotiations, improvement of education, elimination of child labour, de-mining, legal action to support women and children abused by armed forces and an exchange program between children in conflict area.

Ms. Radha Koirala, Aasaman, Nepal. Aasaman was established in 2000. They are working in three districts with a population of 62,945 covering 93 schools. They have a total of 39 staff and 286 volunteers. The nine year long conflict provides the backdrop to their work. The organisation believes in: people’s capacity and participatory models, respect for local culture, simple living and courteous behaviour. They take a non-negotiable stand on child labour and believe that caste, political ideology and gender-based discrimination have no place in development activities. Aasaman’s achievements include an increase in the percentage of children 5-14 going to school from 49% in 2001 to 64% in 2003 and of birth and death registration from 47% in 2001 to 73% in 2003. There has been an improvement in the attendance and regularity of teachers in schools, in the capacity of school management committee members for planning, implementation, mobilisation and utilisation of local resources, rapport among teachers and students in and out of school, and cooperation and collaboration with government agencies and offices.

Aasaman’s strategy is to employ local staff, take an inclusive approach, involve all parties in planning and implementation, be neutral and impartial, mobilise resources and ensure accountability and transparency. The challenges faced by the organisation are: rigidity of government officials, difficulty in mobilising communities, lack of local elected bodies and diversion of funds towards the security of the country.

Workshop 3: Additional Efforts to Reach Street Children as Part of the Norm that Every Child Must be in School Instead of Work

This workshop was organised by the BKVV – a forum of government teachers for the elimination of child labour. Mr. T. Vijay Kumar, CEO, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) chaired the session. He complimented the BKVV for its efforts towards eliminating child labour and bringing children to school and said that it was a role model for other states. He said that the topic of street children should be discussed in the context of growing urbanisation, breakdown of social control, increasing rural poverty, HIV/AIDS and an increase in the number of orphans.

Ms. GRACE ONYIMO, Streets Ahead Welfare Organisation (SAWO), Zimbabwe gave a brief overview of the education system in Zimbabwe. Education is seen as a fundamental right of children and was made free and compulsory in the 1980s. The Government gave full support and access was democratised at all levels. The number of primary and secondary schools increased along with the number of children studying in these schools. But the quality of education has not improved. The demand for education far exceeds the supply and teacher training and education materials are desperately inadequate. Escalation in school fees, uniforms and transport costs has resulted in higher dropouts - in 1996, 1 in 4 children dropped out before Grade 7. The pass rate
dropped from 23.1% in 1993 to 13.18% in 2000. Figures show that the dropout rates were higher among girls as compared to boys.

SAWO runs a drop in centre in Harare where food, clothing, shelter and medication are provided. Children are provided counselling to send them back to school so that they are better equipped to get a job. Efforts are made to reunify these children with their families. Children are encouraged to draw out an action plan about what they want from life. Formal and informal education is provided, as is training in vocational skills for children aged 14 – 20 years.

**Mr. Partha Roy, CINI ASHA, India** began his presentation by emphasising that they do not use the term "street children" as this stigmatises children. Instead, they make a distinction between children who have contact with their family and those who don’t. CINI ASHA started in 1989 with the mission to understand why children come on the streets and the inputs that are needed to bring them back into the mainstream. They work on the railway platforms of Calcutta through which at least 5,00,000 commuters pass everyday. They found that children come to the streets because of dysfunctional families, failure (academic or otherwise), or sexual abuse. The mission of CINI ASHA is to protect the rights of the child through education, health and social mobilisation. The target groups are street children, child labourers living in slums and squatter colonies and children of sex workers. They believe that the family is the best place for the child and not an institution.

Strategies for mainstreaming street children are: drop in centres which provide shelter and protection and where children can come and go as they like so that they do not lose their freedom, night shelters for high risk children especially girls; halfway houses – transit homes; family reunification; sick bay; cultural groups to tap the potential talent in these children; peer educators to explain sexual health and how to protect against HIV Aids; and a child tracking system as this is a moving population. A holistic approach is required in dealing with these children as well as sensitisation of the police, railway police, government shelters, boarding school authorities, other NGOs, railway station porters, vendors, shop owners and the local community. The aim is to create a supportive and sustainable environment by creating awareness, networking and advocacy.

**Mr. Michael Kimaryo, KULEANA, Tanzania** urged all to abstain from using the term ‘street children’, as the street does not produce children. KULEANA was set up in 1992 and advocates for the rights of children with an emphasis on vulnerable children especially girls, working children and street children. It also aims to provide basic education to all. It runs centres where children who cannot be sent directly to school are prepared for learning and provides sponsorships for secondary education for those children who show competence in academics. The emphasis is not only on formal education but also on moral values and life skills. It believes that the individual needs of each child have to be handled differently.

While primary education is compulsory for every child in Tanzania under the National Education Act, what happens in reality is different. Quality of education is poor and children dropout of schools after primary education. The number of girls on the streets is high but they are not visible because of their involvement in commercial sex. In addition, there is a perception that poverty causes street children and this is the responsibility of Government or NGO’s and not the community. Street children are also commonly perceived as thieves. At KULEANA they have learnt that social mobilisation, parental awareness, poverty reduction policies and a holistic approach are essential to reduce street children.
Public Addresses on Alliances and Networks

Ms. Alpa Vora, YUVA chaired the session and started by saying that there was a need to join hands to eliminate child labour and support education as this issue was directly connected to the development of the country. She expressed support for the non-negotiables and stressed that we need to create a society where all children enjoy their right to education and freedom.

Mr. Achintya Bhattacharya, CLPOA (City Level Programme of Action). Based in Kolkata, this organisation consists of 62 partners, all of whom work for the cause of children. To date they have supported 25000 children through school in Kolkata. The problem of child labour problem has reached alarming proportions and future generations will have to get involved in tackling this problem. He highlighted some areas where child labour still exists and can be stopped. For example, in police stations where children serve tea and in domestic work. Every school should have a committee that will encourage students to stop child labour in their own homes. Educational institutions should also be open to all children irrespective of their age or parental name and there should be a single window service for children instead of the current system where different departments are responsible.

Mr. Gode Prasad, APCRAF. This organisation was set up in 1997 in Vijaywada as a movement to support street children. It has picked up so much momentum that today all NGO’s, civil society organisations, political parties, police and government officials have joined hands in the movement to support and educate these children. He stressed the importance of collective action.

Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Global March, started by saying that it was unfortunate that it is still necessary to discuss the issues of child labour when 246 million children worldwide are victims of child labour. Of these, 110 million have not been to school and 115 million children drop out after primary school. Trafficking of human beings and drugs are reaching serious proportions and the victims are children. Poverty cannot be used as an excuse for exploiting children for slavery. It is illiteracy that causes poverty and not the other way round and education is the key to economic equality. Quality education, which eliminates disparities and inequalities in society, is the need of the hour. There has to be gender equality in schools – India is one of 89 countries where this is lacking. Awareness of the need to abolish child labour is growing but it needs to be synergised. We need a global political will to support education and abolish child labour and for that the common man has to some forward to push the government to address this issue and give it financial support.

Mr. G. Vivekananda, Visaka Industries spoke on the issue of corporate responsibility and the efforts made by his industry to stop child labour and support education. Although government has an important role to play in this regard, the corporate sector can play its part by setting the following norms:

- Agree not to employ child labour
- Ensure that children living in their vicinity go to school.
- Support schools in their area.
- Encourage organisations like the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) to discuss this issue in their forums.
Visaka Industries have helped in the construction of school buildings, toilets and bore wells. They run a project to support government schools which has helped to appoint teachers where required, provide furniture and other forms of support.

**Ms. Amarjeet Kaur, AITUC.** Our Constitution says that anything that hinders the moral and educational development of a child is wrong. It forbids discrimination on the basis of caste, religion or sex. It says that children below 14 should be given free education. But the problems of child labour and lack of education continue. Our Constitution has framed laws and policies but governments have failed to follow them and as a result our children are still lagging behind in the era of globalisation. The government should adopt the non-negotiables of the MV Foundations. There has to be commitment and political will to eradicate child labour. All NGO's and trade unions should oppose the privatisation of education and demand action from the government to eradicate child labour and financially support education. This will be possible only if there is a clear vision to solve this issue and the government, NGO’s, Trade Unions and the common man work towards the same objective.

**Ms. Alpa Vora** summarised the session as follows:

- All forms of child labour should be banned. All work is hazardous to health.
- All children should have access to full time school and quality education without discrimination and disparity.
- We need laws, including international laws, abolishing child labour, not regularising it.
- All government departments addressing the issue of children should be brought under one window.
- Education and child labour are the responsibility of the government but all NGO’s, trade unions and corporate houses should give support to this cause.
- There has to be financial commitment by the government to make education possible for all children.

