

# Training for Gram Panchayat Anti Trafficking Committee (ATC)



District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Police,  
Department of Women & Child Development, Department of Labour,  
Department of Public Education, Department of Public Health,  
Unicef Child Protection Project, Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
Raichur. Karnataka. INDIA



unicef

**If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.**

**- Mahatma Gandhi**

**There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.**

**- Nelson Mandela**

Each and every child which takes birth on this earth has right to healthy- meaningful life, right to education, right to equality and right to become a valuable citizen of a country. Even Indian constitution has given all those rights to the children of this country. The difference in gender, caste, religion, status and wealth should not hamper the constitutional right of a child. This is a constitutional right for our children. Even though they have this right, millions of children in this country lack basic education, health, shelter and protection. Millions of children are still work as child labours. Child marriage is still taking place. More than that women and child trafficking is rampart all over the country. If we look in to this grave situation, the responsibility of child protection lays on the shoulder of each and every citizen of this country. Government agencies always play their role in this aspect. Along with them community and each individual has to play a very important role in child protection. The first step in child protection is putting an end to a menace called trafficking of women and child in this country. Keeping that in mind, Anti Trafficking Committee's (ATC) of Gram Panchayat's has been sensitized by series of training programs in Raichur district of Karnataka. This is a first time, serious, systematic attempt in terms sensitizing the base of democratic set up in India, Gram Panchayat's. And this is a new beginning in child protection efforts in India.

# Content

## Phase I

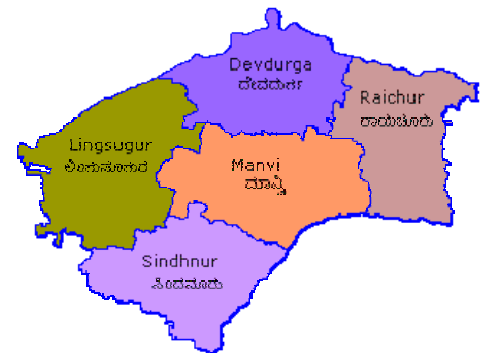
- Scenario
- Vision
- Objective
- Methodology
- Workshops
- Photo essay
- Photo essay
- Case studies

## Phase II

- Objective
- Workshops
- Case Studies
- Achievements
- Outcome
- Future action plans
- Conclusion
- Abbreviations

# Scenario

Raichur district, which has blessed by two rivers Krishna and Tungabhadra on north and south is located in the north east Karnataka. The district has rich in natural resource and the economy is mainly dependent on agriculture. Where as in case of Human Development index the situation of this district is alarming and especially the child protection is got last priority here. According to the baseline survey conducted by Unicef, 85% of children in rural part of Raichur are vulnerable to become child labor. 2005 Karnataka Human Development Report says 57% of girls here are married before 18 years. 75 % of working children in Raichur district sweat themselves in agricultural field. 40% of children are dropouts from school here. These figures themselves speak about the child protection scenario in Raichur district. The rampant child labor practice, endless child marriages also suggests the women and child trafficking practices in this district. Especially child laborers in agriculture sectors have been trafficked from one place to other within and outside the district. During the cotton season there will be rampant trafficking of children from one place to other across the district.



# Scenario



*Child labors in the cotton filed of Raichur Taluk*

## **Trafficking of women and children**

Primarily trafficking is displacing women and children from their homes and families. Moving them to other places either within a given geographical area or outside with an aim of exploiting them.

### **Means used**

- Threat or Use of Force
- Other forms of coercion
- Abduction
- Fraud
- Deception
- Abuse of position of vulnerability
- Giving or receiving payments/benefits

# Scenario

According to an estimate, every year more than 3 million children and young women in India lose their childhood and normal life due to human trafficking. There are law, state, systems to curb this social menace, but yet there is no full stop. The main reason for nonstop human trafficking in India is the lack of awareness and preventing mechanism in grass root level. Usually in India, trafficking flow will be from rural to urban set up for domestic and industrial labor. Illegal and forced child marriage happens mostly in rural areas along with millions of child labors working in agrarian sector. The most dangerous aspect of trafficking concludes at sexual exploitation of minor across the red light areas of all major cities. And this is an in non-stop never ending process. Though there are tough laws like Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA 1986), Juvenile Justice Act (2000) and Child Rights Convention (1989); the lack of coordination in the executive level facilitates endless trafficking. Along with that, in the supply level lack of education, awareness, cultural-religious practices and weak law enforcement is enhancing the cruelest child right abuse in India.

