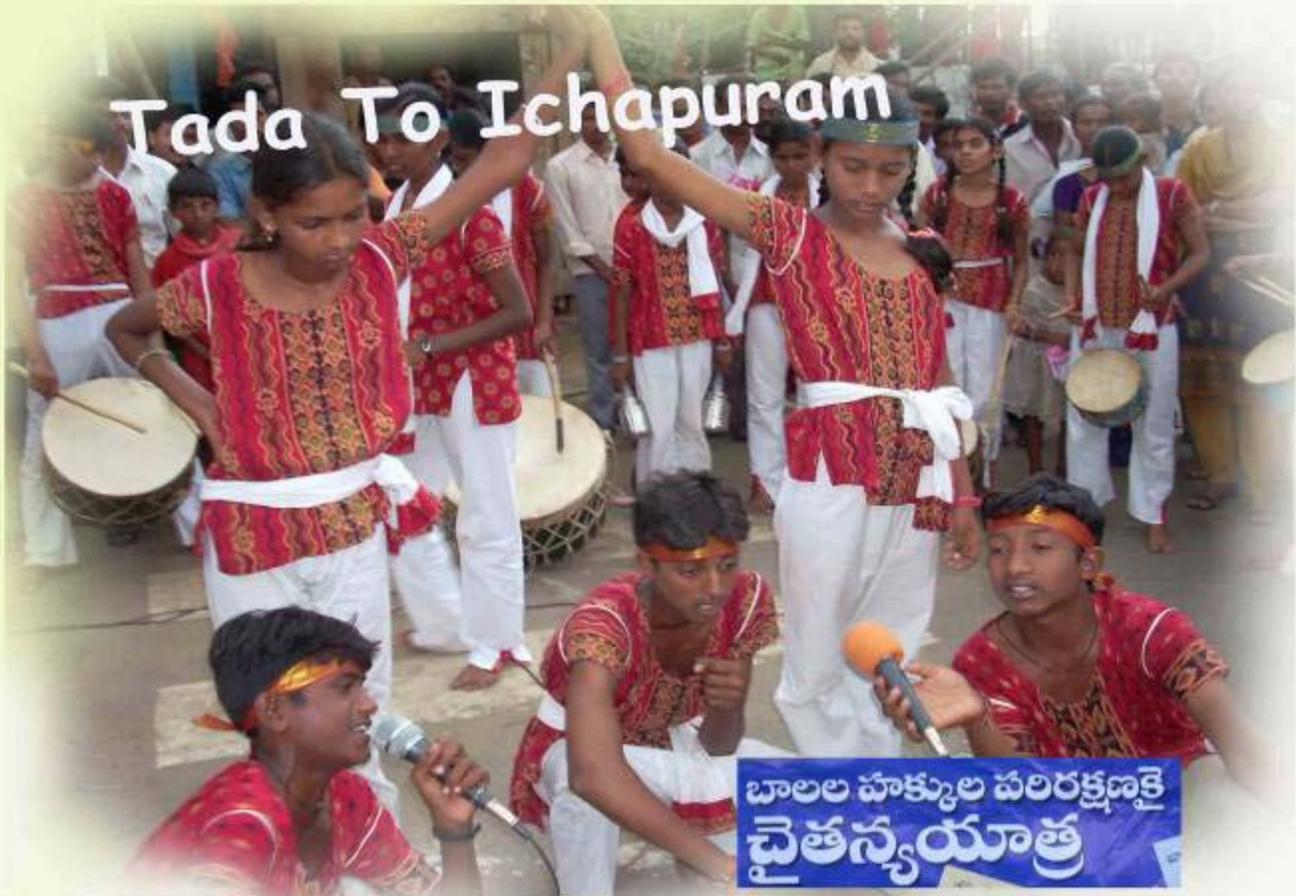


# A Report on **Child Yatra** (Campaign against Corporal punishment & violence)

An Advocacy campaign through Children theatre and music band

TADA to ICHAPURAM

2nd to 9th October 2008



Supported by



PLAN Young hearts project

**Child Yatra**  
**(Campaign against Corporal punishment & violence)**  
**An Advocacy campaign through Children theatre and music band**  
**in Coastal AP**

**Acknowledgements**

In accomplishing this BALALA CHAITANYA YATRA, aimed at creating awareness among media and general public against corporal punishment and violence on children, the HELP Team is indebted to a number of individuals and organizations without whose support, this Yatra would not be successful.

The HELP team is grateful for the support and commitment of the NGOs of PLAN-AGS coalition, NATSAP and CACL partners, Media Friends and well wishers, Particularly, the support of the Mr. Shriram and his team from Nalandaway , Chennai is highly appreciated.

Our Sincere appreciation to PLAN International, Delhi for providing the funds to facilitate the BALALA CHAITANYA YATRA, aimed at creating awareness among media and general public against corporal punishment and violence on children.. We are greatly indebted to partner NGOs and PLAN - AGS collation , NATSAP and CACL partners for their valuable support in conducting this YATRA in Coastal Andhra.