**Testimonies by NGOs and Trade Unions**

**Mr. Samuel Grumiau, International Confederation of Trade Unions, Albania** started his session by giving background information about the status of children in a European country like Albania. Child labour exists all over Albania, mainly in agriculture, selling books, making shoes, rag picking and car washing and the main reason is the socio-economic condition. There is a lack of awareness of importance of education, of schools and teachers and of efficiency in schools. It is important to raise awareness of these issues through workshops and training of teachers. The Albanian Teachers’ Union prepares teachers to go to families and ask the parents to send their children to school, lobbies government to implement rules and legislation against child labour and create an environment where children would stay in school. It also works to convince teachers to provide a good learning atmosphere in school. In addition, it lobbies for teachers to be provided with a good salary so that they can motivate the students to come to school. The Albanian Teachers Union organises campaigns for teachers to treat children equally to ensure that there is no discrimination of students on account of their ethnic group.

Mrs. Vicky Kanyoka, from Trade union Chodawu in Tanzania, gave a forceful account on her practical experiences and challenges with the fight against child labour in Tanzania.
Doreen Naymukapa, African Network Against Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Zimbabwe. ANPPCAN is a pan African child rights movement founded in 1986. It is composed of networks spread across 18 countries in Africa. The vision of the Zimbabwean chapter is of a society in which the state, parents, caregivers and individuals come together to proactively prevent and protect all children from abuse. The thrust is on lobbying and advocating for legal and social protection of all children against child abuse. She stated that the MV Foundation has taken commendable steps to stop child labour and to ensure that children are brought to school. This would not have been possible without the support of the community.

The activities of ANPPCAN are as follows:

- Lobbying and advocating for legal and social protection of all children against child abuse.
- Lobbying for child friendly legislation.
- Making communities vigilant.
- Seeking assistance from the corporate world.
- Lobby government for more resource allocation to education.
- Right to Education as non-negotiable.
- Help in securing birth certificates
- Mobilise school fees and medical assistance for children
- Provide psychosocial support to children.

Mr. James Kalimbuka, YONECO, Malawi explained the activities of the youth network as follows:

- Working for the prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- Awareness about HIV/AIDS to street children, homosexuals, children working in bars.
- Preparing children to go back to school and follow up.

Mr. Simon Steyne, British Trade Union Congress summarised the discussion that had took place between 50 trade unions ranging from construction workers, domestic workers and agriculture unions from countries in Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia. The representative of all these organisations had sat down in a workshop hosted by FNV Mondial from the Netherlands to discuss ideas and learn from each other. They agreed with the MV Foundation that social injustice and not poverty is the cause of child labour and support its non-negotiable stand on child labour. They had agreed to say no to child labour under the age of 15 years and elimination of hazardous work under-18 years. He suggested that wherever trade unions are strong and work collectively there will be no child labour.

Mr. Andy Addoquaye Tagoe, Ghana Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU), Ghana said that child labour reflects the failure of all the players in the global economy. It is important for governments to involve trade unions and employer’s organisations in seeking consensus on national and economic policies. He provided examples of the positive role played by various trades unions (IFBWW in India, ITGLWF in different countries in Asia, APVVU in Andhra Pradesh) in preventing child labour. He reiterated the importance of the non-negotiables and said that all children must be in school by 2015. He stressed on the need to empower women through education,
to fight against HIV/AIDS, protect the rights of the displaced, ensure quality of education and schools and meet the challenge of school dropouts. Mr. Andy Tagoe ended his presentation with a powerful cheer in which all the audience participated: Choooooooboiiiiiiy!! (Let’s unite!)

He concluded the session with the view that there are two ways to protect working people and their children: through the rule of law in vibrant democracies, properly enforced through effective public services including well-functioning labour inspectorates, and through self organisation of workers in free trade unions. Rights matter and only through respect for the rights of working people and their children will one get every child out of work and into school.

Summary and Conclusions

Michael Doorly, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour, School is the Best Place to Work, Concern

Ms Sofie Ovaa, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour, School is the Best Place to Work, Hivos summarised the sessions on NGO Intervention as follows:

What we have experienced is that like minded organizations from all around the world have been exchanging information about experiences concerning the twin issues of child labour and education. And we are convinced that these organizations become stronger and more powerful when they join forces and create this positive movement for the world-wide eradication of child labour and education for all the world’s children. What has been very important was the opportunity for these organizations to have a hands-on experience of the approach of MVF. Because MVF provides an inspiring practical example and demonstrates that it is indeed possible to eliminate child labour here and now. At the same time we are aware of the important work that has already been done by organizations in other parts of the world. The joint discussions have resulted in a reinforcement of the commitment and motivation –to implement lessons learnt in the own context in the various countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. We have to keep in mind that the formal tools to realize children’s rights are already there, incorporated in several international agreements. Therefore, it remains important to call on governments, international organizations and NGOs to formulate coherent policies on the elimination of child labour linked to the provision of formal, full-time and quality education for all children. We have to continue mobilizing political will, concerted action and financial resources.

We can conclude this conference day with the expectation that a vital worldwide movement has been created. We encourage all organizations involved to keep the dialogue alive and to maintain the dynamics. We also hope that this conference will not be without a successor.

Ms Shobha Naidu, AIDE ET ACTION, India summarised the session on Additional Efforts to Reach Children Affected by HIV/AIDS as follows:

- Education is the best social vaccination against AIDS
- School is the best place to work on the prevention of AIDS with the involvement of community-based organisations.
- Structural adjustment policies are seriously hampering the proper functioning of the education system and hampering HIV/AIDS from being addressed efficiently
- Girls are particularly vulnerable (child labour, sexual exploitation, HIV/AIDS) and their retention in school has to be addressed.
- Legislative challenges with regard to problems thrown up by the AIDS epidemic have to be confronted. (For e.g. birth and death certificates)
- Advocacy is vital. Governments should not abdicate their responsibility with regard to the issue of HIV/AIDS. All actors have to work together.
- India needs to come out in the open about the real situation of the AIDS epidemic in the country. One in the three Asians infected by HIV/AIDS is an Indian
- Those affected by HIV/AIDS should not be ghettoised but integrated into society through sensitisation and policy.

Mr. Eiichi Sadamastu, SCF-Japan, Nepal summarised the session on Additional Efforts to Reach Children Living in Conflict as follows:

- Schools should be zones of peace, but they often become a zone of war for example in Rwanda, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- It is important to recognise that children are affected by conflict but they are a neutral party to the issue of conflict.
- NGO should get involved in developing a curriculum on peace orientation in schools. Equal representation of all sections of society in the school will inculcate social integration and become a mechanism for peace.

Friday, 5 November 2004

International Policy on Child Labour and Education

Mr Amarjeet Sinha, DFID, chaired the session.

Mr. M. R.Vikram, Trustee, MV Foundation opened the session with an introduction to the MV Foundation and its campaign to stop child labour based on its charter of non-negotiables principles.

Mr Herman van der Laan, Country Director India, ILO said that there was a need for coalition of forces and a co-ordinated effort at the local and international level to fight child labour. 250 million children are involved in child labour in various industries including mines, fisheries, manufacturing, agriculture etc. Child labour was unacceptable for reasons of child welfare and the issue of child labour should be at the heart of any developmental agenda. A child’s proper place was in a school. He went on to present the ILO position on child labour, including Conventions 138 and 182. Convention 182 has identified the following key priorities:

- Free basic education to all
- Opportunity for skill learning
- Development of education infrastructure and teacher training
- Focus on the girl child.

These ground rules were laid in an interaction between Trade Unions, government representatives and the ILO but it was the responsibility of the national laws to put these policies and procedures to
practice. For its part the ILO had encouraged trade unions/federations to fight child labour by convincing members that the right place for a child was at school. The ILO had convinced 24 employer organisations to ban child labour in their enterprise, and it was also actively involved with civil society organisations on this issue. He stressed the urgent need for coherence between international bodies like the World Bank, IMF, ILO and local bodies on the issues of globalisation and its effect on child labour.

Mr. K. Raju, Government of Andhra Pradesh talked about the paradigm shift that had taken place in Andhra Pradesh on the issues of education and child labour. The teacher's job had been redefined from just teaching to one that took a more proactive role in encouraging children to come to the school. This involved not just the child but the entire village community getting convinced by the teacher that the best place for the child was the school. This had been achieved by making the teacher aware of the deficiencies of the system and the impact of illiterate children on the country. He said that social structures in rural Andhra Pradesh were the main reason for parents not sending their children to school. He agreed there were deficiencies in the education system, but the government was looking to forums such as these to bring them to the fore.

Mr Wouter van de Schaaf, Education International said that international agencies had failed to deliver, reflected in the fact that ILO had recognised the threat of child labour in 1919 but child labour was still present after nearly a century. The one size fits all approach of international agencies had to stop as each country had a unique problem that had to be addressed. He reiterated that international agencies and the local governments had to come together to solve the problem of child labour. Privatisation of educational system was a big challenge as this posed a threat to the basic tenants of free education to all. He commented on the poorly trained teachers with hardly a couple of months of training who were entrusted with our future. He said that there were critical gaps in the ability of international agencies to deliver in India, and hoped that the MV Foundation would be able to bridge this gap.

Mr Pieter van Veenen, Alliance2015 Campaign Stop Child Labour criticised the policies of international agencies for their lack of clarity. He questioned whether there was any difference between European children and children of developing nations. If one believed that there was none then how could child labour be tolerated in the latter. There was a need for a focused approach and for putting funds into focused programmes.