**Anti Trafficking Committee (ATC):** Keeping all the above factors in mind Government of India came out with Anti Trafficking Committees in three tiers Panchayat Raj System in 2007. Under the shadow of ITPA, JJA and Child Right Convention (CRC); District, Taluk and Gram Panchayat level ATC's has been formed. Department of Women and Child Development took this initiation. The idea behind this major step is preventing human trafficking was empowering the grass root level by enhancing the awareness in local bodies. This is not a reverse-pyramid. Instead this is a pyramid standing upright, where the major responsibility lies in the broader base. In this system ATC of a Grama Panchayat plays a major role. GP President will head this committee and one of the Head Master (preferably lady) will be Vice President. The Anganawadi Supervisor will be secretary of GP ATC. Anganawadi volunteers, SHG members and as a whole the entire community will be part of GP ATC's. In the upper crust both in Taluk and District ATC's almost all top most government officials will be part of the ATC. They basically monitor the activities of GP ATC and whenever there is a need, they will support the Child Right activities in the grass root.

## Vision

The vision of Unicef Child Protection Project is to make Raichur in to a safe for children. With convergence of all the Government Departments, participation of local community and civil society organizations UCPP is aiming to turn Raichur in to a zero child labor Taluk. Curbing women and child trafficking is one of the main mottos of this project. With the help of Anti Trafficking Committee (ATC) of Gram Panchayat, UCPP has decided to tackle this menace in the root level itself.



### Anti trafficking committee in Gram Panchayat

▪ Gram Panchayat president	President
▪ The head master of School (If more than one HM, preference for Women HM)	Vice President
▪ Gram Panchayat Secretary	Member
▪ Village accountant	Member
▪ All Anganawadi workers	Member
▪ Stree Shakti Group representative	Member
▪ Women Group's members	Member
▪ Yuvati Mandala members	Member
▪ Supervisor, Department of Women and child development	Member Secretary



# Objective

The main objective of ATC training program was to enrich and empower the grass root level both in the form of knowledge and responsibility. As we mentioned earlier the ATC's are existed on paper from few years. Where as in actual sense they were not working and we cannot blame the grass root level governing system, Gram Panchayat's for this. In most of the cases the elected representatives of Gram Panchayat's doesn't know that, there is a statutory body called ATC under their umbrella. After understanding the grass root level scenario, Unicef came out with this unique program of training the ATC members of all the Gram Panchayat's of Raichur Taluk. With the help of district administration and all other departments the training program has been conducted.

## **The main objectives were:**

- Strengthening grass root level system, Gram Panchayat by educating the ATC members and community.
- Elected representatives, all other stake holders from various departments and in general to community also trained in a holistic way.
- Building an ownership in lowest strata of Panchayat Raj system, Gram Panchayat by empowering with them knowledge on ATC.
- The role and responsibility of each and every member of ATC team has been explained to them.
- To make them understand all the Acts and the IPC sections regarding women and child protection. Also, it has been taught to them how to use them when there is a requirement.
- The rationale behind conducting training to two or more Panchayat's in one place is to mutually understand the situation in the neighboring villages by sharing the case studies and experiences.
- To share the ideas in mass level and educate them through the legal aspects involved in it.
- To enhance team spirit in grass root level and to convince them about the worthiness of community participation in ant trafficking activities in Gram Panchayat level.

## Objective



*A child labor in a garage been taken in to the custody by Unicef child protection team and police.*

In the Phase I of the ATC training program, Raichur Taluk's 31 Gram Panchayat Anti Trafficking Committee members have been trained in 5 days. During this period the workshops has been conducted in 11 different locations and 730 ATC members have been trained in a systematic way. The main objective of this training is to sensitize all the members of ATC in all the Gram Panchayat.

### **The question of 'consent'**

- 'Consent' by children is not considered a legal justification in the case of trafficking.
- 'Consent' given under force or by fraud/coercion is also not considered as 'consent' in the case of adults.

# Methodology

The experts from Unicef child protection project, child protection officers from Women and Child Development Department of Karnataka Government, Child protection specialists from different NGO's and Journalists are participated as resource persons in these workshops. Two teams of 4 resource persons are formed and each team has conducted day long training program in the designate location.

