

UNICEF CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT RAICHUR *REPORT FOR THE PERIOD OF 2009-2014*



Office of the Deputy Commissioner

Sathkacheri, Raichur

Phone:08532-230610

Email:unicefdcdppr@gmail.com



CONTENTS

- **Introduction**
- **Aims and objectives of the project**
- **Major strategies and processes**
- **Organogram**
- **Staff pattern**
- **Social mobilisation**
- **Enforcement**
- **Education**
- **Capacity building**
- **Women's empowerment**
- **Skill training**
- **Impact**
- **Challenges and way forward**
- **Conclusion**

INTRODUCTION

UNICEF India's programmatic approach to child protection aims to build a protective environment in which children can live and develop in the full respect of their fundamental rights.

Translated into action, this approach led to a multilayered programme whose scope is to understand and address the multiple vulnerabilities of children in need of special protection rather than tackle only their immediate manifestations. UNICEF Child Protection Programme in India focuses mainly on three areas of intervention: child labour, child trafficking, and children in difficult circumstances.

In the area of Child Labour, projects implemented in various states of the country adopt an essentially holistic approach, combining strategies aimed not only to the withdrawal of children from work, but also to enhance communities' awareness, ownership and collective action for the protection and promotion of children rights.

In Raichur, UNICEF and Government of Karnataka initiated the Child Protection Project in 2009 with a view to bring down the rate of child labour, child trafficking and child marriage to zero. In the backdrop of higher incidences of labour, marriage and trafficking among children in this region, CPP has made inroads into the communities and other stakeholders to prevent these forms of exploitation of children.

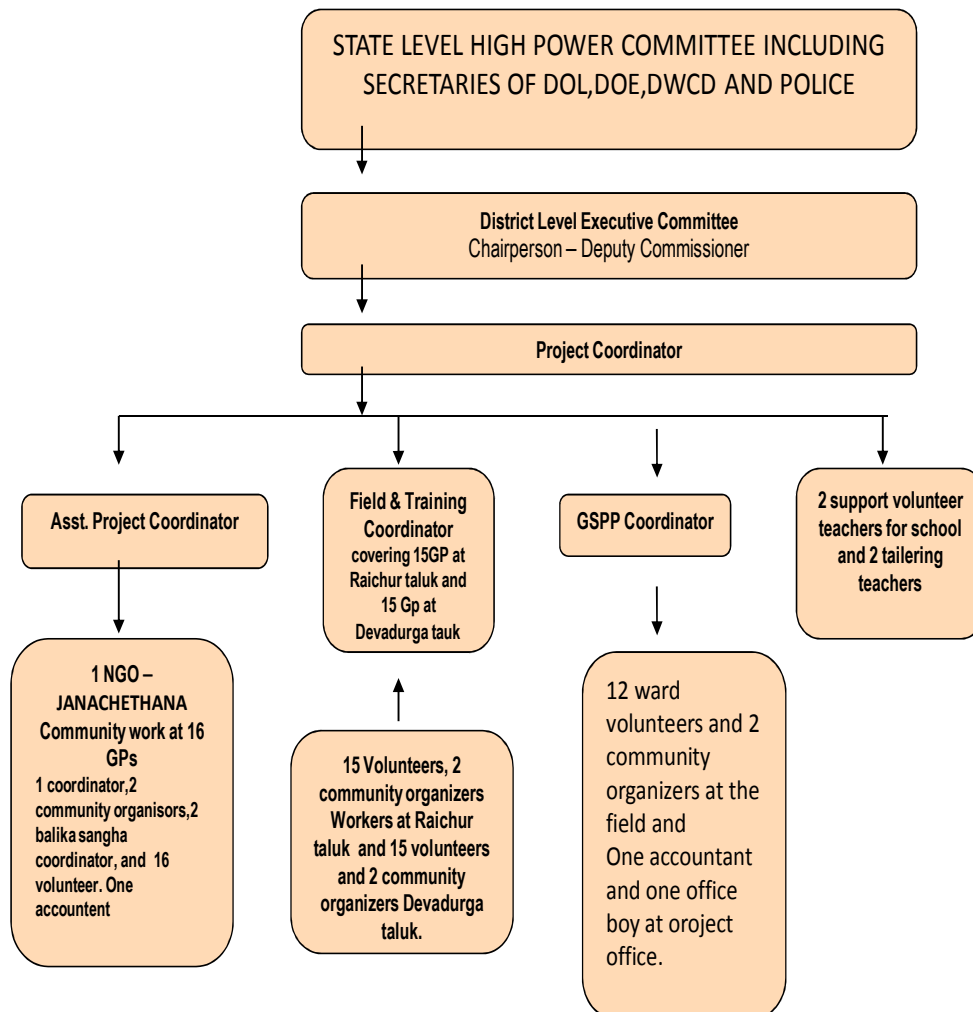
Various kinds of strategies were adopted so far to reach the stakeholders and communities in order to facilitate their involvement in ensuring rights of children. Systems like Child Rights Clubs, Child Protection Committees, Anti Trafficking Committees, Baliga Sangha (girls' groups), Self Help Groups, skill training for adolescents and youth at the village level were established in the project area for community ownership. Moreover, behavioural change materials like posters, stickers, handbills, All India Radio broadcast etc were used. Rescue of children from marriage, labour and trafficking in collaboration with district administration and various departments, capacity building for the stakeholders like officials, parents, elected representatives, religious leaders and mass marriage organisers, social workers, women of SHGs, teachers, college students, grass root level social workers, college-school heads and police personnel were conducted regularly. This has resulted in certain changes in the project area in terms of taking up the responsibility and ownership about the rights of children. This has reflected in reduced number of incidences of labour, marriage and trafficking.