Mr Michel Saint Lot, UNICEF, Andhra Pradesh said that the focus had to be on restoring the right to childhood and providing quality education to all children. The challenge was to make everyone involved in developing policy on education accountable. Civil society groups such as youth groups and women self-help groups would also have to assume an active role in discouraging child labour. He gave the example of Haiti, which had close to 1,60,000 children in various forms of child labour about a decade ago. The local government with the help of civil society groups overcame this situation resulting in virtually no child labour in Haiti today. The solution was to attack the problem from every end starting right at the top with national laws and government to making people aware at the bottom and motivate them to discourage child labour.
Public Addresses on Movements on Child Labour

Mr. Anil Bordia, Retired Secretary Education, Government of India chaired the session. Dr. M. P. Parmeshwaran, Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP) made some suggestions on setting movements in motion. After years of literacy campaigns and the tremendous effort that NGOs had put into reaching a stage where villages declare themselves to be child labour free and to being 100% literate, it was time to initiate a chain reaction on these social issues. This could be done if every village and panchayat accepted that all children in their community are their responsibility. This would mean providing food to all children, withdrawing them from labour and ensuring quality education for them. Only 8-9% of the GNP of the village is required for this purpose. This is not a huge amount and can be easily raised. Finally, there should be more pressure on state and central government to provide better health, education and nutritional inputs for children.

Mr. Mahavir Jain, National Labour Institute started by saying that ten years ago Andhra Pradesh had the highest number of child labourers but this number had reduced considerably. He said that this was due to the work of NGOs, trade unions and activists but these efforts now had to be made into a movement. Poverty and illiteracy are seen as causes of child labour but NGOs have shown that despite these factors children can be sent to school. The MV Foundation has succeeded in making several villages child labour free and this is being replicated in other parts of India. This is being done by NGOs in partnership with the families, trade unions, activists and the government. He thanked the Andhra Pradesh government for taking the bold step of saying that every child out of school is child labour. The issue now demands that the several small movements that are already there should unite in a wide-scale movement to see that every child is in school.

Ms. Mridula Mukherjee, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi spoke as one who has seen the MVF movement grow over the last 15 years to what it is today. She drew some lessons from the movement that have wider implications:

- Poverty is not an insurmountable barrier to education for all children.
- Parents are ready, children are ready, employers of child labour are ready, and the teachers are also ready. The rest of society can be mobilised.
- The problem is not with demand but with supply. The government is not ready. Therefore the focus needs to shift to putting pressure on government, both state and central, to make schools, teachers, books, uniforms, and related infrastructure available to all children.
- Child rights must be emphasised. The national shame of child labour after 57 years of independence needs to be highlighted.
- There is a need to tap resources and talent available all over India for promoting development and growth.
- We need to put pressure on all sectors of society – media, academics, the public and politicians.

Swami Agnivesh, Human Rights Activist said that the MV Foundation movement had become a movement for the whole country. But why do we need a movement for education if it is a right? We need a movement for better facilities but not for basic human rights. But in the case of child labour a movement is needed because there is the impression that poor children are responsible for the sins they have committed in their previous birth. Attitudes like this have to be countered.
Ms. Shantha Sinha, Secretary Trustee, MV Foundation responded to Swami Agnivesh by saying that it is not the children who have committed any sins but the adults who have committed sins on account of their attitudes. But a lot of people are working to improve the lives of children. They do this in a spirit of non-violence and not with any self interest but so that there is justice in society for all children. In about 2000 villages of Andhra Pradesh all children go to school. This has been achieved with the help of a lot of local movements and the involvement of local people. It is the votes of these local people that determines who forms the government. We don’t need funds from outside for our children – what we need is an idea and a will.

Mr. G. Vinod, Minister for Labour, Andhra Pradesh reiterated the position that children should not work but should be in school. There was a need to develop awareness about this issue by means of a forum. Every legislator should spread the word about the desirability of abolishing child labour. We need to deliver proper health care to children. But we first need a will followed by collective efforts to make these goals a reality.

Mr. Anil Bordia made the following points in his concluding address:

- This celebration convened by MV Foundation should serve as a starting point for a countrywide movement against child labour.
- Enquiries to the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, have revealed that in the last 20 years there have been no successful prosecutions for employment of children in hazardous industries. Such lopsided laws do not help in the fight against child labour.
- It is argued that the introduction of compulsory education as envisaged in the Constitutional Amendment to make education a fundamental right, if implemented properly, will automatically do away with child labour. This is not a correct assumption. The draft law that has been prepared by the Government of India to give effect to the fundamental right to education includes non-formal education and even poor quality education which in no way is comparable to formal education.
- We must move towards a child centred policy that envisages not only abolition of child labour but also provision of health and nutrition to every child to ensure a happy childhood for all children.

Public Addresses on Government Commitment on Child Labour and Education

Mr. Anand Kotadia chaired the session.

Ms. Rani Kumudini, Commissioner, Labour, Andhra Pradesh welcomed everyone to the city of Hyderabad. She outlined the commitment of the government to child labour and education and spelt out the legal and social framework within which this must be done. In 1991, her state had the dubious distinction of having the largest number of child labour. In the 2001 census, there is an improvement and they have now been pushed to second place. What has been achieved from 1991 to 2001 is no doubt a step forward, but child labour is still a matter of concern. There are gaps in the progress that has been made in this period.

The main aim of the government is to build the capacities of the child, to ensure that the rights of the child become a reality. There are several challenges and practical difficulties in the
implementation of these aims. The people must understand that the government is not a separate entity but is a part of them. It is not the ‘other’. For it to function properly, it must have the support and co-operation of all the people. The root cause of child labour is the inability of families to provide a secure socio-economic environment for children. Solving this problem requires the convergence of all institutions - NGOs and civil society must work in close consonance with the government. It will require a legal approach. Adults must be sensitised to this issue whether they are parents or employers or teachers.

The Supreme Court of India has given specific guidelines for the protection of child rights. There are 7 or 8 legislations that are connected in some way or other to child labour. The law prescribes the minimum age for employment of children and regulates the working hours of children. Employment of children under 14 in hazardous occupations is prohibited. Why then, are children still working? Many people think that there is nothing wrong if children work to help their families. Most employers feel that they are doing a favour to these children by giving them work, as they feel that without this they would starve. Along with the law and other programmes implemented by the government, the single biggest weapon against child labour is awareness. There must be no hesitation in taking recourse to the courts if the need arises.

At present, the law prescribes a fine of Rs. 500 for employing children. For many, this is hardly a penalty and they go back to what they were doing without any fear of punishment. Children are frequently shifted from place to place to help parents and children dodge the law. The government has started a unique measure called the mobile courts. These courts visit the mantel headquarters four times every year. It is a way of bringing the law to the people. There are campaigns to spread awareness for the entire month before the court arrives. In these campaigns, people are told how child labour is inimical to the child, the family, the society and the nation. The government is committed to the cause of abolishing child labour, it is endeavouring to do so by introducing compulsory education and rehabilitative measures for those who have been victim to the evil of child labour.

Mr. Sai Kumar, Commissioner, Labour, Tamil Nadu spelt out the policies of the Government of Tamil Nadu with regard to child labour and education. State policy on child labour is broadly the same in the four southern states. The action plan of the Tamil Nadu government is not only abolition of child labour but its total eradication in all sectors, hazardous or otherwise. It is the first state with an action plan to abolish child labour in hazardous industries by a specific deadline of 2005. He believes that there must be no distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous industries and both must be targeted simultaneously. However, the government alone cannot achieve this goal. NGOs, trade unions and industry must be stakeholders in this programme as well.

There are some legal glitches to be solved as well. In 1996, a judgement by the Supreme Court ordered all states to conduct a survey on child labour. A fine of Rs. 20000 was to be imposed on the employer, the government was to contribute Rs. 5000 and this consolidated amount was to be used to rehabilitate the child. However, this legal principle was ignored and only 5 or 6 cases were successful in a total of 5000 or 6000 cases that were brought to court. It is obvious that what is required is a strong and purposeful legislation, along the lines of the legislation on dowry harassment. This legislation has achieved its aim of creating a fear of the law in the minds of the groom and his family. This fear has not found its way into cases of child labour as the burden of proof is still on the child.
The government of Tamil Nadu has directed that in all 30 districts of the state, the collector must rehabilitate all the children in his district by 2005, and must certify that his district is child labour free. This certification is then checked by evaluation agencies to ensure that false data is not generated. A web-based monitoring system is in use on which all district collectors can post data. There is also a programme called ‘Children Against Child Labour’, through which school children are drafted to spread awareness about child labour, especially against children employed in domestic work. In another programme, child labour has been integrated with other development issues in rural areas. Panchayats that are able to attain the goal of zero child labour are given an award of Rs 1-1.5 lakh.