In each training location the following sessions are conducted with great care. In all the location utmost respect is given to local experience and sentiments. The prominence is given to local representatives and the importance of community participation stressed all along.

## Session details

- Inauguration by Gram Panchayat Presidents and resource persons.
- The details of women and child trafficking have been explained.
- The role ATC's in Jilla, Taluk and Gram Panchayat's in curbing this menace have been told.
- The responsibility of ATC's in Gram Panchayat's has been explained.
- The individual responsibility of each member of committee has been stressed.
- The overall view about the local scenario and local situation concerned to women and child trafficking has been discussed in length.
- Depending on the feedback from the participants few case studies have been taken as example and tried to come out with on spot solution.
- The question and answer session conducted.
- Signature campaign launched.

## Workshops

As we mentioned earlier in the first phase of ATC training program 31 Gram Panchayat's have been covered. Here are the details of Gram Panchayat and number of members participated during a daylong training program in various locations of Raichur Taluk.

Sl/ No	Date	Place	Participated GP	Total no of members
1	12-01-2011	Yapaladinni	Yapaladinni Atkur	50
		Chandrabanda	Chandrabanda Singanodi Bayidoddi	70
2	13-01-2011	Matamari	Matamari Puratipli	50
		Idapanur	Idapanur Talamary Ganadal Jambaladinni	90
3	18-01-2011	Yadlapura	Yadlapura Kadalur Jegarakal	70
		Devasugura	Devasugura Chikkasugura Shakhavadi Sagamakunta	90
		Kalmala	Kalmala Jagirvenkatapura Mansalapura	70

## Workshops

SI/ No	Date	Place	Participated GP	Total no of members
4	19-01-2011	Yeragera	Yeragera Gunjalli Mittimalkapur	70
		Gillesugura	Gillesugura Elebichalli	50
5	20-01-2011	L.K Doddi	L.K Doddi Bijnagera	50
		Mamadapura	Mamadapura Merchet hal Kamalapura	70
		Total	31 Grama Panchayat	730 Members



*ATC members in one of the training program conducted in Raichur Taluk*

# Workshops

## **Kalmala (11.00 AM to 5.30 PM)**

On January 18, 2011 ATC training program was held at Kalmala Higher Primary School. 70 ATC members of Kalmala, Jagir Venkatapura and Mansalapura Gram Panchayat were participated in this training program. Ms Pankaja, Deputy Director, Department of Women and Child, Karnataka; Rangamma, President, Kalmala Gram Panchayat; K Raghavendra Bhat, Coordinator, Unicef Child Protection Project and all other members of ATC were present during a daylong training program.

After the inauguration of Pankaja, explained the importance of ATC in safe guarding the interest of women and children in rural areas. When she was explaining the meaning of trafficking, one of the participants asked, “If women and children move with the consent of their parents or family members, is it called as trafficking?” The answer is “Yes”. In case of children, even if parents gave consent, that’s trafficking only. In case of adults if it is forceful that’s called as trafficking.

“In general, trafficking is correlated to flesh trade. If people move children and women from one place to other works like agriculture, industry and other allied activities, is it trafficking?” Indramma, Supervisor, Department of Women and Child development asked. Indramma is also the member secretary of ATC in three Gram Panchayat’s. The answer given by experts is, yes this is also termed trafficking only and it is illegal.

One of the ATC members, an Anganawadi worker was worried about two bonded child labor who were working in one of the politically bigwig landlord in her area. Her question is, “can ATC intervene and save those children from the clutches of landlord”. K Raghavendra Bhat, Coordinator, Unicef Child Protection Project said, “Certainly ATC team can intervene and save those children”.

If that landlord doesn’t agree to release the children? The answer came from the Rangamma, Gram Panchayat President “First we will go and convince that landlord. If he doesn’t agree, we will go and give police complaint and save those children.

## Workshops

The head master of Jagir Venkatapura Government Higher Primary School was very much worried about drop outs and child marriage. Usually in cotton season parents force their children to work in fields. On the other hand in some cases in very tender age girls will be forcefully married by parents. The discussion started about whether ATC can intervene and stop child labor and child marriages in its vicinity. K Raghavendra Bhat clarified that ATC has right to intervene in both cases.