Special thanks to Mr.G.Gopalakrishna Murthy, director, Academy of Gandhian Studies for his timely guidance offered to the Team.

Lastly, our gratitude to the Government officers of coastal districts who gave their valuable time and suggestions during this YATRA

Ramamohan. NVS  
**Secretary - HELP**

K.N.Murthy  
**Chairman - HELP**

## **Objectives of the Yatra**

The objective of this campaign is to influence public opinion on the negative aspects of the corporal punishments and advocacy on implementing the GO MS. No. 16/2002 of Education Department Govt. of AP.

## **Major Demands through this Yatra**

- A comprehensive Act shall be brought forward at national level to protect the children from all types of violence including corporal punishments.
- A Separate Act shall be formed in the lines of Domestic Violence to protect the children from all types of abuse and violence.
- Precautions shall be taken for the effective implementation of GO. MS No.16 (2002). Awareness shall be created to the teachers on this GO.
- Task Force committees shall be formed at the district level to monitor the implementation of GOs. Child participation shall be encouraged in this task force.
- Child Welfare committees established under JJ Act, shall be strengthened to solve the issues of children.
- Child Rights commission shall be established at the state level, with preference to the children in this commission.
- Separate committees shall be constituted at the district level, with the government officials for the protection of children in the private education institutions.

## **Background of the issue**

There were about 250 enactments made by the State as well as Central Governments for the welfare of children and to rescue the children from all forms of exploitation, diversity and to make them to be dignified. But they are in vain. India consented with United Nations Child Rights Convention in the year 1992. In accordance with the Act, most of the National resources shall be allocated to children and there shall be some special Acts to be implemented for the protection and a comprehensive development of the children in our country. But both State and Central Governments seems to be so lethargic over the issue. As a result child labor, violence against children, rapes and sexual exploitations became rampant that led to perdition and impediment of the innocent children of our Nation.

Children agonized that, under the veil of discipline there are rigorous physical abuse, violence and exploitations against them both at home and school. The incidences of suicides and abandonment from home and school are nothing but the result of cruel attitude against children by both teachers and parents. Children remain as illiterates due to corporal punishment and abuses. Some of the children become street children while some other as child labor. Children anguished that they are trapped by the traffickers and retaining at prostitution homes at times. The main ambition of **Jana Chaitanya Yatra** is "to bring awareness in adults on Golden future of the children which shall not be spoiled" children said.

In 2007, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, published the first nationwide study on child abuse in India, based on the experiences of 12,447 children aged 5-18 years from across 13 states and also involving 2,324 young adults (aged 18-24) and 2,449 stakeholders (adults holding positions in government departments, private service and urban and rural local bodies, and individuals from the community). The study revealed a high prevalence of corporal punishment of children in all the settings – their family homes, schools, institutions and on the streets. Of the total number of children, 69% reported physical abuse, including corporal punishment, in one or more situations, more commonly (54.68%) boys and young children (48.29%). In the 5-12 age group, nearly three out of

four (72.2)% reported physical abuse in one or more situations, in the 13-14 year age group 70.61%, and among 15-18 year olds 62.13%. Of children abused within the family, in the majority of cases the perpetrators were parents (reported by 88.6% of respondents – 50.9% mothers, 37.6% fathers).

The second most commonly reported perpetrators were teachers (44.8%), followed by employers (12.39%), caregivers (9.45%), NGO workers (4.78%) and others. The difference between boys and girls was marginal, but age was significant, with young children aged 5-12 the most vulnerable and the risk declining for children aged 13-14 and again for adolescents aged 15-18. The most commonly reported punishment was being slapped and kicked (63.67%), followed by being beaten with a stave or stick (31.31%), and being pushed, shaken, etc (5.02%). For many (15.6%) the hurt resulted in serious physical injury, swelling or bleeding. When stakeholders were asked for their views on physical/corporal punishment, over 44.54% felt it was necessary in disciplining children; 25.45% disagreed with its necessity; 30.01% expressed no opinion. When asked about most suitable form of punishment for discipline, 35.24% said scolding or shouting, 11.31% slapping or beating with a stick, almost 11% felt locking a child in a room or denying food was suitable punishment. (Kacker, L., Varadan, S. & Kumar, P., 2007, *Study on Child Abuse: India 2007, New Dehli: Ministry of Women and Child Development*)

A large scale research study conducted in May 2006 by Saath Charitable Trust and supported by Plan International (India) looked at children's experiences of corporal punishment in schools and in the home in one district in each of four states – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. The research involved 1,591 children mostly from 41 schools as well as members of various children's organisations. Parents, teachers (215) community members, government officials and other adults were also consulted. The main methods used were interviews, focus group discussions, and role play and classroom observation. The study found corporal punishment to be an accepted way of life in all the schools and communities visited. The most common forms of punishments were hitting with hands and stick, pulling hair and ears, and telling children to stand for long period in various positions. Threats of physical violence were also common. Severe forms of corporal punishment were also encountered, including being severely kicked, starvation, tying with rope to chairs/poles followed by beatings, and being assigned physically strenuous labour (e.g. in the fields). In all schools, there would be at least five beatings every day, in addition to other more moderate forms of punishment, though the punishments were less severe than those experienced in the home. Punishment in the home was inflicted by mothers and fathers on both girls and boys with equal severity, more frequently for boys. (Saath Charitable Trust/Plan International, India, 2006, *Impact of Corporal Punishment on School Children: A Research Study – Final Report*)