The reading ahead of this report gives a detailed picture of the project implementation and the impact.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- Leading Raichur towards ensuring a protective environment for children,
- Ensuring **convergent** efforts of departments, people's representatives, community and civil society and organisations,
- Ensure near to 0% child labour,
- Reduce child marriages by 80%,
- Completely stop child trafficking, and
- Work comprehensively for protection of children.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECT



TOTAL STAFF PATTERN - TOTAL 84

PROJECT COORDINATOR – CPP-1	TRAINING COORDINATOR-1
GSSP COORDINATOR-1	COMMUNITY ORGANISERS-8
ASSIST PROJECT COORDINATOR-1	BALIKA SANGHA CORDINATOR-2
Ngo level 16 GP coordinator-1	Accountant -2. 1, project office, 1 for 1 NGOs.
SUPPORTNGOs-1(JANACHETHANA)	OFFICE BOY-1
SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS AND TAILERING TEACHERS-4	VOLUNTEERS-61

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROJECT

Empowered Gram Panchayats

Periodical training programs and awareness rallies and various other interventions have empowered the Gram Panchayat members and officials to address the issues of children at their respective areas. Labour, trafficking, abuse, marriage and school drop-out are the major issues related to children in rural areas. During the CPP intervention, participation of GP functionaries was ensured in raid, rescue operations, protection of children, issuing notices, capacity building and convergent activities. As a result of continuous intervention, the GPs have owned the responsibility of child protection. GPs have now initiated monitoring of children, visiting the farms and warning them of child labour, enrolling drop out children, preventing child marriages and referring children to DPP for protection and informing the child status at the GP level. Earlier, a motivational push was necessary for them to take up an action. However, as of now, GPs have progressed so much that they are capable of dealing with child rights violation cases on their own. All 46 GPs have issued notice to the farm owners in their respective areas to now employ children in their farms. GPs are touch with other agencies like schools, Anganwadi centres, ASHA worker and UNICEF CPP field workers. Coordination among the key players has been established at the GP level.

Strong presence of Balika Sangha

Girls in the project area were targeted for solely to bring in change in her family and later in her matrimonial house. The changes cannot be gauged in a short span of time. It is a process of change that lasts forever. If not organised into group, 40% of them would have got married in their early age. Baliga Sangha (organisation of girls) has been proved to be a preventive strategy against child marriage. Presence of Balika Sanghas has been felt in each GP and Urban Ward of Raichur taluk. 5351 girls in the age group of 12-18 years have been organised into small groups. All of them are school drop outs when they were selected for the Sangha. Now, majority of them have been re enrolled to school in their age appropriate classes. They meet every month and discuss the issues related to child marriage, child rights, protections issues, violation etc. The members were able to stop 19 child marriages so far. 316 children have been enrolled to school by them. Capacity building on various issues related to their life, development, responsibilities, education, rights etc has empowered the Sangha members to take up their own steps. They are involved in any social activities held in their respective areas. All of them participated in EPIC card campaign and the members above 18 years have availed the EPIC card. They motivated the people in their locality to exercise their vote in the elections. Unicef CPP gets more calls from the members of Baliga Sangha.

Prevention of child marriage

12 people had to stay in jail in two child marriage cases registered in Raichur. First of its kind in the district! In a child marriage prevented in Lingsugur taluk, seven people were sent to jail. They had to stay there for three and a half months till they were released on bail. In another child marriage held at Yeragara village, five people had to spend one month in jail!

The news spread like wild fire in the villages and that has created awareness and fear among the people at large.