Most of the members, who have participated in training program thought that trafficking is the main cause for child labor and child marriage in their area. If they control trafficking of both women and children with the effective management of ATC, certainly many related problem could be solved. 80% of the members agreed for this issue and pledged for the cause on spot.

How much effective could be an ATC? And who has to manage it? The participants felt that each and every member of the ATC has to take the responsibility. Of course the lead has to be taken by elected representatives. All the Gram Panchayat Presidents and members who were present pledged that they will regularly conduct ATC meetings. They said, along with the help of all the members and community participation they will control the women and children trafficking in their jurisdiction. The role of Self Help Groups, Women Associations are also been discussed in a lengthy manner. The members had view that, both SHG and women associations play a very important role in anti trafficking drive. The members of SHG and women association in villages will have direct access to each and every family in their vicinity. So, they can have an eye on the activity of trafficking and immediately report to ATC if something unusual happens. More than that in grass root level they can educate the mass about the ill effect of trafficking of women and children.

Almost all the members who were participated agreed that, an effective management of ATC will drastically reduce the risk of women and children trafficking in rural areas.

# Workshops

## **Gillesuguru (11.00 AM to 5.30 PM)**

On January 19, 2010 ATC training program was held at Gillesuguru Gram Panchayat. The ATC members of Gillesuguru and Elebichalli Gram Panchayat's have been participated in this daylong training program. Mallamma, President of Gillesuguru Gram Panchayat and Ramappa, Vice President of Elebichalli Gram Panchayat were chief guests during the inauguration.

In a structured way resource persons explained about the role and responsibility of ATC. Almost like in Kalmala, same questions were raised by the members during the training program. Mallamma, was doubtful about the statutory authority of the ATC in Gram Panchayat. It has been made it clear to all the members and stake holders that ATC is the statutory body and it is a powerful body to curb the women and children trafficking in Gram Panchayat level.

One of the ATC members effectively conveyed her views. "See most of the women here are either grown up as child labor or victims of child marriages. We don't want our children to live like us. For child labor and trafficking poverty is not the reason. The reason is parent's carelessness about their own children". Almost all the members agreed on her view and pledged that along with ATC, they will educate the entire community. They came to a conclusion that sensitisation of entire community in the grass root level has to be priority of ATC.

In the same way training programs have been conducted in Yeregera, L K Doddi and Kamalapura. In almost all cases the members came to know the importance of ATC. Especially elected representatives and stake holders understood their responsibility as ATC members.

The response was very satisfactory and in all the cases the responsibility of organization of bimonthly meeting was bestowed upon the member secretary of ATC's. The Supervisors of Department of Women and Child development were actively arranged all the training programs and they pledged their will to actively take it forward with the help of elected representatives and all the stake holders.



## Photo Essay



*Inuagaration of ATC training workshop by GP Presidents and resource perosns (Above); Interaction with one of the rescued child labor, who has joined back to school by resource person (below).*



## Photo Essay



*UNICEF child protection project coordinator K Raghavendra Bhat explaining the end result of trafficking and child labor menace (above); One of the ATC member presenting his view about women and child trafficking scenario in root level (below).*



## Photo Essay



*One of the ATC member raising questions about the practicality of ATC during training program (above); An ATC member pledging her signature during the Signature Campaign at the end of a training program (below).*



## Photo Essay



*UNICEF child protection project coordinator K Raghavendra Bhat talking about women and child trafficking issue in one of the training program (above); Women and Child Development Department Deputy Director Pankaja expressing her view during one of the training program (below).*



## Case studies



### When Khairunnisa cried...

During a training program in Mamadapurra one of the ATC member Khairunnisa started crying. When enquired, she narrated the story of her to cousins, who has been trafficked when they were just 13 years old. Both of them have been trafficked in the name of marriage and the families don't know about their where about now.

### A victim of child marriage

“I was seven year old when I was married to person who is almost twenty years older than me. After that I really don't know what happened in my life. But I will never allow any girl child to get marry or trafficked in below age in my village” Bhagyamma one of the ATC member at Gillesuguru pledged during workshop.

### 80% can be curbed in root level

During the ATC training in Kalmala, one of the member and Government Higher Primary School head master told, “If ATC performs its duty honestly; we can curb 80% of women and child trafficking at grass root level itself. Only thing we all individuals should act in tandem” he told.