***"I am a senior journalist and this is the first time in my life I am listening about the corporal punishments on children and about Child Rights. I came to know about these through the pamphlets, distributed during this YATRA.***

***To my knowledge, many journalists are not aware of various issues that affect the child rights, due to which child rights are being violated many times in reporting news in both print and electronic media by our journalists. Why don't you train the journalists of our union at all levels (Village to State Level) ? If you agree for providing the trainings on child rights, I will make arrangements in our training classes which are being held at our unions..... "***

***Mr. A. Anjaneyulu, Senior Journalist and Member, IJU National Core Committee, Ex. State President, APUWJ***

HELP identified that "65% of the children were punished by teachers in various contexts" through its survey with a total of 250 children among 25 primary and upper primary schools through out Prakasam district during 2007. Among them 52% of the children were being punished by parents at homes.

### **Deliverable:**

- 1. Creating awareness on corporal punishments and its ill effects in 9 coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh for NGOs, and General Public through involving children at all levels.**
- 2. Building pressure on the government through media by sensitizing them on Corporal Punishments and various forms of violence on children.**
- 3. Collecting signatures from the public demanding for a national act. To protect the children from all forms of violence including corporal punishment at homes and educational institutions.**

### **Mass awareness campaign**

- Yatra (Rally) An Advocacy campaign through Children theatre and music band in Coastal AP, by involving children on corporal punishment and violence against children from Tada/Sulluripeta to Ichapuram covering 1200 Km of Coastal AP.
- **Awareness on existing laws** Information dissemination on government policies on corporal Punishments through IEC material in regional languages.

### **Process adopted**

#### **1. Identification and selection of Children to participate in the Yatra.**

In view of the proposed Week long YATRA, special care was taken in identifying the children. Children of women in prostitution in the red-light areas and disadvantaged children were given preference.

In the first round 50 children were selected and preliminary training on advocacy activities was conducted. Of whom 25 children were selected, based on their ability in communication.

#### **2. Trainings with Nalandaway, Chennai.**

NalaIndaway, Chennai masters in training the children in theatre art was selected to train the children, selected for the YATRA. Mr. Shriram, a professional in theater art and a veteran in training children had taken up the training part for this Yatra.

#### **3. Training provided to the children.**

After the selection process, the children were given the basic awareness on using the instruments Dappu, and Tudumbu by NalaIndaway team. The children were also trained in the basic steps for giving street play. The children were trained for 40 days (in thwo phases to avoid the disturbance for their regular education), during which they were trained in street play methods. After the completion of first phase, a performance was arranged in the community to asses the abilities of the children. With the feedback from the community and audience, the children were suggested about the changes they have to make in their approach.

#### **4. Logistic arrangements for the Yatra**

- Arranged District Level meeting with NGOs
- Formation of committees with the staff.
- NGO level coordination meeting with the committees.
- Invitation to Officials and media.
- Logistic preparation by the committees for the children travel, food and Night Stay.

- Campaign at every place started with creating the attention of general public through musical band.
- Performed street play depicting the issues of corporal punishments at homes and Educational Institutions, and violence in all forms on children for one and half hour.
- Addressed the media about corporal punishments in schools and at homes.
- Collecting the signatures from the general public demanding for protection of children

## How did the skits go ?.....

### Skit 1: Corporal Punishment

It starts with a scene which depicts a poor family where father(man of the house) is a drunkard. This is usually the scene in many houses today. Father come home drunk and stops his son from going to school. He argues that it as waste of time.

He snatches the money given by his wife to the child for purchasing books. When the boy reaches the school, teacher punishes him for bringing books, without finding the reason for not bringing books. Scared of the teacher; the boy drops out of school and goes to work.

**Scene two:** A family where both wife and husband argue & fight for every minute reason and finally show their anger on their children and beat them for no simple reason. Fed up with the daily issues at home, both the children ran away and finally reached the town, Boy turned into street child and the girl was trafficked and reached a brothel house.



**Message:** *By imposing corporal punishment at schools, these children are dropping out of school and are turning into child labour where as due to corporal punishments at home, children are running away and are turning into street children and are being exploited. Every one shall share love and affection to the children and protect their rights, by understand their issues.*

### Skit 2: Child abuse

It shows about the issues of children especially, girl children going to work and school in a rural background. Scene starts with a bunch of adolescent girls going to work in a village. The supervisor (Maistry) starts misbehaving with them and even dare to abuse them sexually, as he could do it with the support of the land lord who himself is also taking share in these acts. Even parents at home do not buy the word of their daughters and scolds them to change their behavior instead of addressing the problem.