Ms. Manisha Verma, Collector and Chairperson, National Child Labour Programme (NCLP), Sholapur, Maharashtra. Many initiatives have been taken on the issue of child labour in Maharashtra, one among these being the NCLP. Child labour is defined as anyone under the age of 14, working in any employment for a wage or working on his/her own to support him/her or the family. In Maharashtra, around 56% of all working children are involved in beady-making. The aims of the NCLP are to eliminate child labour totally, to bring child labourers into the mainstream of education, to impart pre-vocational and vocational training, and to create the confidence needed for them to earn their livelihood later. Efforts are underway to introduce computer literacy.

A related initiative of the government of Maharashtra is the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which aims to universalise primary education. Under this scheme, schools are being run for groups of children as few as six and there are special schools for children of migrant labour and tribals. The main problem in tackling child labour is the lack of convergence. It is not an isolated issue. It is linked to both the education and labour departments and must be put on the agenda for tribal welfare, urban development and rural development. Also, the quality of education must be enhanced. For this purpose, nothing will work better than monitoring by the community. The fastest way to bring about reform is by mobilising the community.

Ms. Verma introduced three girls who shared their own experiences of being released from child labour. They explained that their fathers were either alcoholics or handicapped and the household depended on the income brought in by the mothers and the girls. Now they are in the NCLP learning centre where they will also receive vocational training.

Workshops on Roles and Responsibilities of Different Actors

Workshop 1: Commitment and Policy on Eradication of Child Labour

Ms. Enakshi Ganguly, HAQ, India chaired the session and. She mentioned the following as the basis of discussion for this workshop:

- Efforts of the government and its commitments on education and child labour
- Declaration of policies and norms by international agencies like ILO and UNICEF
- It is the responsibility of the government to formulate a policy on education and child labour, set up norms and standards, protect child rights, mobilise and allocate resources and invoke private public partnerships for greater reach on child labour.
Framework required for formulating a policy on education and child labour, resources required and its possible sources, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved, impacts of policy issues and external aid.

Dr. J.B. Tilak, National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) made a presentation on the economics and financing of education. The primary resources for financing education are domestic budgets and external aid. There is a need to finance education for public good, for merit good, as an investment in human capital and human development, for reasons of equity and efficiency and because it is a basic minimum need and a fundamental right. However, there are some disturbing trends i.e. education is neither free nor compulsory in primary schools; schools charge high fees; many countries spend very little on education (some countries less than 2 % of total budget) including India; education is being forced on parents as a household expenditure rather than an investment for the child’s future; households are spending on education more out of compulsion than willingness.

External aid to education is very small and is declining over a period of time but many developing countries still critically depend on it. Government allocation to education has been steadily declining and at best, reluctantly increasing. Community and private sector contributions are very small and the government is shifting responsibility to the private sector and NGOs. He concluded that state funding of education is a must as reliance on external aid is viable only for the short term.

Ms. V.T. Tjon-a-Ten, Dutch Parliamentarian outlined the policy of the Dutch government on education. The Dutch government spends 0.8% of GNP i.e. 15% of total budget on education. It provides no direct aid to India since 2003 but through NGOs like HIVOS. Its priority areas are Education, HIV/AIDS, Reproductive health and sexual rights. A new education policy is being discussed among EU members.

Mr. George Ngao, Education Officer, Kenya spoke about the Kenyan government’s alliances with NGOs on eradicating child labour. They work together to conduct education needs assessments and training of trainers in order to form a resource pool of education specialists. They identify schools that are in need of renovation and reconstruction, train teachers on finance management, and run a resource centre for teachers. This is accomplished by district level steering committees that work together with NGOs.

Dr. Ashwani Saith, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague outlined some issues for framing a policy to eradicate child labour:

- There is a need for clarity on the objective of the policy framework. For example, the ILO’s operational platform is to get rid of hazardous child labour first. This gets in the way of eliminating child labour as a whole.
- The strategy that poverty should be eradicated first to tackle child labour is also incorrect again and gets the way of eliminating child labour as a whole. Lack of education is poverty.
- There are economic impacts of eliminating child labour, which need to be factored into policy making. There is a need to set up institutional arrangements to replace child labour with adult labour.
- Integrate child labour and education. A policy on just education is not going to work. Make one policy for both.
- Have a special institutional framework and policy to reach hard to reach children
- With respect to resources/aid, what is needed is a domestic resource mobilisation effort – don’t depend on external aid. It is the government’s responsibility to mobilise sufficient resources, have a policy framework in place and allocate sufficient funds as part of the budget.
- Health is related to education and child labour. Integrate health cover with education cover into a common platform with norms and standards. Assess resources needed and then do resource mobilisation and allocation.

**Workshop 2: Indian Constitution and Law on Eradication of Child Labour and Universalization of Education**

**Justice B. P. Jeevan Reddy** chaired the session. He said that the judgement delivered by him in 1993 in the ‘Unnikrishnan’ case held that the right to free education up to 14 years is a fundamental right according to Article 45 read in conjunction with article 21 of the Constitution. There is talk of amending Article 21A of the Constitution to provide free education to all children between the ages of 6 and 14. He does not see the need for this amendment as the legal basis for providing primary education already exists.

**Mr. Ashok Agarwal, Social Jurist** shared information about a number of cases concerning the right to education that had been filed by his team in the last seven years. In 1997 he filed a PIL (Public Interest Litigation) regarding basic amenities in government schools. The judges hearing the case instructed them to provide photographic evidence. The judges were shocked to see the photographs and they issued a notice to the government and municipal authority to improve the basic facilities in schools. The government was directed to provide coolers and aqua guard water. The high court is monitoring the case. The case is still pending.

The next case concerned a seven-year-old boy who was knocked down and killed by a four-wheeler as he came out on the road for drinking water. The parents of the child were awarded Rs. 2 lakh in compensation. Though this compensation cannot bring back their dead child, it has made government schools somewhat more vigilant; most now provide drinking water and have made provisions for the safety of the students.

The following case concerned admission procedures that require an affidavit attested by an executive magistrate giving the date of birth of students. Each affidavit costs Rs. 100 and the system has degenerated into a racket. A case was filed saying that there was no need for an executive magistrate to attest the affidavit. The High Court held that a notary, a commissioner or even a head master could do the attestation and the amount was reduced to Rs. 10. This case was later transformed into a PIL and the law was amended to allow children who do not have a birth certificate to get an affidavit from parents giving the exact date of birth. There was also an amendment waiving this requirement for destitute children who do not have any guardians.

The next case concerned the integration of the poorer sections of society into the mainstream. The government has allotted land to public schools at throwaway prices on the condition that they reserve 25% of seats for the poorer sections of society. The High Court ordered the Government of Delhi and Delhi Development Authority to look into the extent of compliance with the rules. The resulting ruling i.e. that 20% of the seats should be reserved in all public schools if there is no
specification and 25% if there is a big victory for the children of the masses. He is also challenging the public school system of interviewing three-year-old children and their parents to assess them for admissions on the grounds that it is inhuman.

Mr. I.V. Subba Rao, Secretary, Health, Government of Andhra Pradesh said that while the right to education is a constitutional right, it is reinforced by judgements. Therefore there is a need for judicial activism and more PILs to further strengthen the cause.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has learnt from, replicated and institutionalised the experience of NGOs. It has entered into an informal memorandum of understanding (MOU) with several communities. The list of children out of school in a particular village is read out in the panchayat and the panchayat guarantees to the state that all these children will be sent to school. In return, the state should provide proper learning facilities, including reforms in curricula, assessment procedures and governance. The school becomes an institution that embodies the following values:

- It must be a protector of child rights.
- It must not have corporal punishment
- It must have multiple ways of learning to enable growth
- This learning must be competency based
- Curriculum transaction should be child centred.

Workshop 3: The Role of Companies in Combating Child Labour

Mr. Simon Steyne, British Trade Union Congress, chaired the session.

Mr. Davuluri Venkateswaralu talked about the cottonseed industry in which a large number of child labour are employed. Daily wages in the seed farms are very low, and the companies depend on the labour of children who can be employed at these wages. A few years ago mainly girls were employed in the production of cottonseeds. The estimated population of child labour in cottonseed production in the year 2003-2004 was 82 thousand. He concluded that companies should have a policy on the employment of child labour and the media should help to expose the problem of child labour in different industries.

Mr. Clive J. Pegg, Association of Seed Industries (ASI), Germany introduced Mr. Raman, ASI, India. Mr. Raman explained that ASI is a leading national association of seed industries. Approximately 27% of cottonseed production companies in India are members of ASI. A study undertaken by ASI shows that a large number of children are employed in the cotton seed industry in India. ASI is organising meetings and workshops to address this issue. It needs the help of NGOs like the MV Foundation who have practical experience of working on the issue of the child labour.

Mr. Mario van de Luytgaarden, Stop Child Labour campaign, FNV Netherlands spoke on behalf of the temporary coalition of Dutch organisations (NGO’s and trade unions) in the cottonseed case. He made the following points:

- All child labour in cottonseed growing must be banned immediately and children should be provided with an education.
The issue of multinationals paying a fair wage to labour needs to be addressed.

All forms of bonded labour must be banned from India.

Respect for trade union rights, right of workers to unite and right workers on collective bargaining.

Transparency is required between the management of Multinationals and labour for good performance and progress of the company.