UNICEF CPP in collaboration with other stakeholders was able to prevent 265 child marriages. The regular intervention in such occasion has sent a strong message among the public about child marriage. The number of child marriages in mass marriages has drastically come down to almost zero in the project area. The drive has brought in several stakeholders like children, parents, officials, social workers, elected representatives, Self Help Group women and media persons together to stop marriages of children. The efforts have gradually brought in as a social norm for the families not to marry their girl children below 18 years of age.

Initiative by farm owners and employers

A visit to the cotton farms in Raichur taluk would first greet you a board displaying the farm owner's disagreement on employment of children below 14 years. The board tells you about the legal consequences of employment of children. The farm owners have invested money to erect such display boards to show their commitment towards prevention of child labour. This was in response to the inflow of children to the cotton farms till recently. The CPP intervention gradually was able to convince the farm owners about the perils of child labour and child trafficking along with legal consequences. As a result, farmers themselves took initiative to not employ any child in their farms. Moreover, 7376 farmers wrote a signed endorsement to DC out of conviction that they would not employ any child in their farms and they would definitely promote children's education. This has resulted in reduction of child labour by 70% in the cotton sector.

Similar initiative was taken by the employers of shops and garages of Raichur town and hoblies. Over 3000 employers have signed the endorsement forms and submitted them to DC. In the endorsement form, they have vouched that they would not employ a child in their shops or garages. The culture of non employment of children has percolated among them as a social norm.

Child Rights advocates

Formation of 246 Child Rights Clubs in 246 schools (Out of 395) in 46 GPs and 24 Wards have brought in positive results in ensuring the rights of children. Regular capacity building programs have helped them understand the core problems related to child labour, trafficking, child marriage and child protection. Child members have developed knowledge and courage to withstand their issues. CRC members have visited their former class mates' houses to motivate them to come back to school. They have succeeded in bringing several children to school. Strengthening of CRCs is in progress. Linkage has been established with CRC, GP, employers and farmers at the GP level in terms of ensuring a bird watch on child employment.

Gram Sabha is regular in the GPs. CRC members attend the Sabha regularly and present their problems and make their demands boldly. They are able to organise the Sabha on their own. 66% of their demands have been met in the Sabha. Gram Sabha has turned an

opportunity for the CRC members to place their needs and demands in the presence of GP and other department officials. All the members have been trained about Gram Sabha.

The Open House program at the police station has created another opportunity for the children for their empowerment. 60 children are taken to police station in urban area every week. A dialogue takes place inside the police station. Senior officer would give details about their functioning and legal provisions. Children are able to raise questions. Later the children identified 192 school drop outs. They went and brought them back to school with the help of police. These activities have ensured children's participation as envisaged in the project.

Involvement of police

Police personnel are involved in re-enrolling children to school. Unicef CPP has ensured that in every 5-member team to visit the village should have a police man. The police department gave the green signal for the strategy. The team includes members of Baliga Sangha, Child Rights Club and SDMC. The head teacher hands over the list of drop out children to Baliga Sangha for house visits. Earlier, prior to 2012-13, the list was handed over to the higher officials of the department to keep it in the files. However, now the situation has changed. Once the list is with the members of Sangha, the team gets ready to visit the houses of children who have dropped out. During the house visit, Sangha member speaks to the parents first as the team representative. The police man may be in uniform or without uniform. If parents do not agree to send the child to school, police man intervenes. He cautions them about the legal consequences if child is not sent to school immediately. This strategy has worked well in the project area. Police personnel also are happy that they are part of such a campaign.

Application of Minimum Wages Act

During the raid in the farms and shops, if children above the age of 14 years are found, the department of labour officials have applied the Minimum Wages Act. 176 cases have been filed against the employers under the provisions of the Act. According to the Act, notified minimum wage has to be paid to the persons working in the farm or shop. About Rs.four lakhs have been paid by the employers in these cases towards back wages. However, it has been said that whatever paid was fine for employing children below 18 years. This has created fear among the employers that they should not employ persons below 18 years. Farm owners themselves have been talking about the 'fine' for employing such children. They have been spreading the message among the employers about such provision under the law. The strategy has worked!

MAJOR STRATEGIES AND PROCESSES

Social mobilization

60 training programs were conducted for officials, women and youth groups on child labour, child marriage and trafficking. The training programs were organised with a view to strengthen the child protection issues at the grass root level. The participants included Anganawadi workers, ASHA workers, Panchayat PDOs & staffs and SDMC members.

414 wall writings were done on child labour elimination during the reporting period. 157 of them are specifically on child labour in cotton sector, 187 on child labour in rural area and 70 on child labour practices in urban area.