In schools the male teachers in the name of appreciation and discipline try to touch the private parts of the innocent girls.

**Message:** *Due to the abuse on children, they are being the victims of self humiliation and are dropping out of schools. The girls going for work are staying back at their homes and are losing their livelihood.*

### Skit 3: Trafficking:

This skit explains the realistic situation in the rural and semi urban areas of our country. It starts with a scene, having college and school going girls being attracted on the chances in the films and fascinated by luxurious life style shown in media and films, blindly follows the traffickers who pretends as guides for the welfare of the children, finally ends up in the net

of pimps and brokers. On the other hand another set of girls living in the villages being attracted in the name of love and follow their lover, who finally ends up in the city and sell the girl in a brothel house.

**Message:** Be aware of the traffickers, who cheat the women and children by taking their poverty, greed and traffic them to brothel houses. One should be very vigilant about this type of incidences in their villages/towns and near their homes.

#### **Skit 4: Child Labour:**

This is a very impressive scene which truly reflects the lives of millions of children suffering as child labour. The scene shows the life of a child who goes to work due to the negligence of parents and poverty as well. It also shows the attitude of the employer. The types of punishments he imposes on the child for very small mistakes. Exploitation of the employer by extracting more work hours for meager amounts he pay the child..... and so on... finally retains the child as child labour.... Losing all the rights of child.

**Message:** Every child deserves to enjoy their childhood. Their childhood should be protected. They should not be away from school, which is a safe place for the child development.

**Children, after exhibiting each skit asked the audience about their reaction and response if they come across any such incidents in their village/town or near by their house.**

#### **Outcome:**

- **Starting date :** 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2008 at Tada( Nellore Dist) the boarder of Andhra and Tamil Nadu.
- **Closing Date :** 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008 at Ichapuram – Srikakulam Dist the boarder of Andhra – Orissa
- **Total Distance traveled ( Kilometers) :** 1200 KM (from tada to Ichapuram )
- **No.of children involved:** 25 children (13 Female + 12 Male) age range from 12 – 18 years
- **Back ground of children:** School going and non-school going and who are participated in our earlier child consultations
- **Kalajathas and Cultural Campaigns:** During the 9 days of the campaign children and the local NGO teams participated in the Kalajathas and spread the message of Corporal Punishment and abuse through music band, songs and play lets. These cultural campaigns carry the message powerfully to the public and made the programme a success.
- **Number of Press meets conducted:** 24 press meets were conducted in 9 Coastal districts and met more than 300 journalists (both print and electronic) where children directly addressed the media.
- **Public meetings:** on the National High way-5, children addressed the public in 25 public meetings on the road side villages and towns in their yatra. In addition children addressed the passengers in 10 bus-stations in various coastal districts in their yatra.
- **Media coverage:** we received a good support both from the electronic and Print Media. They covered all the press meetings in various towns of the coastal districts in the main and district editions and state wide and local T.V. news channels widely.
- **Distribution of Information Material:** During this campaign we have distributed nearly 10,000 pamphlets thus spreading the ill effects of corporal punishment and

various forms of child abuse including violence to the Public. Five Thousand (5000) posters carrying the need to campaign against corporal punishment were also pasted on the walls through out the campaign.

- **Collection of signatures:** as a part of this campaign signature were collected from the general public who are in solidarity against corporal punishment and violence on children. By demanding the Honorable Governor of Andhra Pradesh. We have collected 9,245 signatures in all 9 coastal districts along the National High Way.



**Responses from Public:**



**"I have learnt about Child Rights. I came to know about Corporal Punishment through this Chaitanya Yatra only. In my childhood I was punished many times at School and at Home in the name of discipline. I will extend my cooperation to the best of my abilities for the abolishing corporal punishments.....",**

**Smt. Katam Arunamma, ZP Chairperson , Prakasam Dist.**

**"The performance given by the children through Music band had attracted me very well. I used to tell the teachers and management (where my children are studying) to teach discipline to my children. After looking at this performance, I decided not to tell the same to the teachers. I am very happy for permitting this performance at our RTC depot, which sensitized the general public including me on Corporal Punishments and its ill effects....." Mr B. Rama rao, Regional Manager, APSRTC, Ongole,**



**"I am a government teacher I have seen many children in my career. Most of the times we feel that the children shall be given proper discipline in the best interest of the child. But I never felt that it will have so many ill effects. I will never use the methods I was using before. I shall treat the children with love and affection.....", Ramana Teacher , S.konda**

**"Even though I give little punishments to my children, I never felt that it will misguide them in their future. I will try to be a friend to them from now onwards..... ", smt. Mary Kumari, A mother, Kavali**





***"I always treat my brother and sister with love and affection. I use the soft methods which will never hurt them emotionally and physically to put them at discipline. This programme is really an eye opener for the parents and teachers who punish the children in the name of discipline.....",Ms. Rajani - A college student, ONGOLE.***