## Case studies



### **Put the children in school**

During the training program at Gillesuguru, Saileshchandra head master of Government Higher Primary School told, “Nine girls in my school are married. I think with the help of ATC we can also target other menaces like child marriage and child labor in villages very effectively. Putting all the children to school in the village is the only solution for all these”.

### **Trafficking is happening**

“People sitting here may say no. But regularly trafficking is happening in our villages. In many cases for agricultural labor purpose and in few cases women and children are trafficked for flesh trade. I think with ATC we can stop this menace very effectively” Mallamma, GP President of Elebichali firmly expressed her views in training program.

### **How to stop politics?**

During the training program in Mamadapura, one of the head master expressed her concern about local politics. “We know three kids are working as child or bonded labors in local landlord. He is a powerful politician. How to go against him?” she asked. The answer came “through ATC”.



**Phase - II**

## Objective



*District Judge N B Kulakarni inaugurating legal awareness seminar on women and child protection laws at Lingasuguru.*

During the first phase of ATC training programs in Raichur Taluk, The lawyers association of Lingasuguru Taluk has arranged one day legal awareness seminar about women and child protection laws. Unicef child protection project coordinator K Raghavendra Bhat has been invited to give a special lecture in this seminar. On that course project coordinator explained about the ongoing ATC training workshops in Raichur Taluk. Immediately legal fraternity of demanded for similar type of ATC training workshops in all taluk's Raichur district. UNICEF and District administration took serious note of this demand and with mutual consent it has been decided that along with Raichur taluk, Devadurga, Lingasuguru, Sindanuru and Manvi taluks has to be covered. The decision has been taken to come up with a second phase training program.



## Workshops

In the second phase Devadurga, Lingasuguru, Sindhanuru and Manvi taluk's have been covered. In 16 days long program 143 Gram Panchayat's ATC members have been trained in 32 different locations. In total 2940 ATC members have been attended training program. The same methodology which has been used in first phase has been adopted here.

SI/ No	Date	Place	Participated GP	Total no of members
1	04-02-2011	Arakere	Arakere, Jadaladinni, Alkod, Kyadigere, Ganekal, Kottadoddi, Galaga, Mushtura (8 GP)	175
		Devadurga	Koppara, Masarkal, Jerabandi, Karigudda, Hambali, K Erabagera (6 GP)	125
2	05-02-2011	Gabburu	Gabburu, Maladakil, Ramadurga, Hemanala, Nagaradinni, Hirebudanauru, Googal (7 GP)	150
		Jalahalli	Jalahalli, Chinchodi, Karadigudda, Ganadala, H Mudaragi, Siddhapura, Palkanamaradi (7 GP)	150
03	08-02-2011	Gurugunta	Gurugunta, Devarabupura, Taidoddi, Gauduru, Kota (5 GP)	110

		Hatti	Hatti, Gejjalagatti, Anvari, Sarjapura, Rodalabanda (5 GP)	110
<b>04</b>	09-02-2011	Nagarala	Nagarala, Narakaladinni, Rodalabanda UAP, Bayyapura (4 GP)	100
		Eechanala	Eechanala, Kachapura, Gorabala, Honnalli, Guntagol (5 GP)	120
<b>05</b>	10-02-2011	Mavinabhavi	Mavinabhavi, Anahosuru, Mutturu, Santekalluru, Kachapura (5 GP)	120
		Medakanala	Medakanala, Talebaga, Tannala, Nagalapura (4 GP)	80
<b>06</b>	11-02-2011	Bannigola	Bannigola, Upparanandihala, Amadihala, Hosuru (4 GP)	80
		Maski	Maski, Ankushadoddi, Moodaladinni (3 GP)	60
<b>07</b>	14-02-2011	Balaganuru	Balaganuru, Udbala, Gaudanabavi, Gudaduru (4 GP)	80
		Pagadadinni	Pagadadinni, Kolabala, Bootaladinni (4 GP)	80
<b>08</b>	15-02-2011	Turvihala	Turvihala, Kalmangi, Umalooti, Gunjalli (4 GP)	80
		Tiligola	Galigola, Devaragudi, Bappuru, Gunda (4 GP)	80

