

National Plan of Action for Children

NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN (NPAC)

(STATE ACTION PLAN, IMPLEMENTING AGENCY AND YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION)

GOALS

- To eliminate child labour from hazardous occupations by 2007, and progressively move towards complete eradication of all forms of child labour.
- To protect children from all kinds of economic exploitation.

OBJECTIVES

The above goals will be achieved through the following objectives: -

- To ensure regular and systematic enumeration of all child labour.
- Institute a rights-based uniform definition of child labour and bonded child labour in existing labour laws.
- To rescue and remove children below ten years of age from the workforce by 2010.
- To expand the list of hazardous occupations to facilitate progressive elimination of all forms of child labour.
- To universalise and accelerate school enrolment, attendance and retention so that children are prevented from being employed as labour.
- To intensify and implement strategies to protect children from economic exploitation.
- To take immediate and effective measures to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour and to provide for the rehabilitation and social integration of the rescued children.
- To prevent and prohibit trafficking of children for the purpose of labour including domestic service and other informal sectors.
- To create programmes and preventive interventions specially targeted towards the high supply areas, linking these with anti-poverty and developmental measures.
- To recover and rehabilitate children from socially stigmatised occupations like manual scavenging, rag picking etc.

STRATEGIES

The above objectives will be achieved by the following strategies: -

- Request the Census of India 2011 to enumerate the number, gender, caste, religion, occupation and ages of children engaged in all kinds of child labour.
- Country-wide survey to ascertain the existence, prevalence and nature of child labour below ten years of age in both the organised and un-organised sectors.
- Encourage surveys and researches to gather data on working children including informal sector and children working in domestic service.
- Effectively enforce child labour regulatory legislation and rehabilitation of working children through enrolment in schools, bridge courses of education/life skills training/counseling/recreational facilities and advocacy.
- Link the child labour elimination efforts with education measures with an attempt to ensure that all children in the age group of 5-8 years get directly linked to school and the older children are mainstreamed to the formal education system through the rehabilitation centers by 2012.
- Strengthen the formal school mechanism in the endemic child labour areas in the country both in terms of quality and access so as to motivate parents and children to regard school as beneficial and worthwhile.
- Ensure convergence of national poverty eradication and developmental programmes aiming at prevention and progressive elimination of all forms of child labour.
- Educate society not to employ children or economically exploit them.
- Safeguard the health, safety and developmental rights of working children with interim protective measures.
- Ensure involvement of committed voluntary organizations at the district level to assist in the running of the National Child Labour Project schools.
- Introduce bridge schools for all working children after which they have to be enrolled in the formal schools.

- Develop mechanisms to ensure that children, presently working in the informal sector including domestic service, have access to basic nutrition, clothing, education and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.
- Ensure prevention of trafficking of children for domestic work and their sexual exploitation and physical and mental abuse and neglect. Establish a system for reporting of such incidents.
- Encourage PRIs to maintain records of migration and make the information available to the appropriate authority.
- Licence and regulate placement services to ensure that children are not offered for employment
- Ensure implementation of Inter State Migrant Workman's Act.
- Strengthen and enforce the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, and the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act to ensure prosecution of offenders.

(Details <http://wcd.nic.in/napaug16a.pdf>)