**"It is very interesting to see these little children giving performances on their own issues, I have never seen such... before. As a police person, I will extend my full support to prevent corporal punishment. .... Mr. Srinivasarao, CI of Police, Mangalagiri**



**"I have seen violations of child rights many times in my life, but I have no idea that they are violations. I used to think they are needed for keeping the child in discipline. After seeing this rally and the performance of these children, I was enlightened on child rights and corporal punishments. Now I am convinced that children shall be given protection and understood in order to give them a bright future....." Mr. Appala naidu, village surpanch , Srikakulam**

**"I am already aware of the corporal punishments. We have instructed our teachers in this regard. Yet we are receiving many complaints, we are also observing from the news papers and electronic media that, more need to be done on these corporal punishments. More awareness is needed to the teachers and general public, to prevent corporal punishments at homes and in schools. We will act tough on this issue....."**

**Mr. Janardhana Rao, Mandal Education Officer – Sullurupeta**



**By seeing these children coming on the street for protection of their rights, it is reminding all of us that we are not doing, what we have to in terms of protecting our children. We are working in ELURU, on child labour issues. With the information we are receiving, and by talking to the children who turned into street children and child labour, we can very easily say that the main reason for increase is the corporal punishments at home and in schools. I strongly support this movement for prevention of corporal punishments and to reduce the child labour.....I wish these little ones and their organizers a success in their rest of the journey.....**

**Fr.Moses, Director, Eluru Diocesan, and chairperson, Child Welfare committee, West Godavari Dist.**

## Voices of participant Children



**Geeta:** I Thank **Plan India** and **HELP** for giving me an opportunity to express our child issues in the form of theatre and drama to the general public through print and electronic media.

**Vali Raju:** I was the victim of corporal punishment and joined as a child labour. With the encouragement of **HELP**, I joined back in school. I got this opportunity to explain the kids of our age, about the ill effects of corporal punishments and how that leads to increase in drop-out rate through these skits



**Padmanjali:** All my friends and relatives used to tease me for being passive all these days. But I felt extremely happy when every one appreciated me after reading the news in both print and electronic media about our performance and specially when my photo was shown in Television and News Papers. I am surprised to know that I have very good talent and would like to give many such performances in future to sensitize every one on various child related issues. Thanks to **HELP** and **PLAN- India**.

**Ravi:** From my childhood I am scared of Media and Press, because I don't know how to answer their questions. I am surprised to know that I have got courage to face the media during this Yatra. I feel proud to be an instrument to bring the issues of our children to the public and Government through Electronic and print media.



**Lalaiaha:** Even though I could mix with children very well, I am shy while talking from a stage. But I wanted to overcome this fobia. Thanks to my mentors, **HELP** for giving me an opportunity to get rid off... Now I am very confident, after this Yatra where every one appreciated my performance.

**Anusha:** My friends used to say that I sing good. But when it comes to musical instruments, even after much practice, I could not show any progress. Trainers from Nalandaway, gave a good training. Today I am confident that I can really play drums. Thanks to Plan and HELP for this excellent opportunity. I wish to make more performances, if an opportunity is given.



**Chitti:** It is very excellent that we could make a very good presentation in YATRA with the support of HELP and Plan. But I felt that this is not enough to send message to the gross root level, who are really responsible for corporal punishments. I strongly feel to give similar performances at school level in the district, if an opportunity is given to me.

## What Next.....?

The 8 day long Chaitanya Yatra, taught many issues. We understood that Just one Yatra in the coastal region is not sufficient enough to address this corporal punishment issue. This need to be taken to Telangana and rayalaseema regions as well. Every section of people, from General public till the highly educated are still using corporal punishments on children in the name of discipline, which is leading to increase in child labour and street children.

In this context, we wish to take up this issue through, partners of PLAN, NATSAP, CACL-AP chapter and reach every village in all the three regions of AP and continue collecting signatures against corporal punishments. More over we wish to meet The Hon. Governor of Andhra Pradesh, and submit these signatures(collected throughout the Yatra and subsequently through CACL), on account of Child rights Week in November 2008.

As the elections are around the corner, we wish to take up this issue to the contestants (Both Independents and Political parties) and see that they include abolishing corporal punishments in their Election manifesto.

We wish to sensitize and train media on the corporal punishment issues, so that they can effectively address the issue in both print and electronic media and subsequently build pressure on the policy planners and makers.