<b>09</b>	17-02-2011	Javalagera	Javalagera, Ramatnal, Ragalaparvi, Gonavara (4 GP)	80
		Salagunda	Salagunda, Roudakunda, Somalapura, Mukkunda, Channalli (5 GP)	100
<b>10</b>	18-02-2011	Dadesoguru	Dadesoguru, Hosalli, Gorebala (3 GP)	60
		Jalihala	Jalihala, Virupapura, Bassapurua K (3 GP)	60
<b>11</b>	19-02-2011	R.H.No.1	R.H.No. 1, Badarli, Alabanuru, Madasiravara (4 GP)	80
		Sindhanuru	Sindhanuru town municipality (4 Ward)	80
<b>12</b>	21-02-2011	Kavitala	Kavitala, Pamanakalluru, Mallata, Navalakal, Heera, Hanagi, Aminghada (7 GP)	140
		Siravara	Siravara, Atanuru, Ganadinni, Madagiri (4 GP)	80
<b>13</b>	22-02-2011	Kurdi	Kurdi, Aroli, Gorkal, Sunkeshwara (4 GP)	80
		Kalluru	Kalluru, Kapagal, Neeramanvi, Haravi, K Gudadinni (5 GP)	100
<b>14</b>	23-02-2011	Ballatagi	Ballatagi, Janekal, Chagabavi (3 GP)	60
		Manvi	Manvi town municipality	80
<b>15</b>	24-02-2011	Hirekotnakal	Hirekotnakal, Bogavati, Sangapura (3 GP)	60

		Potnal	Potnal, Chikkakotnekal, Sachapura, Muddapur (4 GP)	80
16	25-02-2011	Byagavata	Byagavata, Bagalavada, Nakkundi (3 GP)	60
		Toranadinni	Toranadinni, Halapura, Utakanuru (3 GP)	60
		Total	142	2940



*Unicef child protection project filed officer Nagaraj talking in one of the ATC training program.*

## Workshops

In the second phase training programs have been conducted in four other taluk's of Raichur district; namely Devadurga, Lingasuguru, Sindhanuru and Manvi. The training is conducted in the same module adopted in the first phase. The programs were designed in the same way and trainings are held at 32 places stretched in 16 days.

### **Hatti (11.00 AM to 5.30 PM)**

On February 8, 2011 ATC training was held at Hatti. 110 ATC members from Hatti, Gejjalagatti, Anvari, Sarjapura and Rodalabanda participated in this daylong training program. K Raghavendra Bhatta, Unicef child protection program coordinator; Satish Chapparike, senior journalist and Nagaraj, Unicef child protection program field officer were participated as resource persons.

Hatti Gram Panchayat Vice President Sharada told her own life story during the interaction. She was a victim of child marriage and has been married at the age of 12. "I know how difficult would be life, if you get married at that tender age. I didn't want to marry at that age. But I couldn't have gone against my parents wishes. But now I have a girl child at my home. I will never marry her before 18. We want to educate her as much as possible. When I got married there were no ATC or any other committee to control the child marriage. Now we have this statutory body and with the help of community we will effectively control trafficking. Along with that we also stop child labor and child marriages in our villages" she pledged.

Compare to other places in Hatti, the resource persons came across plenty of quarries and cases. Members have enquired about abandoned children and the role of ATC in protecting them. The Gram Panchayat Presidents who were present agreed to head ATC in very effective manner. The members also told that, the responsibility of each and every child and women in the village lies in ATC's hand. All the ATC's came to a conclusion that, taking care of abandoned children also lies in their own hand. They came to a conclusion that, including trafficking ATC will keep an eye on child labor, child marriage and all social evils in its vicinity.

# Workshops

## **Mavinabavi (11.00 AM to 5.30 PM)**

On February 10, 2011 ATC training program was held at Mavinabavi. 120 members from Mavinabavi, Anehosuru, Matturu, Santekalluru and Kachapura were present during daylong training program.

After the initial introduction from resource persons there were heated discussion on the role of ATC in the grass root level. Dool Saab, one of the ATC members raised an issue of endless child marriages in the surrounding area. His question is how much pressure ATC can put to stop the child marriage menace. But other members made it clear that, ATC has absolute power to stop child marriages. After the discussion they came to a conclusion that, first ATC team will try to convince the parents. If they didn't oblige further ATC will seek the help of the Police and stop child marriages.