Mr. Samuel Grumiau, ICFTU, Albania said that child labour exists in Albania - a country in Europe. Children work as rag pickers, car washers and in factories making shoes and garments. The main reason of child labour in Albania is the socio-economic condition of the country and lack of awareness regarding the importance of education. Recently trade unions have started to research on the issue of child labour. They found that the multinationals pay very low prices to Albanian employers and factory owners. For example, Italian companies pay 1 Euro per shoe to Albanian factory owners. The same shoe is then sold for 50 – 80 Euros in other parts of the world, thus assuring a huge profit for the Italian companies. The low prices mean that wages for labour are also very low. In order to make a living the entire family, including children, are involved in this work. Thus child labour in this sector is directly linked to the low prices paid by the Italian multinationals to the Albanian factories. ICFTU is currently trying to liaise with other international and national trade unions to fight against child labour.

Steve Grinter, Global Union ITGLWF gave a presentation on the importance of an international social framework to address the issues of workers rights and child labour in his sector. He spoke of his experiences from the textiles and garments sectors and the challenges in this sector to address these workers rights. Framework agreements between Global Unions and multinationals are an instrument that can help promote workers rights and other fundamental labour standards. Still a lot needs to be done, especially with regard to the supply chains and informal work further down the chain.

Mr. Andrew Addoquaye Tagoe, Ghana Agricultural Workers’ Union (GAWU), Ghana said that in Ghana most child labour are engaged in cocoa seed production in activities like land clearing, planting, weeding, insect and fungal control, harvesting and gathering of cocoa pods, drying the beans and carrying them to the markets. Ghana exports about 75% of raw beans to US, UK and different parts of Europe for production of chocolate. Only 25% of the cocoa seeds are processed locally. The central government determines the prices with the giant chocolate manufacturers influencing the process. The farmers have no control. Many things need to be done: the government should pay better prices to farmers and should allow their organisations to negotiate on their behalf. The government should encourage companies to process the beans locally. In addition, alliances should be formed between companies, producers and consumers to solve the problem of child labour and better prices for farmers.

Workshop 4: Building Alliances and Campaign Strategies

Mr. Babu Matthew, Country Director, Action Aid India chaired the session.

Ms. Mirjam van Reisen, EEPA emphasised the importance of a base of mutual trust in building alliances between partners such as the MV Foundation and the European Alliance 2015 and in
defining specific strategies. She outlined the specific European policy developments and agendas that the Alliance would like to influence.

Mr. Pieter van Veenen, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour Campaign and HIVOS emphasised the need for a basis of shared values between Hivos and its Southern partners. Similarly the lobby work done by HIVOS and European partners in Alliance 2015 should also be based on partnership and mutual understanding. The Stop Child Labour Campaign of Alliance 2015 is based on the principles and working philosophy of MV Foundation. These form the leading principles for their joint lobby campaign in Europe.

Hivos concluded that it first had to clarify and change its own policy and bring it into line with the new principles and new social norms formulated by MV Foundation. It developed a coherent strategy to bring all children into fulltime education and stopped supporting initiatives that were directed towards bringing children into part-time or non-formal education and that did not lead to streaming them into fulltime regular education. HIVOS also engaged in discussions with other European development organisations and other actors like governments and academics to convince them about MV Foundation’s strategy for eliminating child labour.

Up to now the European campaign has its European focus on Brussels and includes 3 national alliance organisations in Germany, Ireland and Netherlands. A new phase will start and in the next 5 years 3 more organisations from Italy, Czech Republic and Denmark will be included. In the South the campaign was mainly based on MVF but this conference is a first step to broaden it internationally with partners from the rest of India (already taken up by MVF) and other continents like Africa and Latin America present. As organisers HIVOS can conclude that the conference has been successful in spreading the message and the strategy to other interested organisations. They would like to propose concrete follow-up initiatives with interested partners in Africa and Latin America and think about organising regional conference next year in Southern Africa, East Africa, Central Africa (Lake area) and Central America under the lead of one of the Alliance organisations. As the lead agency of the Alliance 2015 coalition, HIVOS will take the initiative to organise regional meetings during the next year.

Public Addresses on NGO Experiences

Mr. M.P. Joseph, ILO-IPEC chaired the session.

Ms. Sasi Prabha, WIDA, Orissa. WIDA works in the predominantly tribal Koraput region of Orissa. Education levels, especially of girls, are very low. Following globalisation several children work to help their families. The government’s role in solving these problems has been minimal. WIDA have started bridge courses for children who are too old to be enrolled in school right away. This has met with some success. One of the biggest problems faced by them is the number of different dialects spoken by the tribal population. Teachers are often unfamiliar with the local dialect with disastrous consequences as this makes them unable to communicate well with the students. Another problem is the frequency of examinations – many children drop out when they fail. There is a shortage of schools and teachers. With the help of MV Foundation, WIDA have been able to train teachers, increase community participation and bring about attitudinal changes among parents.

Mr. KC Basavaraju, MGRDSC, Karnataka. MGRDSC works with unorganised women workers using an integrated approach to make villages self-reliant. They are guided by 5 basic
principles: education, jobs, people’s power, health and harmony. In order to ensure that all the children attend school in their development area they have adopted a multi-pronged strategy including sensitisation, bridge courses to prepare children for mainstream schools, efforts to retain children in schools, mobilising the community by forming them into self help groups and village development councils. One of the main challenges facing the organisation is to retain children in school. The dropout rate is high because of poverty and migration. Strategies are being developed to address these problems.

Murari Tanvi, Doosra Dashak, Rajasthan. This organisation works with the 11 to 20 age group. The focus is on this age group because they are the next generation and the benefits of education can be seen faster in this group. They work in 4 blocks, 3 of which are dominated by Adivasis and one by a largely Muslim population. The women in these communities are suppressed and even if girls do join schools they soon dropout. They run camps for semi-literate and illiterate students so that can help them bridge the gap with mainstream schools.

Mr. Noor-ul-Haq, CRPF, Assam. The problems faced by this organisation are unique on account of the insurgency in the state. Child labour was a non-issue for them a few years ago but since coming into contact with the MV Foundation this has changed. There is now a growing awareness of the need for parents to send their children to school. The people are woefully ignorant about their rights and local government officials made no effort to increase their awareness. In fact there is very little interaction with the government officials who distance themselves from the people. Also, corruption is rampant in the state. Policy makers too are not sensitive to the issues of child labour and education. There is a paucity of infrastructure and hardly any general awareness about the right to education.

Suryakant Kulkarni, SNDT, Maharashtra Child labour and education are two enormous problems and there are not enough people to help deal with them. After getting children into schools, the biggest challenge is retaining them there and providing them with quality education. Often children remain illiterate even after they have been in school for many years.

Closing Plenary

Mr. L. C. Jain opened the session by saying that the MV Foundation had set in motion the movement to abolish child labour. It is now for others to catch the momentum and eradicate child labour from the face of the earth. He added that a birth certificate and right to information are also fundamental rights of all citizens that must be preserved.

Mr. G. Venkatswamy, Member of Parliament, Andhra Pradesh expressed concern for the uplift of deprived children. He said that the government has to be vigilant about bogus NGOs who deplete the resources meant for the benefit of the poor. According to him the mid-day meal programme had proved to be a success as it had brought about an improvement in school attendance. It was necessary for every child to develop the self-confidence that is achieved only through education.

Mr. Michael Carter, Country Director India, World Bank. World Bank supports the non-negotiable principles of MV Foundation. Child labour is part of the broader problem of exclusion. The key goal should be to get children back into schools. The World Bank is supporting this
through its support to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme. However, there should be a convergence of the school programme with other initiatives for mother and child health. One individual or agency alone cannot deal with the issue of child labour. Every member of society has a role to play in this and there is a role for external agencies as well.

Nirj Deva, MEP, European People's Party. Education is a fundamental human right. It is vital, not only in the fight against poverty, but also to promote democracy, equal opportunities and the observance of human rights in practice. At the Dakar World Education Conference, held in 2000, over 100 education ministers from around the world reaffirmed the fundamental right of all children to free education of quality. In recent years the Indian Government has acted by introducing significant legislation. Two years ago, the Indian government made a constitutional amendment for free and compulsory primary education and in June this year the Indian Government announced an increase in public spending on education to 6% of GDP.

These efforts are commendable; but to make a mark they will require much higher levels of spending, commitment and reform. Despite the new legislation, 35 million children in Indian remain out of school, This makes India responsible for 20% of global absence from education. Many years of under-spending on education are reflected in India’s national educational infrastructure today. Those with the power to save children from exploitation still have a lot of work to do. The national commitment to eliminate child labour needs to be galvanised; Indian public opinion needs to make it clear that child exploitation is unacceptable. Universal enforcement is essential, for no one should be allowed to obtain a competitive advantage by exploiting children.