Members of the public have started calling the department offices on child employment, child marriage or child trafficking. They have got the telephone number from the hoardings on child protection erected by the DPP project in 75 prominent places in the taluk. 25 of them have been erected at all the police stations, 36 of them at the district and taluk head quarters and 7 each at all the hobli head quarters and major auto stands. All of them have focused on child labour, child marriage and trafficking issues with contact numbers of offices in the district. This has helped the public in contacting the concerned authorities to rescue the children who are in distress.

CPP published one lakh each copies of seven kinds of pamphlets on child protection with a view to use them as training material as well as for public distribution. They mainly addressed child labour and child marriage. Pamphlets have been displayed at schools in Raichur and Deodurga taluks through Child Rights Clubs. The pamphlets have motivated the members of the Clubs to get the drop out children back to school. They read out the pamphlets during their visit to the houses of children and enlighten the family members about the legal and other social consequences. This has impacted on the families which have removed the children from school.

Awareness on child rights and child labour was made with the support of All India Radio. A series of 60 episodes, each of them spanning 30 minutes, was recorded and aired. This has helped reach about 10,000 listeners every day for a month. Radio spots also on child protection were broadcast for 6 months in 4 phases namely 2009-10 and 2010-11 and 2011-12, 12-13

World Day against Child Labour was celebrated on 12th June with special programs of cycle jatha, rally, sticker and handbill campaign, and radio programs. The campaign activists moved from one shop to another to get the endorsement of the shop owners pledging not to engage children below 14 years in their shops. 1621 show owners of Raichur town endorsed that they would never engage a child in their shops. By this, the total number of endorsements has now reached 6,023.

5000 copies of six types of posters on child protection were printed and distributed in the district. Same amount of stickers in 4 types also were printed and disseminated to stick on the walls of government offices, anganawadi centres, gram panchayat offices, community halls, schools and health centres. The issues in the posters have been followed up during the meetings held in those centres.

One day training program was organised for all the DWCD staff on Juvenile Justice Act-2000 and 2006 and Karnataka Rules 2010. 85 officers attended the program. Child rights, various provisions of JJ Act and the related system placed in the district etc were discussed.

297 ASHA workers of Raichur taluk attended the training program on child protection issues. They now take part in the village level meetings on child related issues held frequently.

Training programs for Youth and farmers and meetings were organized in all 46 GPs at GP level to monitor and put an end to the employment of children in agriculture sector, mainly in seed crossing. In the meetings, the farmers and youth took oath and made endorsement for not employing children in the farms. 7376 farmers and 2000 youth participated in the programs held during the reporting period.

In 10 annual village fests, exhibition stall was arranged to create awareness on child marriage. Several thousands of people thronged into the fest who were able to watch the exhibition materials. This has created an impact on the community and sensitised them in large number. It has reflected in the decrease of child marriage cases in these villages.

26 school level *Shramadhana* (voluntary labour) were organized.

6 Training programs were conducted to strengthen the entire DPP staff on child protection issues and developmental analysis. Three of them were held for 2 days each and one for six days, and the remaining two were organised for one day each. The programs helped the staffs understand thoroughly about the juvenile justice system and provisions that help the children in difficult circumstances.

122 college students training on children's issue, covering 21,000 students

CPP supported other districts such as Gadag, Gulbarga, Koppal , Davangere, Bangalore in terms of reading materials and imparting training on child labour, child marriage and child protection.

School enrolment jathas were organised as a campaign in 46 GPs and 24 wards of Raichur town during the reporting period. 612 children were enrolled during and after the jathas. The campaign was conducted in convergence with all the departments at the local level like police, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and Panchayat staff, teachers and children participated in the jatha.

Three films were produced during the reporting period. One of them was about the process of the project titled '*Parikrama*' while the other two were on child labour and child marriage titled '*Akrama*' and '*Sakrama*'. The films were screened in 85 villages and 328 schools with help of village heads. They were screened in all the schools of urban and rural area. This has helped the children in getting back to school.

Enforcement

DOL has extended its support for regular raid to rescue child labour in shops, establishments and farms. Over 4200 farms were visited and erring farmers, especially cotton farmers were warned of legal consequences on child employment in farming. 14 cases have been registered under the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and Shops and Establishment Act. The cases against the employers are in progress.

DoL has issued 175 notices to the cotton and agriculture owners on child labour and adult workers under Minimum Wages Act. 14 notices were issued in 2009, 75 in 2010, 50 in 2011 and 36 in 2012. Their cases too are in progress.