Members also raised the issue of rampart child labor problem in the area. The only way to stop child labor problem in this area is by stopping trafficking. They came to an unanimous decision on this issue and decided to stop trafficking effectively.

In case of Maski and Manvi towns along with concerned Gram Panchayat's City Municipality members also participated in training program.

On the last leg on February 25, 2011 two training programs were held at Byagavata and Toranadinni. In each cases three Panchayat's were covered. In all instances ATC members were convinced about their role and responsibilities. They discussed about the legal aspects and got ready to take the responsibility.

These ATC training programs not only enriched and empowered the concerned members, but they over all sensitized the public in the entire district. Within two months of period the entire Raichur district was covered and mass awareness has been created.

## Case studies



### Poor become poor

Gangadhara Naik, Gram Panchayat President spoke in Arakere. He told, “We can’t eradicate poverty through child labor, child marriage or by trafficking. Only way to eradicate poverty is to educate our children. So, that tomorrow they will not lead a desperate life like us. Each and every parent has to understand this and make it sure that their children get good education”.

### Hatti: when an ATC member acts...

In the second phase, one of the workshops was held at Hatti. When the workshop got over one of the ATC member approached UNICEF child protection project coordinator and told him, there is a HIV positive sex worker in this village and she is almost on death bed. She has two kids and both of them are HIV negative and they are vulnerable for trafficking. Immediately the team went to Sharada’s (name changed) house and took in charge. The neighbours told team that, they are ready to take care of Sharada. Where the community asked help for the education of those two children. The team referred those two children to Women and Child Development Department and the arrangements have been made for their hostel and schooling.

## Case studies

### **‘All six grand children are in school’**

She has crossed 85 years in her life. When she stood up to speak in Guragunta workshop, the eye brows went up. But she made her point very clear. “I wanted to go to school. But we didn’t have school on that time. Now everywhere we have schools. It’s not good to send children for labor work. Whatever it comes we must send our children to school. I think with proper education only we can eradicate or control all these social evils. I have six grand children at home. And we are not rich people. We are poor like all of you here. But, I made it very clear to my son’s and daughter in laws that; all the children at our home have to go to school. Now all my six grand children are studying and we elders are happy about their progress”. There was a huge applause at the end.



### **Searching for son**

“I lost my son a year back. He was missing from last one year. I don’t know whether he has absconding or someone else forcibly has taken him. We gave police complaint. We have searched for him everywhere. But still he is not traceable” 35 year old mother cried in workshop. Along with that one more case came up. In this case the parents never lodged missing complaint in the police station. The resource persons made it very clear to them that in each case parent have to file missing complaint. That will help in tracing.



## Case studies



### Lure is the main cause

“I came across few incidents about trafficking. Especially young girls from our area and in most cases they have been trafficked in the name of marriage. The agents will lure parents about groom’s fortunes. Without knowing the back ground of groom and his parent’s; girl’s parents will fell in to trap” told Fakiramma, Anganawadi worker from Hulak Bandi Tanda.

### Helpless mother’s endless sorrow

During a workshop in Gabbur, Devadurga taluk a heart wrenching story of child trafficking cropped up. One of the participants, a young mother started crying in between a session. When enquired her sorrowful story emerged. Her family used to work in Bangalore as migrant labors. She was pregnant and on September 16, 2010 she gave birth to a baby boy in Vanivilas Hospital in Bangalore. Within a few hours of baby’s birth, women in nurse uniform came to young mother and asked her to hand over the baby. She said, “There is something wrong with your babys health. Doctor wants to check your baby’s health. I have to take this baby to doctor, who is sitting in next room”. Mother was worried about baby’s health and she promptly handed over that baby to ‘nurse’. That nurse never returned and nor the baby. After few hours young mother got suspicious and started enquiring about the baby and nurse. But they were untraceable. At the hospital authorities also washed their hands saying, “It is not our mistake. It’s the mistake of yours. You shouldn’t have given baby in to her hand”. Uneducated young mother and her family searched for their new born baby and it ended in fruitless attempt. After that shock, the family has moved back to their native and that young mother explained how painful to lose a baby in life.