### Details of Child Yatra from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Day oct	District	Area name	Place	Time from to		Responsible NGO	
				Start	Close		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nellore	Tada / Sullurupeta	Bus stand centre	10.00	12.00	CAMEL / Appele	
		Gudur	Bus stand centre	14.00	16.00	ARD	
		Nellore	Trunk road centre	17.00	19.00	Jagriti/ CJWS	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Prakasam	Kavali	Old bus stand	9.00	11.00	Sards	
		Singarayakonda	Bus stand	12.30	14.00	SARDS	
		Ongole	Trunk road	15.30	17.30	HELP	
4 <sup>th</sup>		Chilakaluripet	Radham centre	9.00	11.00	HELP	
		Guntur	Gandhi centre	14.00	16.00	HELP	
		Mangalagiri	Municipal office	16.30	18.30	HELP	
5 <sup>th</sup>	WGodavari	Vijayawada	Gandhi nagar	9.00	11.00	Guide & CRAF	
		Gudiwada	Market centre	12.30	13.30	Sneha	
		Eluru	RTC centre	14.00	16.00	AFD / Eluru SSC	
6 <sup>th</sup>	E.Godavari	T.P.Gudem	Main road	17.00	18.00	AFD	
		Rajahmundry	Main centre	9.00	11.00	JKWS / sravanti	
		Tuni	Main centre	14.00	16.00	CEAD/GSS	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Vizag	Narsipatnam	RTC complex	17.30	19.00	VJNNS	
		Vizag	Press Club	9.30	11.00	MAA	
		Vizag	RTC bus complex	11.20	12.10	MAA	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Srikakulam	Vizayanaga	Vizayanagarm	Kota centre	14.00	16.00	RES
		Srikakulam	Sirkakulam	7 roads cross	17.20	18.45	Sweep
		Srikakulam	Sirkakulam	Press club	08.00	09.00	Sweep
		Tekkali	Park centre	11.00	12.30	sweep	
		Ichapuram	Main road	14.00	15.30		

**Details of chief guests attended in each Venue during Yatra**

<b>District</b>	<b>name of place</b>	<b>Names of the participants</b>	<b>Designation</b>		
Nellore	Sullurupeta	Mr.Satyanarayana	CI of Police		
		T.Seshagiri rao	Villalge surpanch		
		Janardhan	Mandal Education officer		
		Venkata ramiah	MPTC		
	Gudur	Mr. Chalapathi rao	Municipal counselor		
	Nellore	Mr.Venkata rao	SI of town		
		Smt. Ramanamma	Chairperson, CWC		
		EVS Naidu	Dist member, Dist child labour eradication committee		
		Smt. Sailaja	Municipal mayor		
		Kavali	Mr.Baigh	Municipal counselor	
Smt. Lakshmi			CDPO, ICDS		
Prakasam	Singarayakonda	Sri Samuel	TI, RTC busstand		
		Mr. Yanadhi	Village surpanch		
	ONGOLE	Smt. K.Arunamma	ZP, chairperson and vice president PCC.		
		Sri. Rama rao	RM, APSRTC		
		Smt. Sarala devi	CDPO, ICDS		
		Smt. Madhavi	Vice-chairman Ongole municipality		
		Guntur	Chilakaluripet	Smt. Nasirunnessa	Municipal Counselor
				Smt. Ramanamma	Municipal counselor
Sri Allabakshu	Municipal Educational officer				
Smt. Kalpana	CDPO, ICDS				
Guntur	Sri. Sanjeevaiah		Senior criminal lawyer		
	Sri. Durga rao		Municipal corporation floor leader		
	Sri yesunadham		Public prosecutor		
	Smt. Vasundara		APO- DWD&CW		
	Mangalagiri		M.Malleswara rao	Municipal vice chairman	
			Sri A.sreenivasa rao	CI of police	
E.Gangadhara rao		Surpanch china kakani			
Sri Krishna murthy		ZPTC member			
Krishana	Vizayawada	Mr.G.Prasad	CRAF		
		Sri. Anjaneeyulu	Senior journalist and ex state president of Journalist unioun		
		Smt. Jyothy	APO, DWD&WC		
	Gudiwada	Sri. Chitti babu	Municipal Vice chairman		
		Mr. Samrajyam	Municipal counselor		
		West Godavari	Eluru	Fr.Moses	Chairperson, CWC & Director Diocesion
Durga Prasad	I town SI				
Subba Rao	3 town SI				
Sri hari rao	Labour officer				
Surya Rao	Director, NCLP				

		Ruzweld	Child line
	Tadepalli gudem	G Venkateswra rao	CI
		D.V enkateswarlu	SI
		Smt. K.Anjali	Municipal counselor
East Godavari	Rajahmundry	Sri. D.Rajarathnam	Municipal vice chairman
		Sri. Lakshmana rao	Education Officer
		Smt. Kameswari	Municipal counselor
	Tuni	Sri. Raju	Municipal counselor
Vishakapatnam	Narsipatnam	Smt. SV Bavani	Plan India
		Sri. G.Gopi	AGS coalition
		Sri. Appala naidu	Ward member
	Vizag		
Vizayanagarm	Vizayanagaram	Sri. M.S.Raju	Dist Deputy Education officer
		Sri. K.Narsimham	Bar Association Secretary
		Sri. Lakhsman	Municipal counselor
		Smt.radha kumari	CDPO, ICDS
Srikakulam	Srikakulam	Sri. Niranjana	Dist officer, NCLP
		Sri. Naiak	ITDA officer
		Sri Appala naidu	Surpanch,
		Smt. Vanaja rani	APO, WD&CW
	Tekkali	Smt. Rajani	CDPO, ICDS.
		Sri. Ramana raju	Village surpanch

# Campaign against child abuse begins

It will end at Itchapuram on October 9

Staff Reporter

ELURU: It's a blend of fun and social cause with tender children as its central theme. This is how one could sum up on the street show performed by a small group of children from Prakasam district here as their campaign-on-wheels rolled into West Godavari district from the neighbouring Krishna on Sunday with a message against child abuse. The campaign was launched at Sullurupet on the Andhra-Tamil Nadu borders on October 2 and is scheduled to be wound up at Itchapuram on the Andhra-Orissa borders on October 9 with a cause to free children from all sorts of abuse and harassment at home, at work and at school.