Raid was conducted in the cotton farms of Matamari area regularly to create awareness on child labour. 4 vehicles were seized and cases were booked against them in 2011 for bringing children from Andhra Pradesh to work in cotton sector.

Raid was conducted at Jambaladinni also where 128 children from AP were rescued and sent back to their native place with their guardians. Similar kind of raid was conducted at Yeragara, Matamari, Gunjahalli, Idapanoor and Ganadhal villages. All the rescued children were sent back to their native places in AP. As a result, the number of children below 14 years getting into the labour sector of seeds crossing and cotton plucking has come down. The migration of children from neighbouring villages of Andhra Pradesh also has reduced drastically.

7376 farmers have given affirmation letters towards not employing child labour in their fields.

7 cases were booked against the owners of Bar and Restaurant for employing children below the age of 18 years.

Another 18 cases against vehicles are in progress.

The details of 181 vehicles used for trafficking children for labour were given to the RTO and DoL to take immediate action.

Follow up has been done on 18 religious institutions to stop child marriage. Two Mutts have completely stopped child marriages. These mutts had conducted child marriage earlier. Convinced about the consequences, they have taken the relevant decision. There was a congregation of all the Mutt Heads at Sri Bhoodhiibasaveshwara mutt. They pledged at the end of the meeting that all the Mutts in Raichur would follow child monitoring and prevent child marriages.

224 farmers have erected Self Declaration Board about non employment of child in their farm in Raichur and Deodurga taluks. Boards were erected with the support of DPP. These boards have played a major role among the farmers who have discussed this issue among themselves. They have decided to spread the message to their follow farmers.

CPP has received 13399 endorsements of 'NO TO CHILD LABOUR' from farmers and shop owners so far (7376 farmers and 6023 shop owners).

2 movie theatres in Raichur town have come forward to display the awareness clothe cover on seats. Prepared by DPP, the slogans were written on the cover about prevention of child marriage and child labour.

All 46 Gram Panchayats have issued notice to the land owners and shops. In 2 GPs, all the shop owners have displayed board on banning of child labour.

7 child marriage cases have been booked. Three of them are in the local court while other 4 cases are still at the police station level.

GPs have started conducting raid in farms and paying visit to the schools. In 6 GPs, two rounds of visit have already been paid.

Education

5710 children were rescued and enrolled to Govt. School. 286 children were enrolled in 2009, while 1865 in 2010, 1307 in 2011, 831 in 2012, 783 in 2013 and 638 in 2014. The number of drop out children in 2009 was 7500 while it was 4986 in 2011 in 2012 it were 1500.

1536 children were rescued from cotton sector.

599 children who have completed SSLC were given fees, text books and note books. Such support is still being continued.

Educational support materials were supplied to 8119 children to continue their education.

Child Rights Clubs were established in 246 schools and their follow-up to strengthen them have been going on (Out of 321 HP Schools and High Schools in 46 GPs and 24 Wards of Raichur).

CRPC committees were formed in all the 46 GPs in the project area.

As a result of training for SDMC members of 295 schools in 31 GPs, regular meeting of SDMCs is going on in 146 schools. 10 schools have 100% monthly meetings, according to Gramavikasa, partner organisation of DPP. SDMCs have also made efforts in getting back the out of school children to school. Members have now constantly been visiting the school and attending to the issues related to children. 422 women SDMC members were trained.

CRC Children rescue toiling children

It was the morning of 15th November 2012, just a day after the Children's Day was celebrated all over the country in an effort to promote, defend and actualize their rights. Yet, nothing had changed in the lives of hundreds of children of Kamalapur village, Raichur District, Karnataka. As usual, they were sitting in cramped tempos with their parents, waiting to reach the cotton fields in the nearby villages where they were employed on daily wages. None of them knew that their life could be any different. In fact, neither the tempo owners nor the adults accompanying them had even bothered to think about the burden of work these tender shoulders were forced to carry and that these children too deserved a better life.

The members of the 'Child Rights Club (CRC) of the Higher Primary School (HPS), Kamalapur, however were extremely concerned about their peers. They knew that these children were forcefully made to slog in the cotton fields without enough food and rest and that this was a clear violation of their right to health and development. They decided to take some action to stop this exploitation.

They blocked the road to stop the tempos from ferrying the children. They appealed to the tempo owners and parents not to deprive the children of their childhood. They also tried to convince them about the importance of educating these children. But their plea fell on deaf ears. They did not lose courage and kept trying to prevent the transportation of children to

the fields till they were successful in rescuing around 80 children.

CRC members are alert in their area and do keep a vigil on child rights violations around. There are such instances of CRC activities of rescuing children and re-enrolling drop out children to school. CPP initiated CRCs to ensure children an opportunity to participate in all the processes that are directly concerned to them.