## Case studies

### Abandoned children

When there was a discussion about ATC and its responsibility in one of the workshop a unique case came up. In a village called Ane Hosur a mother has abandoned two children. An elder one is 10 years old and the younger boy is 9 years old. Their father has married to someone else. Mother has left the kids on the street and she has run away. Now the kids are working in local landlord's house, without any parentage. "Can ATC have a right intervene and put those kids back in government hostel and school?" the question was raised by one of the ATC member. Before resource persons responded, the ATC Chairman told, "We will intervene and we will put those children in hostel and back in school". The entire body agreed for this decision.



### ATC can be effective

Gangadhara Nayak, Gram Panchayat President from Musturu was not very receptive in the beginning of workshop. But at the end of workshop he said, "If the community and all the departments support, I think ATC can be very effective. Not only for anti trafficking, but for the entire child protection activity we can use this body".

# Achievements

Within 21 days all the ATC's of all the Gram Panchayat's in Raichur district has been sensitized about the method of curbing women and child trafficking in grass root level. The importance of community participation in regulating the social menace has been emphasized.

## Phase I

- In phase one 31 Gram Panchayat's has been covered.
- 730 ATC members took part in this workshops.
- In five days 11 workshops are conducted in different locations.
- More than 12 resource persons participated in workshops.

## Phase II

- In phase two 143 Gram Panchayat's has been covered.
- 2940 ATC members took part in workshops.
- In 16 days 32 workshops are conducted in different locations.
- More than 16 resource persons participated in workshops.



# Outcome

- Entire mass in the district has been educated about child protection issues along with stake holders by this rigorous training program.
- A statutory body like ATC has been activated in an effective manner. The roles and regulations have been made it clear to all the stake holders.
- Grass root level understood its role and effectiveness of community participation.
- Panchayat system has been strengthened by activation of ATC.
- For the first time convergence of different government departments happened due to the ATC activation.
- By activation of ATC, anti trafficking committees in Taluk and Zilla panchayat's have been strengthened.
- In the grass root level systematic follow up by all the departments has been started.
- The importance of child protection has been understood by Gram Panchayat. In all general meetings, grama sabha children protection issue agenda has been made compulsory.
- ATC's have become active and cases have been reported from different parts of Raichur district.

## Future action plans

- In all GP's children census has to be conducted and the data bank has to be kept in both GP and Schools.
- Once in two month ATC meeting has to be convened and the status of women and children in its jurisdiction has to be discussed.
- GP, Schools, Women and Child development department, Police, SHG's and Women associations will work in tandem with community. The convergence of all departments is must through the ATC activity.
- On the basis of RDPR circular 2007, yearly once a special children grama sabha should be held at all the Panchayat's.
- Including trafficking, minimum 60 percent of women and children related cases have to be solved in GP level only. If any chance all the cases has to be solved in the GP level only. In the dire situation only, the cases should be forwarded to TP and ZP.
- In every GP meeting ATC has to submit its report. All the ATC members should express their views in the meeting. After the discussion next two months plans should be proposed and accepted.
- Along with ATC all other committees related to women and children issues has to submit report to GP during all the meetings.
- If someone is missing in its jurisdiction, ATC will act immediately and missing complaint will be lodged with police.
- Movement of new comers to village will be monitored.

# Conclusion

- Believing in Panchyat Raj system, for the first time in India, an attempt to sensitize the existing ATC's in Gram Panchayat level took place in Raichur district during January and February, 2011.
- ATC's are existed on paper from 2007 in all the Gram Panchyat's of India. But for the first time those bodies have been sensitized with proper training in workshops.
- All the members of ATC's have been enriched with the knowledge of existing anti trafficking laws in India and they have been educated about the usage of those laws.
- By empowering and enriching the ATC's with knowledge and power for the first time they have been activated with community support.
- In this process UNICEF child protection project, Women and child development department, District administration, Public education department, Police department, Public education department, SHG's, NGO's and community joined hands to curb a social menace called 'Women and Child trafficking'.
- In over all this experiment proved very successful. This successful Raichur model could be used across the country to enrich and empower the ATC's of all the Gram Panchyat's in the country.

# Abbreviations

**Unicef:** United nations children fund

**UCPP:** Unicef child protection project

**ATC:** Anti trafficking committee

**GP:** Gram panchayat

**TP:** Taluk panchayat

**ZP:** Zilla panchayat

**CRC:** Child right convention

**IPC:** Indian penal code

**JJ Act:** Juvenile justice act

**RDPR:** Rural development and Panchayat raj department