Mr. Wouter van de Schaaf, Education International spoke in praise of the teachers of Andhra Pradesh and of India who are teaching the future generation of the country. Many of them work on a low salary, in schools with overcrowded classes, with no roof, with few books and education materials and with no chairs. And yet they go on. Education International had brought teachers from as far a field as Albania, Morocco, Ethiopia and the Netherlands to the conference. These teachers are members of their teachers’ union and will go and explain the wonderful works of the MV Foundation, of their teacher colleagues in the BKVV and in the Andhra Pradesh teachers’ unions. Also present in the conference are representatives of unions for construction workers, agricultural workers and textile workers. They have all came here to learn. Education International and the whole labour movement fully support the five non-negotiables. They are strong, and there is no compromise on them.

The labour movement also seeks support for the three non-negotiables of the teachers and their unions. These are:

1. Schools should provide quality education. This requires quality teachers who have received adequate training.
2. Primary education must be full time, formal and free.
3. Education is the full responsibility the government. Private education reinforces the social divide and disrupts the functioning of the formal school system.

Antje Paulsen, DWHH, Germany said that MV Foundation had changed the lives of many children. These children have been given the skills to shape society and can now dream of having jobs they could not have contemplated before. The work that primary school teachers do is laudable.
They need to the trained well so that they can provide quality education to children. Basic primary school should be creative and interesting so that it retains children in school.

**Mr. Y. S. Rajasekhar Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh** reiterated that childhood is the birth right of every child. Those who traffic children into labour should not be spared. The MV Foundation has been working in this issue for some time now and has made a significant difference. Over 2,40,000 child labour from 400 villages in different districts have been provided education. This is a major contribution from an NGO. It is a shameful fact that Andhra Pradesh has the lowest literacy rate in South India. Poverty is not his cause of illiteracy but child labour is the main factor behind illiteracy.

His government is most concerned about the issues of child labour and education. These are priority areas and the government is set to put things in order and reach the needy. Mid Day meals are currently provided in all 91 thousand schools in Andhra Pradesh. It will be necessary to ensure that head masters and teachers attend school regularly and scholarships are not misused. Village committees should be used to keep a close eye on the functioning of schools. The gender issue also needed sensitive handling. Girls should be educated and encouraged to achieve great heights.

Mr. Reddy concluded by expressing his appreciation for the work of MV Foundation and assured them the support of the government in all their endeavours.

**Ms. Shantha Sinha, Secretary Trustee, MV Foundation** concluded the conference by reading the final statement. The full text of this statement is available in Annex IV.
Appendix I

NON-NEGOTIABLES

CHARTER OF BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR EMANCIPATION OF CHILD LABOUR

1. **ALL CHILDREN MUST ATTEND FULL-TIME FORMAL DAY SCHOOLS.**

   Night schools or part-time education centres are unacceptable.

2. **ANY CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL IS A CHILD LABOURER.**

   The definition of child labour encompasses every non-school going child, irrespective of whether the child is engaged in wage or non-wage work, or whether he/she is working for the family/others in a hazardous or non-hazardous occupation, employed on a daily wage or on contract basis or as bonded labour.

3. **ALL WORK/LABOUR IS HAZARDOUS AND HARMS THE OVERALL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD.**

4. **THERE MUST BE TOTAL ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR.**

   Any law regulating child work is unacceptable.

5. **ANY JUSTIFICATION PERPETUATING THE EXISTENCE OF CHILD LABOUR MUST BE CONDEMNED.**

   Arguments about the 'harsh reality of the family, poverty, necessity of children’s earnings for the family, lack of interest among parents, poor quality of teachers and schools, irrelevance of education in providing employment, loss of relevant skills among educated children and so on are all anti-children and go against their real development.
# Appendix II: List of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abdulaziz Mountassir</td>
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<td>Anke Schnurmann</td>
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<td>Antje Paulsen</td>
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<td>Antoinette Hildering</td>
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<td>Babu Mathew</td>
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<td>Damayanti</td>
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* Excluding over 5000 children, local activists and volunteers who came to Hyderabad from districts of Andhra Pradesh and further afield that could not be registrated.
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Prof. Tadwakar</td>
<td>Project Director NCLP, Sholapur</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Vilas Panduranga Bet</td>
<td>Wakhand College, Department of Social Work</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purobi Roy</td>
<td>CINI ASHA</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Gopinath</td>
<td>Paraspara (State Alliance for Education)</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabial Mallick</td>
<td>Kolkata NGO Forum for Street and Working Children</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Kurian</td>
<td>Institute of Social Studies</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radha Koirala</td>
<td>AASAMAN</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>Rajae Berrada Msefer</td>
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<td>Rajan Tungare</td>
<td>Director Maharashtra Institute of Labor Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ram Murthy</td>
<td>Ekalavya</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Ram Pal Singh</td>
<td>AIPTF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rashi Kumidini</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rejraji Abdejalal</td>
<td>Ministry of tourism and Handicraft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relian Kuteli</td>
<td>NHPA (National Help Program Albania) Kinderhaus Tirana</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>René Brosius</td>
<td>Executive Assistant Markus Löning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosa Maria Nieto</td>
<td>COMPARTIR</td>
<td>Honduras</td>
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<td>Rugaaju David</td>
<td>Concern Rwanda</td>
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<td>S.M. Yusuf</td>
<td>Mayur Bhanj Jain t Citizen Centre</td>
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<td>Saadia Fahem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Grimau</td>
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<td>Albania</td>
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<td>Samuel Thangaraj</td>
<td>The World Bank</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandeep</td>
<td>BALPAPULTHA</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Sandra Overhoff</td>
<td>DWHH</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Sandur Kusuma Sreevatsa</td>
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<td>Sarcar</td>
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<td>Sasi Prabha</td>
<td>WIDA</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Satre Tanaji Vitthal Rao, I.A.S.</td>
<td>Collector &amp; District Magistrate</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shamshad Khan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheela Sengupta</td>
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<td>Shobha Naidu</td>
<td>Aide et Action</td>
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<td>Shoba Rajolkar</td>
<td>Mahila Sangmeshwar</td>
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<td>Shoba Ramchandran</td>
<td>Books for Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shobha Raghuram</td>
<td>Director, Regional Office, HIVOS INDIA</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Shriniwas Kulkarni</td>
<td>Bachpan Bachao Andolan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Steyne</td>
<td>British Trade Union Congress</td>
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<td>Simona Ghezzi</td>
<td>CESVI</td>
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<td>Smarajit Ray</td>
<td>Retired Principal Secretary Andhra Pradesh</td>
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<td>Smt. Manisha Varma</td>
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<td>Sofie Ovaa</td>
<td>Hivos</td>
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<td>Spechar</td>
<td>National Domestic Workers Movement</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sr Prabhu Prasad Patra</td>
<td>Indian Society for Rural Development (ISRD)</td>
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<td>Sudhir Sabat</td>
<td>ISRD (Indian Society for Rural Development)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sujata Mullick</td>
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<td>Sukanta Kumar Mishra</td>
<td>Centre for Youth and Social Development</td>
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<td>Suresh Kotagi</td>
<td>Ideal Education Welfare Trust</td>
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<td>Suryakant Kulkarni</td>
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<td>Susana Rochna</td>
<td>Hivos RO Costa Rica</td>
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<td>Swami Agnivesh</td>
<td>Human Rights Activist</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Swayam Shrestha Panda</td>
<td>National Education Group (NEG)</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Sydney Marcus Dias</td>
<td>TCCYD</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>Talavera Phillippe</td>
<td>Ombetja Yehinga Organisation</td>
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<td>Umesh Purohit</td>
<td>CACL Orissa</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>V.R. Mathapati</td>
<td>NCLP - Karnataka</td>
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<td>Herman van der Laan</td>
<td>ILO-IPEC</td>
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<td>Varakumar and Paul Luther</td>
<td>CASA (Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action)</td>
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<td>Varina Tjon A Ten</td>
<td>Dutch Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Vasudha Dhagamwar</td>
<td>Multiple Action Research Group</td>
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<td>Vatti Sambasiva</td>
<td>Jawaharlal Nehru University</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Vicky Medard Kanyoka</td>
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<td>Vijay Kumar</td>
<td>Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty</td>
<td>India</td>
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<td>Vikas Shankar Kharge</td>
<td>District Collector Aurangabad</td>
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<td>Vishala Ramachandran</td>
<td>Education Resource Unit</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waqar Azam Ansari</td>
<td>Garden Research Kasab Para Social Welfare Association</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilma Roos</td>
<td>FNV</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wouter Van De Schaaf</td>
<td>Education International</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y. S. Raja Shekar Reddy</td>
<td>Chief Minister, A.P.</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix III: Field Visit Programme

FIELD VISIT: GROUP I
02.11.2004 Tuesday

Resource Person: Mr Dhananjay
Cell No.94400 24769

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.00 - 11.00</td>
<td>Travel to Mothey camp, Nalgonda district.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 11.00 - 12.00 | Interaction with:  
Field activists  
Children  
Child Rights Protection Forum members  
Trade Unions |
| 12.00 - 13.00 | Visit to Government School (Chandupatla)  
Interaction with:  
School Education Committee  
School teachers  
Gram Panchayat members  
Employers  
Bala Karmika Vimochana Vedika Teachers. |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch at Chandupatla                                                   |
| 14.00 – 14.30 | Travel to Chivemla                                                      |

Attend public meeting with local trade unions, elected representatives, child rights protection forum members, local officials on child labour and the experience in Nalgonda District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.00 – 19.00</td>
<td>Travel back to Hyderabad.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIELD VISIT: GROUP II  
02.11.2004 Tuesday

Resource Person: Mr Arvind Kumar  
Ms. Uma

08.00 – 09.30  
Visit to Mokila village, Ranga Reddy district

09.30 – 11.00  
Interaction with  
Parents  
Schoolteachers  
Gram panchayat members  
Employers  
Bala Karmika Vimochana Vedika teachers  
Child Rights Protection Forum members.