Positive results

- ***Children are able to discuss their issues confidently with parents, neighbours, employers, and government officials. They are now able to participate in the decision-making process at schools, GPs and even at the District Commissioner's office and influence it.***
- ***The CRC members are able to identify instances when children's rights are being exploited such as, engagement or marriage of children below 18 years of age, trafficking of children for wage labour, etc.***
- ***The CRCs have helped to develop leadership among children and promoted positive values of social justice and equity among the members. They have created a sense of ownership in children who are now making genuine differences for their communities.***

SDMCs have organised Mela of child workers wherein 476 children attended.

Makkala Gramasabha (Children's village assembly) was conducted in all the GPs of DPP working area. It was organised in collaboration with RDPR. As a result of this development, all 59 GPs of neighbouring taluk also conducted Gramasabha of children.

As part of improving the skills and knowledge of SSLC students, a tie-up was made with SVYM, Mysore to introduce their Project -1947 in 20 schools with DOE. This has resulted in 5% increase in SSLC result. The project has been implemented in 38 schools.

DPP distributed study materials to 2500 SSLC students during 2010 (500) and 2011 (2000).

Capacity building

818 police personnel out of 1127 in Raichur district have been trained on gender, people friendly police and child rights in 3 training programmes for 3 days each.

Regular SJPU meetings at the district and station level take place. Cases of children in conflict with law and children in need of care & protection have been handled by CWOs only. They do take advice from the DPP team whenever it is necessary.

1347 (from 2009 onwards) children's open house programmes have been conducted in police stations since 2009. 47942 children were covered at the dist level under this program.

Women's groups participated in 130 open house programs. 2373 women have attended the open houses in the police station of Raichur district. In these open houses, main focus is given to the issues of children and women. Procedures for filing cases, facilities in CWC and JJB and Domestic Violence Act are discussed in these programs.

CWOs also visited schools and conducted the awareness programmes for children and staff with regard to child protection issues. 330 programs were conducted till today.

3 day summer camp was organised for the dropout children every year. Nearly 300 children have participated every year. Film shows were conducted on child protection in 328 schools.

102 girl children in need of care and protection were referred to CWC by police stations of the district and they were given protection at Children's Home, Raichur.

A separate place in the police station to handle the cases of women and children has been set up under the guidance of SP, supported by DPP. This desk has helped the people register their cases in the police station. The data shows that 171 cases were registered in 2007 and 205 in 2008 (before DPP intervention) while 269 cases in 2009, 342 in 2010, 464 in 2011 and 558 in 2012 (after DPP intervention and training to police personnel).

Every month, review meetings were conducted for Child Welfare Officers in all police stations. Outreach Programmes under SO920 focusing on child labour, child marriage & child trafficking issues were conducted in various police station limits. 122 PU College principals were trained on child marriage.

Empowerment of Women

272 child marriages were prevented.

196 women's groups have been declared 'child labour free women's group'. 26 women's groups, formed by Janachetana, a partner of DPP, have got financial assistance for micro finance through NABARD. 65 women's groups have participated in women's Mela organised by Janachetana wherein 950 members attended. Women groups raided the cotton production area and rescued 46 children from the field and enrolled them to local schools.

186 Balika Sanghas were formed, 46 at the GP level and 24 at Urban Ward level. They stopped 19 child marriages and enrolled 322 children to the government schools. 2 Balika Sangha Mela were organised for oath and one for EPIC CARD enrolment. In each program, 525 girls participated.

After 164 training programs for ATC members at GP level in all the 5 taluks in collaboration with DWCD, follow up meetings were conducted in each GP. Two meetings have been taken place in the working area of the project. In each rural police station, child related cases have increased. 500 farmers agreed to stop child labour in their land completely.

Skill Development Training

Vocational training program for adolescents was initiated in 8 villages of Raichur taluk by the District Administration, Unicef CPP, Zilla Panchayat and Jan Sikshan Sansthan Raichur, in June 2010 with a view to wean them away from the vulnerable situation during their childhood. As a strategy of preventing child labour, child marriage and trafficking at the behest of commercial and sexual exploitation, the vocational skill training program was launched. 949 adolescents in the age group of 15-20 years were enrolled for tailoring course in the first batch in the taluk. The program was planned in such a way that the trainees underwent another course on life improvement skill training simultaneously to equip them with knowledge and information about the social evils and live in the society with more

confidence. This strategy has proved to be viable as most of them have made a commitment to stop child labour and child marriage in their life. During their course, there are instances of some trainees who enrolled drop out children back to school.