Any vacation means fun and joy for children. But it's not so for a group of 25 boys and girls in 12-17 age group from Ongole. The children of sex workers and fisher folks, armed with drums and trumpets, take a plunge into the campaign during the Dasara vacations to drum up support for the cause of their fellow children.

Their show with the theme woven around the beating of children at home by parents under the influence of alcohol, at workplace by employers, by teachers at school and child trafficking, made the dignitaries at the programme, who included police officers, the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, and Fr.



**FOR A CAUSE:** Child artistes perform a street show in defence of child rights at Eluru on Sunday. — PHOTO: A.V.G.PRASAD

• They will collect 10,000 signatures en route in support of their demands

• Memorandum to be submitted to Chief Minister, Governor on November 14

Moses of the Andhra Pradesh Social Service Centre listen in rapt attention. The show ends with the shrilling slogan, "Spare the rod and save the child".

K.N. Narayana Murthy, Director, HELP, a child advoca-

cy group, told *The Hindu* that collection of about 10,000 signatures from cross section of the people en route in support of the charter of children's demands also forms part of the campaign. The memoranda with the signa-

tures will be submitted to the Governor and the Chief Minister Y.S.Rajasekhara Reddy on November 14.

The charter of demands include formation of a State-level Commission for Children on the lines of the Women Commission, comprehensive legislation to free children from all sorts of violence and constitution of a grievance cell at the district level so as to provide a ventilation for children to redress their grievances.

# DECCAN Chronicle

5 OCTOBER 2008

## Campaign against child abuse

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

GUNTUR

**Oct. 4:** Jana Chaitanya Yatra has been launched to campaign against child labour.

The campaign has been initiated by NGOs to create awareness among people on violence against children. The rally reached Guntur on Saturday. The rally was launched at Tada mandal in Nellore district and will reach Ichapuram in Srikakulam district by passing through all the coastal districts.

In all, 25 children and NGOs are participating in the rally, according to its state coordinator, Mr N. Ramamohan.

# 'Save children' campaign enters Rajahmundry

Staff Reporter

RAJAHMUNDRY: Demanding a separate Act for Children on the lines of Domestic Violence Act Jana Chaitanya Yatra from Tada to Itchapuram has reached Rajahmundry on Monday. With a slogan 'Save children from torture and cruelty', the HELP organisation along with Campaign against Child Labour, AGS and Plan India Young Hearts is organising this Yatra.

A troupe of 25 children performed violence against children through street play near Y-junction. K. Narayana Murthy, Director of HELP speaking on the occasion said that their teams have done different surveys in four states.

Cruelty against children in schools, hostels, houses and other places is more in 13 states including Andhra Pradesh.

According to UNICEF survey sexual harassment against 13 and 14 years of girls in our state is 41 per cent which is in 5th place and age group between 15 and 18 is 35.82 per cent (8th) place.



**FOR A CAUSE:** Campaign against Child Labour troupe performing their skills near Y. Junction in Rajahmundry on Monday. — PHOTO: S. RAMBABU



# Kids demand protection under law

Express News Service  
Vijayawada, October 5

**CHILDREN** who are on a tour from Tada to Itchapuram, demanding the enactment of an Act on the lines of Domestic Violence Act, specifically for children, reached the city today.

The Children Awareness Yatra which started on October 2 is being organised jointly by three voluntary organisations — HELP, Campaign Against Child Labour and Plan India.

As a part of their campaign the children staged street plays in various schools on corporal punishment, child trafficking and child labour.

According to a Plan India survey conducted in 41 schools in four states, including Andhra Pradesh, corporal punishments are being meted out to students in all the schools in the name of discipline.

Expressing concern over the growing

number of incidents of corporal punishments in schools, Campaign against Child Labour convener Nimmaraju Rammohan told mediapersons here today that the survey revealed that at least 69 per cent of the children were being subjected to physical torture. About 88.6 per cent children were being subjected to domestic violence. While 50.9 per cent were subjected to domestic violence in the hands of the mothers, fathers account for 37.6 per cent and teachers 44.8 per cent, he added.

Among other things, Rammohan demanded that a grievance cell should be set up at the district level to solve children's problem, awareness programmes should be conducted for teachers on corporal punishments, child rights commission should be set up at the state-level giving priority to children in it and implementation of GO 16 (2002) in letter and spirit. HELP representative Padma was also present.