11.00 - 11.30  
Travel to Aloor Residential Bridge Course Camp.

11.30 - 13.00  
Interaction with:  
Children  
Field activists

13.00 p.m. - 14.00 p.m.  
Lunch.

14.00 p.m. - 15.30 p.m.  
Travel to Hyderabad.

15.30 p.m. - 16.30 p.m.  
Join Teachers’ march against child labour  
(Bala Karmika Vimochana Vedika)  
Interaction with Bala Karmika Vimochana Vedika activists.

16.30  
Return to Hotel.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.00 – 09.30</td>
<td>Visit to Damaragidda village, Ranga Reddy district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.30 – 11.00</td>
<td>Interaction with Parents, Schoolteachers, Gram panchayat members, Employers, Bala Karmika Vimochana Vedika teachers, Child Rights Protection Forum members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>Travel to Alur Residential Bridge Course Camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 - 13.00</td>
<td>Interaction with Children, Field activists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.00 p.m. - 14.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00 p.m. - 15.30 p.m.</td>
<td>Travel to Hyderabad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.30 p.m. - 16.30 p.m.</td>
<td>Join Teachers’ march against child labour (Bala Karmika Vimochana Vedika) Interaction with Bala Karmika Vimochana Vedika activists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.30</td>
<td>Return to Hotel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JOURNALISTS’ FIELD VISIT
03.11.2004, Wednesday

Resource person: Mr Dhananjay

08.00 -11.30  Travel to Dhone mandal, Kurnool district
11.30  - 13.00 Interaction with:
         Field activists
         Children worked in cotton farm, now studying
         Employers
         Child Rights Protection Forum members
13.00 - 14.00 Lunch.
14.00 - 14.45 Travel to Kurnool
14.45 - 15.45 Interaction with children currently working on cotton farms
            and with local farmers
15.45  Travel to Hyderabad
FIELD VISIT GROUP I

03.11.2004 Wednesday
Ranga Reddy District

Resource person: Mr Arvind

Ms. Uma

08.00 – 09.30  Travel to Chevella, Ranga Reddy district.

09.30 – 11.30  Interaction with:
Parents
Children
Child Rights Protection Forum members
Gram panchayat members

11.30 – 12.00  Visit to Alur girls camp.

12.00 – 13.00  Interaction with
Children
Field activists
Parents
Child Rights Protection Forum members

13.00 – 14.00  Lunch.

14.00 – 15.00  Visit to Government School
Interaction with:
Teachers,
School Education Committee
Gram Panchayat members
Employers

15.00 – 16.30  Travel back to Hyderabad
FIELD VISIT GROUP II

03.11.2004 Wednesday
Nalgonda District

Resource Person: Ms. Dipa Sinha

08.00 – 11.30  Travel to Patha Suryapet, Nalgonda district

11.30 – 13.00  Interaction with:
Parents
Children
Child Rights Protection Forum members
Gram panchayat members

13.00 – 14.00  Lunch

14.00 – 15.00  Visit to Thirumalgiri Residential Bridge Course Camp for girls
Interaction with:
Children
Teachers

15.00 – 18.00  Travel back to Hyderabad
FIELD VISIT GROUP III

03.11.2004 Wednesday
Mahabubnagar District

Resource person: Martine

08.00 - 11.00 Travel to Achampet, Mahabubnagar district.

11.00 - 13.00 Visit to child labour bridge course camp.
Interaction with:
Children
Parents
Child Rights Protection Forum members

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch.

14.00 – 14.30 Travel to Achampet

14.30 - 15.30 Attend Public meeting on Child Rights

15.30 – 18.30 Travel back to Hyderabad
FIELD VISIT

Mr. Nirj Deva, Member, European Parliament
04.11.2004, Thursday

Resource Person: Mr M.R.Vikram
Mr Dhananjay.

Visit to Residential Hostel for Boys, Mahendra Hills, Secunderabad

Interaction with:
Children who have attended bridge course and have been mainstreamed
Field activists
Child Rights Protection Forum members
Gram Panchayat members
Appendix IV: Conference Programme

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “OUT OF WORK AND INTO SCHOOL”

SCHEDULE

4TH NOV

10.00-11.00 Inaugural, Lalita Kala Thoranam
- Swami Agnivesh, Human Rights Activist
- Sri. Chandrababu Naidu, Former-Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh
- Mr. K.R. Suresh Reddy, Hon’ble Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly
- Sri. M. Krishnamurthy, Chairman, M.V.Foundation
- Mr. Pieter van Veenen, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign - HIVOS
- Ms. Monique Lempers, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign - HIVOS
- Sri. Smarajit Ray, Retd Principal Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- Sri. Anil Bordia, Retd. Secretary, Education, Govt. of India
- Mr. David Rugaaju, CONCERN, Rwanda
- Ms. Shoba Raghuram, HIVOS - CHAIR

11.15—13.30 Introduction to the Non-negotiables on Child Labour and Education, Lalita Kala Thoranam
- Ms. Shantha Sinha, Secretary Trustee, M.V.Foundation
- Mr. Babu Mathew, Country Director, Action Aid
- MR. Aditya Mukherjee, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Mr. Marc de Silva, Country Director, CRS
- Mr. K.S.Bawa, IFBWW, Punjab, India
- Mr. Shamshad Khan, CREDA, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Mr. Partho Sen, CINI ASHA, Kolkata, India

14.00-16.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

1) Workshops on NGO Interventions, Jubilee Hall (1,2&3)

I. Additional efforts to reach children affected by HIV/AIDS, as part of the norm that every child should be in school instead of work.
- Dr. Sunita Krishnan, Prajwala, India
- Ms. Doreen Nyamukapa, ANPPCAN, Zimbabwe
- Ms. Nduta Kweheria, Legal Resources Foundation
- Mrs. Lucia Malemane, UAN, Zimbabwe
- Mr. James Kalimbuka, YONECO, Malawi
- Ms. Shobha Naidu, Aide et Action, India - CHAIR

II. Additional efforts to reach children living in conflict, as part of the norm that every child must be in school instead of work
- Ms. Radha Koirala, Aasman, Nepal
- Mr. Jose Fernando Arrellano Trejos, ENS, Colombia
III. Additional efforts to reach street children, as part of the norm that every child must be in school instead of work

- Mr. Michael Kimaryo, Kuleana, Tanzania
- Mr. Partho Sen, CINI ASHA, India
- Mr. Relian Kuteli, NPHA Kinderhaus Tirana, Albania
- Ms. Grace Onyimo, Streets Ahead Welfare Organisation, Zimbabwe
- Mr. Shemsanga, Dogodogo Center Street Children Trust, Tanzania
- Mr. Vijay Kumar, SERP, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh – CHAIR

2) Public Addresses on Alliances and Networks, Lalitha Kala Thoranam

- Ms. Amarjeet Kaur, AITUC
- Mr. Gode Prasad AP Craf
- Mr. Achintya Bhattacharya, CLPOA
- Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Global March
- Ms. Alpa Vora, YUVA - CHAIR

16.00 -17.00 Testimonies by International delegates, Lalitha Kala Thoranam

17:00-18.00 Summary & Conclusions, Lalitha Kala Thoranam

- Mr. Michael Doorly, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign - CONCERN
- Ms. Sofie Oova, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign - HIVOS
- Mr. Andy Addoquaye Tagoe, Ghana Agricultural Workers Union, Ghana

18:00 onwards Cultural Programmes, Lalitha Kala Thoranam
5TH NOV

09.30-12.30 International Policy on Child Labour and Education, Jubilee Hall 1
- Mr. Herman van de Laan, ILO Director
- Mr. Michel Saint Lot, UNICEF Director
- Mr. Wouter van de Schaaf, Education International
- Mr. Pieter van Veenen, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign - HIVOS
- Mr. K. Raju, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- Mr. M.R. Vikram, Trustee, M.V.Foundation
- Mr. Amarjeet Sinha, DFID-India – CHAIR

09.30-11.00 Public Addresses On Movements Against Child Labour, Lalitha Kala Thoranam
- Mr. G. Vinod, Minister for Labour, Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Mr. M.P. Parameswaran, Kerala Shastra Sabitya Parishad, Kerala
- Ms. Mridula Mukherjee, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Swami Agnivesh, Bonded Labour Liberation Front
- Mr. Mahavir Jain, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, New Delhi
- Mr. Anil Bordia, IAS (Retd.) - CHAIR