Usually, children are forcefully married at the age of 15-16 years after depriving them of higher education. It is the vulnerable age for them, especially girls either to get married or trafficked. The adolescent skill training program was conceptualized with a view to a) prevent them from turning to be child labourers or minor brides, b) to sensitize them with information and knowledge, c) to bring confidence and independence within them, d) to bring change in two families, namely her family and husband's family.

Case study

Now she makes an earning

18 year old Sridevi, daughter of Devaraj belongs to ST (Nayaka). She passed her SSLC examinations in 2009 from Nelehal Govt High School and was at home doing the domestic chores. Her parents made an earning by working at their own land of 8 acres at Nelahal. Her only sister goes to school. Parents were not in favour of sending her to Raichur for higher education as she has 'come to the age'. Though she was interested to pursue her higher studies, she did not get a favorable response from parents. That was the time when she was identified in June 2010 by Balika Sangha, a collaborative initiative of Unicef Child Protection Project, Jan Sikshan Sansthan of HRD Ministry and Seva, a NGO at Nelehal to recruit adolescent girls for vocational training at Nelehal. She soon joined the six-months-course in tailoring, offered by Seva Samsthe at Nelehal. Sridevi found the course very interesting as it consisted not only tailoring but the personality development components too. The weekly sessions on various social issues helped her understand the situation in the society. It helped her develop a perception on socio-cultural scenario in her village. She passed the exam conducted by Seva. Her illiterate mother was very supportive to her initiative. Parents have got her a new machine of worth Rs. 8000. Sridevi has a special talent in communicating with others. Operating from home, she stitches blouse, chudidhar, frock etc for the villagers. She makes a saving of Rs.30-40 a day. She has so far saved Rs.1500. She will soon open a Bank account at Nelahal.

The total number of skill training imparted so far is 1261. Training on Tailoring was imparted for 949 girls from the villages and Vehicle driving for 44 boys while 208 boys were benefited by computer course.

It's a turning point for Sharada

21 year old Sharada, daughter of Siddaramappa was confined to home after her SSLC from Government High School at Nelahal of Raichur taluk. She had to do domestic chores every day. Belong to a lingayat family, Sharada was not allowed to continue her studies though she had performed better in SSLC. The customary norm of looking down the higher education of girls was the major hindrance to pursue her studies. The distance of higher education centre was another reason to stop her education. If joined, she had to travel 12 kms to Raichur and back every day. Her father who has studied upto 7th standard has been completely involved in agriculture in their own family land of 4 acres. Illiterate mother helps him in farming. Her only brother is a medical representative in Raichur. Sharada had nothing to do at home except the routine domestic work. After such three years, she got in touch with Balika Sangha, a collaborative initiative of Unicef Child Protection Project, Jan Sikshan Sansthan of HRD Ministry and Seva, a NGO at Nelehal to recruit adolescent girls for vocational training. Soon she joined for the tailoring course offered by Seva under the program at Nelahal in January 2011. She was one of the 40 trainees in the age group of 15-20 years. Ms Shwetha, Instructor of the six-month course taught them the skills of tailoring. The classes were between 10 am and 8 pm. Sharada's parents were happy about her effort and they promoted her interest. She soon picked up the skill of making peaco and falls of sari. The staffs of JSS visited the students to make an evaluation of the progress every month, which helped the organizers improve their program. UCPP staffs conducted a session once in a week on life enrichment for the trainees. Health, education, soft skills, HIV/AIDS, immunization, child labour, child abuse, trafficking etc figured in the sessions. External resource person or Anganwadi Worker or Seva's senior staffs handled the sessions. These sessions on various topics related to personality development and perceptions really helped Sharada formulate an outlook about life. She passed the exam conducted by Seva in June 2011. Her parents got her a stitching machine worth Rs. 8000 as a token of her success in the course. Now, she has started saving Rs.30-60 a day. Operating from home, she takes up jobs like cross cutting, stitching skirts, under garments, petty coat, etc. She has opened an account in Dinni Syndicate Bank where she has deposited Rs.4000 as savings of the last four months. Parents feel proud about her performance after getting in touch with Balika Sangha. Now they are thinking of a marriage for her daughter. The engagement with Balika Sangha and tailoring course put pressure on her parents to postpone her marriage.

Skill training was provided to 60 adolescents on gents tailoring, mobile repair, two wheeler repair, refrigerator and electrical services. All the beneficiaries were selected on certain criteria such as children of single parents or orphans, child labour or rescued from child marriage, Below Poverty Line children, SC/ST children, or youths of child labour families. More emphasis was given to the adolescent girls in the age group of 15-18 years as they are prone to getting married.