**CREATING AWARENESS:** Members of Balala Janachaitanya Yatra create awareness on various child rights issues through cultural programmes in Vijayawada on Sunday.

THE HINDU • MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008

## Children crusade against corporal punishment

They present cultural shows at various places to deliver the message

G. Ravikiran

**VIJAYAWADA:** A 25-member band of school children aged seven to 14 years, who embarked upon "Balala Jana Chaitanya Yatra" for raising awareness, arrived in the city on Sunday, bringing with them their crusading zeal to mobilise support for rooting out every trace of corporal punishment in schools and parental pressures at home.

Through their presentation of cultural shows with drums and skits, the child crusaders made a powerful plea for greater sensitivity among school managements, teachers and parents to a child's rights to a punishment-free education and healthy growth. They gave a two-hour long cultural show at Vijayawada Press Club, which left the place with a shriller and louder message against physical and psychological punishment to children.

The Ongole-based Help organisation brought together these children in its bid to sensitise people to the necessity for their cooperation in fighting the evils of punishment, indifference, atrocities, exploitation and negligence of children's rights.

With drums hung from their waist, the children used their tender hands to produce rhythmic and deafening beats that drowned all voices around and brought to the fore the immediate need for measures, on the lines of the



**LITTLE CHAMPIONS:** Children performing at a cultural show on child rights in Vijayawada on Sunday.

— PHOTO: CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

domestic violence act, to provide a permanent relief to children from corporal punishment and mental agony.

"Corporal punishment is main reason for many children leaving school and home. They end up as street children. Some fall prey to different forms of exploitation like child labour," said Nimmaraju Rammohan, State-level convener, Cam-

campaign Against Child Labour (CACL). Child rights activists Goda Prasad, B.V. Rao and others extended their cooperation to the children's show.

The children's Chaitanya Yatra, which began at Sullurpet in Nellore district, will conclude at Itchapuram in Srikakulam district, thus covering an 8-day campaign, aimed at generating aware-

ness about children's rights. Sometime later, they will submit a memorandum to the Governor and the State Government to bring their attention to the need for increasing budget and implementing measures like GO 16 for the benefit of children.

### Studies

The organisers pointed out that in a nation-wide sur-

vey conducted by the UNICEF last year, it was found that Andhra Pradesh stood in 5th position in atrocities committed against girls of 13 and 14 years of age.

Another study revealed that 88.6 per cent children were subjected to harassment at home, while 50.9 per cent of this problem was because of mothers with fathers guilty for the test.



# On the move with a message

## Children take up campaign against corporal punishment



**LOUD AND CLEAR:** Children from Prakasam district staging a skit in the city on Tuesday.

— PHOTO: C. V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Staff Reporter

**VISAKHAPATNAM:** At a time when children of their age long to enjoy the Dasara vacation, 20-odd schoolchildren have embarked on a journey from Nellore to Srikakulam to create awareness about child rights among teachers and parents. Dressed in colourful attire, the troupe members, led by two college girls, beat the drums and attracted the attention of the gathering at Dabagardens on Tuesday. A couple of them donned the roles of teachers while others became students. One teacher was fond of taking out the stick for ev-

- Children don the role of teachers, parents in skit
- Corporal punishment termed a major cause for dropouts

ery small mistake and beat his students. The other, a Physical Education Trainer, feels that corporal punishment is the only way to discipline children.

At the end of the skit, the participants sing in folk style to enlighten the public on the fallacies of teachers and parents that beating children is the only way to make them learn. On the contrary, many students develop an aversion

to studies and lead to behavioural problems in them.

### Begins at Tada

"It is unfortunate that not only students and parents but teachers are also unaware that corporal punishment is banned in schools. The campaign is aimed at creating awareness among the public. We started at Tada on October 2 and will end our campaign at Itchapuram on

October 9," said Padmanjali, a polytechnic student.

The campaign is being organised by HELP and Plan India along with other voluntary organisations spearheading the cause of child rights.

"The children were trained to beat the drums and in singing. The skits are against child labour and child trafficking apart from corporal punishment. The views and signatures of those who witness the skits would be collected and presented to the Governor and the Chief Minister on November 14," director of HELP K. Narayana Murthy said.

**Pariciapants In Yatra**

- S.Vali Raju
- A.Lalaiah
- G.Swami
- V.Naresh
- A.Jayaram
- S.Siddaiah
- D.Anil
- A.Ravi
- A.Ravichandra
- A.Babu
- D.Durga Prasad
- G.Usha
- D.Padmanjali
- D.Anusha
- A.Ratna Kumari
- Kavitha
- Chitti
- Deepthi
- Adilakshmi
- Jeevana Kumari
- Karimunnisa
- Anitha
- Geetha
- Subbalakshmi
- Raju



Our Special Thanks to Mr. Khannan, Programme officer, Plan India for his continuous kind Presense and timely guidance through out this Yatra.  
 We Thank our Cultural Coordinator Mr. Chandra for his support and encouragement from the beginning of the training.  
 We are thankful to all the Project coordinators of HELP for their efforts and support to make this Yatra successful



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