11.00-12.30 Public Addresses - Government Commitment on Child Labour and Education, Lalitha Kala Thoranam
- Ms. Rani Kumudini, Commissioner, Labour, Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Mr. Sai Kumar, Commissioner, Labour, Government of Tamil Nadu
- Ms. Manisha Verma, District Collector, Government of Maharashtra
- Mr. Anand Kotadia - CHAIR

13.30-15.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS, Jubilee Hall (1, 2, 3 & 4)
1) Workshops on Role and Responsibilities of Different Actors
   I. Commitment and Policy on Eradication of Child Labour
      - Prof. Ashwani Saith, Institute of Social Sciences, The Hague, The Netherlands
      - Dr. J.B. Tilak, National Institute of Education Planning and Administration, India
      - Mr. George Oure Ngao, Ministry of Education, Kenya
      - Ms. V.T. Tjon-a-Ten, Dutch Parliamentarian
      - Ms. Enakshi Ganguly, HAQ Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi

   II. Indian Constitution and Law on Eradication of Child Labour and Universalisation of Education
      - Dr. Nalini Juneja, National Institute of Education Planning and Administration, India
      - Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar, MARG, New Delhi
      - Mr. Ashok Agarwal, Social Jurist, New Delhi
      - Mr. Subba Rao, Secretary, Health Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
      - Justice Jeevan Reddy - CHAIR

   III. The role of companies in combating child labour
      - Mr. Davuluri Venkateswarlu
      - Mr. Kaundinya, Emergent Genetics
• Mr. Mario van de Luytgaarden, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign - FNV
• Ms. Annie Adviento, ITGLWF
• Mr. Samuel Grimau ICFTU
• Mr. Andy Addoquaye Tagoe, Ghana

IV. Building Alliances and Campaign Strategies
• Ms. Mirjam van Reisen, EEPA
• Ms. Rekha Abel, Catholic Relief Services, India
• Mr. Acharya, Campaign Against Child Labour, India
• Mr. Pieter van Veeren, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign - HIVOS
• Mr. Babu Mathew, ActionAid, India - CHAIR

2) Public Addresses On NGO Experiences, Lalitha Kala Thoranam
• Ms. Sasi Prabha, WIDA, Orissa
• Mr. Basavaraju, MGRDSCT, Karnataka
• Mr. Murari Tanvi, Doosra Dashak
• Mr. Noor-ul-Haq, Child Rights Protection Forum, Assam
• Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni, SNDT, Maharashtra
• Mr. M.P. Joseph, ILO-IPEC - CHAIR

15.15 – 17.00 Closing Plenary, Lalitha Kala Thoranam
• Sri. Y. S. Rajasekhar Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh
• Sri. G. Venkatswamy, Member of Parliament
• Mr. Michael Carter, World Bank Country Director
• Mr. Nirj Deva, MEP, UK
• Mr. Wouter van de Schaaf, Education International
• Ms. Antje Paulsen, Alliance2015 Stop Child Labour campaign - DWHH, Germany
• Sri. L.C. Jain - CHAIR
Appendix V

International Conference on
"Out of Work and Into School -
Children's Right to Education as a Non-Negotiable"

Final Statement

We, the participants of the conference "Out of Work and Into School - Children's Right to Education as a Non-Negotiable" (2-5 November 2004, Hyderabad) would like to conclude this two day event with the following statement:

1. The conference has brought together many different members of the extended family that constitute the MV Foundation together with the Alliance 2015 - Stop Child Labour Campaign - in a joyful sharing and learning experience. The enthusiastic participation of over 5000 delegates has brought energy to the conference and confirmed the strong roots and widening coverage of the movement for the elimination of child labour and education for all children. The conference has also demonstrated that ownership of the movement is vested in the parents and children, in youth groups, in women's groups, in trade unions, in the local panchayats, in the child rights protection committees and most remarkably in the teachers and the thousands of volunteers who work ceaselessly for this cause.

2. The conference has provided a reaffirmation of the Non-Negotiables. These Non-Negotiables have stood the test of time and the test of practice in the field. Their appropriateness as a platform for future development of the movement has been confirmed.

3. The conference has provided a platform for mutual exchange and sharing of experiences between participants from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. It was apparent from the testimonies presented by these participants that the non-negotiable approach, duly adapted to take account of contextual differences, has a very wide relevance. The conference has provided an opportunity to widen and deepen earlier contacts between all those involved in abolishing child labour and bringing every child to school and has taken these to a new level of knowledge sharing and exchange. Virtually every delegate - national and international - has expressed solidarity with the Non-Negotiables and endorsed their relevance for their own work.

4. International and other donor organisations have confirmed their support for the movement to abolish child labour and bring every child to school. The relevance of all partners - both international and national - in influencing and shaping policy on the related issues cannot be overemphasised.

5. Against this backdrop it was very significant that senior politicians from across the political divide expressed unequivocal support and commitment for the further expansion of the movement within Andhra Pradesh, within India and worldwide. The conference demonstrated a remarkable rapport between the senior politicians and the masses on this issue.
6. The participation of local partners - approximately over 100 NGOs and trade union delegates - from different states of India, as well as from Africa, Latin America, Europe and other parts of Asia demonstrated the commitment of these organisations to the elimination of child labour.

7. The conference provided an opportunity and forum for a broad-based evaluation of both ongoing practices as well as exploration of new areas of work related to the mandate of MV Foundation. Three extremely important areas discussed in some detail were: children affected by HIV/AIDS, street children, and children affected by conflict. Significantly, all three are major global issues where there are considerable opportunities for experience sharing and developing effective strategies. These discussions benefited greatly from the specialist inputs of colleagues from other countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe.

8. The one-day workshop on Trade Unions and Child labour also reaffirmed the commitment of trade unions to the abolition of child labour and the attainment of free, full-time, and formal and quality education for all children. Trade unions view such commitments as part of promoting fundamental principles and rights at work for adults, including the right to organising and collective bargaining, the right to work in freedom, dignity and security, and the right to be free from child labour.

9. The conference also highlighted urgent necessities with regard to the policy framework for education and child labour. This applies both to the national as well as the international levels. Three specific areas of concern were specially emphasised.

- The role of new partners, especially the corporate sector, was discussed. Attention was given to the need to take on board the role of child labour along the entire supply chain and particularly in the informal economy where child labour predominates.

- In the context of education becoming a fundamental right under the Government of India, the existing Child Labour (R & R) Act, 1985 has become untenable and needs to be repealed. A new law that incorporates the non-negotiable principles adopted by this international conference and on the lines of the indicative legislation suggested by the 2nd National Commission on Labour needs to be adopted as a central legislation.

- The conference also noted that the emerging movement, which is inspired by the Non-Negotiables, has produced extraordinary results on the ground. Hence we call upon the International organisations and agencies to re-examine their own policy positions and intervention strategies so that the experiences that have emerged from the ground are not diluted or obstructed from above.

This statement reflects the spirit of the conference.
Appendix VI

Joint Statement of the Trade Union Workshop

We reaffirm the commitment of Global Unions to the total elimination of child labour; to universal, free, compulsory and accessible basic education, provided by governments as a quality public service. Our starting point in the struggle for the total elimination of child labour - both as an absolute moral issue and essential if we are to construct a socially sustainable global economy - is the rule of international law. And that law is embodied above all in the two child labour conventions of the United Nations ILO and in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. All countries should ratify those minimum standards. Let me say that we fully support their objectives - the total elimination of child labour under the age of 15 - whether hazardous or not - and the elimination of all hazardous work for those under 18 years of age. But child labour does not exist in a vacuum. And it is not a charity issue. It is a rights issue, a social justice issue, a power issue, a gender issue, an education issue and a 'decent work for adults' issue.

Poverty is not the cause of child labour; social injustice is the cause of child labour. It is child labour that causes poverty; it is a brake on development. It not only damages the child - it damages the development of the nation and the world. We know that, with political will, even the governments of poor countries can make the decision that all children should be in school. And for every dollar invested in basic education, 7 dollars is returned to the nation in economic and social development. It is a question of priorities.

So first, we see child labour linked both to the denial to the access of education and to the denial of the rights of adults to have decent work. Work in which their rights are fully respected; the right to organise and bargain collectively and to work free from discrimination, forced labour and child labour.

First among those rights are the rights to organise in free trade unions and bargain collectively. Where trade unions are strong, and where collective agreements are made and kept there is no child labour.

We agree strongly that the elimination of child labour and the access to universal and basic education are indivisible. Universal, free, quality, compulsory, accessible, and formal basic education – is the responsibility of the state, it is a public good, and should be provided as a universal public service. The trade union movement agrees that quality is a key issue. And we will always want an ever-improving quality of education for our children. There is no maximum. But we have to start from where we are now. We want all children in school as fast as possible – preferably yesterday - and certainly no later that 2015. And we demand that governments meet the goals of gender parity ensuring equal access for girls by next year.

We believe that there are only two ways to protect working people and their children sustainably; through the rule of good law in vibrant democracies, properly enforced through effective public services including well-functioning labour inspectorates, and through the self-organisation of workers in free trade unions. Rights matter, and only through respect for the rights of working people and their children will we get every child out of work and into school.