Case study

Savings of Rs.48000 by now

*18 year old Shekarappa, son of Kuberappa, lives in a small hut with his poor parents at Nelehal. His father works in their own land while mother goes for wage labour outside. Kuberappa also joins her during non season. Shekarappa's sister is in 9th standard. He was fortunate to get admission for a course in **motor winding** offered by Seva under the initiative of UCPP. He was able to pick up the skill during the six months of the course started in January 2011. After passing the exam, he took up job in his own village. Now he is able to repair Borewells, motor pump, do rewinding. He earns Rs.7000 a month. So far he has saved Rs.48000 in bank.*

Convergence

The project has given focus to convergent action at the village, gram panchayat, taluk and district level by involving the relevant departments, elected representatives, civil society groups and community leaders. Departments like police, labour, education, women and child development, social welfare, backward communities and rural development and panchayati raj have been part of all the activities implemented in the project area. This apart, college heads, students, Non Government Organisations, religious mutts, literacy groups, shop owners' associations, children's groups, youth groups and women's groups were imparted training and made part of each program implemented in the district. The children who are rescued are produced before Child Welfare Committee for protection and rehabilitation. Deputy Commissioner has been part of all the major meetings and monitoring the implementation of activities.

The major developments in the project area have been reported to the state government and UNICEF, Hyderabad periodically. Since all the stakeholders are made involved in the project, they have developed a confidence in tackling the issues of children in an effective manner.

Impact in the project area

- GP enrolled 431 children directly to school on 12th June 2012-13 and in 2014-638.
- 43 villages are completely child labour free now in Raichur and Devadurga taluk.
- Since last three year MAKKALA GRAMA SABHA are taking place independently without our support. We supported as project only in 2010 and 2011.
- Gabbur and Gowdanabavi Mutt have completely stopped child marriage in their Mutt and took initiative to bring changes in other Mutts. A decision has been taken by 13 Mutts on 18th June to prevent child marriage in Mass Marriages.
- 6023 shop owners and 7376 farmers have given written agreement on 'no to child labour'.
- DC's letter on child marriage and child labour has reached 40,000 children in Raichur.
- Farmers have started erecting their own boards against child labour.
- GPs have issued notice to all the farmers and shops in their respective area to stop child labour.
- 80% of the child marriages have been stopped in mass marriages.
- 60% of child labour reduced in cotton sector.
- 4 joint circular has been issued by the DC and CEO- ZP on CR clubs in schools, child marriage prohibition officer's role, activating the ATC at the gp level and formation of CRPC at the gp level.
- Farmers are installed boards in their land saying NO TO CHILD LABOUR.
- CEO Zilla panchyath has issued circular in all the taluk and dist in KDP meeting CP ISSUE agenda compulsory.
- Dist level CBOs are using our models in their respective area on CP issues.
- GP level CRP Committee agenda are now regular agenda of the GP level general body agenda.
- DOE is using our strategy for the survey and enrolment.
- GP, SDMC, COMMUNITY ARE COMING TOGETHER FOR THE ISSUE OF CHILDRENS.
- Child marriages are stopped by the GP itself.
- Police dept are taking ownership on CP issues in the dist.
- Deputy Commissioner issued notice to all the pujaries and all printers while giving service to any marriage parties to ensure girl and boy age 18 and 21.

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- Participation of all departments and elected representatives.
- CRPC and ATC formation, strengthening, follow-up in other Gram Panchayats
- Child Rights Club formation in all the schools.
- Ensuring poverty alleviation programmes for rehabilitated child labourers' family.
- More cases and raid.
- Hostel seats for rehabilitated children from labour.
- More elected representatives and CBOs' ownership on the issue
- Regular convergence and ownership by the stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

UNICEF CPP has been making intervention in Raichur taluk for the past four years with a view to ensure mechanisms in the community to protect children from the perils of child labour, child marriage and child trafficking. Over this period, the strategies such as Child Rights Clubs, Baliga Sangha, CRPC and various training programs for stakeholders including vocational training for adolescents have worked successfully. Awareness about child rights violation is now quite high among the public at large in the taluk and nearby areas. A good number of volunteers among children, women and adolescents have come forward to prevent the exploitation of children. Some of them have become informers for the project about such violations. It is noteworthy that the culture of non employment of children and prevention of child marriage has percolated in the life of farm owners and employers, and the public at large. Gradually it has developed as a social norm in their day to day life. The continuous support and guidance of district administration and UNICEF Hyderabad office have helped the project team to implement the activities in an effective manner.

-SD-

30-09-2014

**Deputy Commissioner and
Chairman of UNICEF CPP
Raichur**

