

# Unicef CP project Raichur –Karnataka a brief project ending analytical impact report

## **A. Introduction**

*Starting date of the project: 2009*

*Number of mandals and villages: 31 Gram Panchayats and 24 urban wards of Raichur taluk and 15 Gram Panchayats of Devadurga taluk in Raichur district of Karnataka. Total 46 GPs (283 villages)*

*Base line data details:7200 child labour identified in 2010. 22% dropouts. 5710 children were mainstreamed. Now drop out is 8.*

## **B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

*This section describes to what extent the project has achieved the goals and objectives outlined in the proposal. Do not list activities solely but focus on the changes/impact on the situation, which was brought about as a result of the activities conducted.*

- At the end of the project period, 95% of mass marriages have become free from child marriages after the sensitisation, advocacy and enforcement strategies with the 18 religious institutions (Mutts) in the district. Child marriage was a regular phenomenon in all Mass Marriages organised by the Mutts.
- In the beginning of the project, the school dropout rate was 22%. As a result of various activities listed in the annexure, the dropout rate has come down to 8%.
- 2 GPs and 43 villages in 26 GPs have become completely free from child labour.
- There is a strong presence of 212 Balika Sanghas (Girls' Collectives) in the villages. They were able to stop 62 child marriages by the end of the project. The Collectives have made a difference in the villages as they play a role of change makers.
- Seed crossing 6000 children – The employers of seed crossing industry have desisted from employing children in their workplaces. In the beginning of the project, about 6000 children were employed in cotton seed crossing industry. At the end of the project, child labour in this industry has reduced to 30% in Raichur taluk.
- 46 GPs have listed Child protection issues in their meeting agenda. Child protection issues are discussed in the official meetings. GPs have taken ownership of these issues through Gram Sabha and CPC. Proposals on child protection projects are prepared directly by GPs and sent to taluk panchayat or Zilla Panchayat.
- 3000 vehicles were used to be plying to transport child workers in Raichur. Out of them, 249 vehicles were seized and fined Rs.14 lakhs. Bonds have been taken from each vehicle for not to transport children from villages to farms in the border of AP. The raid was led by NCLP team.

### **A. critical assessment of the extent to which the project's objectives have been met.**

- Though reduction of 70% child labour has been effected in cotton sector, in Raichur taluk, *sustainability and total elimination of child labour still remain as challenge in cotton sector and agriculture in the district. The reason is that this sector has not yet been notified under CLPRA of 1986. Agriculture and cotton are the major occupations on which 86% of the families are completely dependent. Cotton, tobacco and chilli are the main*

*crops other than the seasonal crops grown from August to January. The people in the area don't have any other alternative other than agriculture. Migration for labour along with family members including children is common. Project could not find a sustainable answer to this problem.*

- 95% of the child marriages have been stopped in the mass marriages in the district through Mutt leaders. However, burden on CMPOs, transfer of the officers, political interference, religious mutts' politics, lack of knowledge among the upper class and caste groups etc are threats to the sustainability of the change.
- 46 GPs have organised Makkala Gram Sabhas and taken education and child protection as its prime agenda. However, *follow-up, lack of regular review of the concerned officers are still under question. Regular monitoring is major challenge of the issue.*
- 212 balika sanghas having a membership of 6000 girls, raised their voice against child marriage in the block. However, support from the departments to these girls is hardly available. Since there is no facility for these groups is challenge.
- District level convergence is 70% successful whereas it is poorly implemented at the taluk, GP and village level due to caste, class, availability of the officers, migration and other developmental issues.
- Regional imbalance, socio economic culture, taboos make the people believe that the myths like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, population are part of their life; and child marriage is an old culture and if it is not followed, the girls will run away. This perception has still remained as a challenge in the project area.
- 295 Child Rights Clubs have brought more than 600 children back to school and stopped many child marriages. However, Child Rights Club has not become an agenda of the Dept of Education. The reason is that it has not been considered as strategy in its state plan.
- Though child labour in agriculture sector in the project area has reduced to 40%, total prohibition in the sector is still a challenge. Majority of the villagers depend on agriculture for their living, children also are taken along with them to the farms as they do not have alternatives. Since public transportation is very poor, children have to travel in Goods Auto carriers.
- Good governance has its own impact in the community and it depends on each officer heading the district. However, their frequent transfers affect the project performance and the sustainable impact emerged in the community to some extent adversely.

### ***An elaboration of key partnerships and collaborations***

- District Administration, Zilla Panchayat (Dept of RDPR), police and all dist level line departments such as DoE, DWCD, BCM, Social Welfare, NCLP, NARBARD, dept of Agriculture, health, Municipal Corporation, Literacy Unit.
- District and taluk legal services authority

- All elected representatives of GP, TP and ZP, Municipal Corporation councillors, MLAs, MLCs and MP in the district.
- CBOs like women's groups, local NGOs, literary groups.
- Trade union leaders and leaders of unorganised construction workers' union.
- Court bar associations and their members
- All school teachers' associations
- City Sthree Shakthi groups and Rural Sthree Shakthi groups.
- All govt and private colleges
- All Mutts and temple administrations having marriage halls.
- All printers in the district.

## **C. ACHIEVEMENTS**

*Describe which kind of problems had a **negative impact** on the implementation of the project. What are the most important achievements of the project?*

Absence of uniformity of age across the legal instruments has created a negative impact during the implementation of the project. Since Juvenile Justice (C&P) Act 2000 was implemented, the rescue and rehabilitation of child labour has faced certain problems. Dept of Labour takes care of child labour release if the children are below 14 years while JJA proposes rehabilitation of children below 18 years. If a child above 14 years working in a workplace, Labour Dept officials never take a note of it.

***Describe the most important achievements of the project, key results, impact, spin overs,***

- GP took initiative to enroll 431 children directly to school on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012-13 and 638 children in 2014.
- 43 villages in 26 GPs are now completely free of child labour in Raichur and Devadurga taluks.
- For the last three years, Makkala Grama Sabhas have been conducted independently without Unicef-CPP support. CPP supported GP only in 2010 and 2011. Makkala Grama Sabha was made an active mechanism in every Gram Panchayat on child protection issue. GPs have come forward to spend more money on children's issues and schools.
- Gabbur and Gowdanabavi Mutt have completely stopped child marriage in their Mutt and took initiative to bring changes in other Mutts as well. A decision was taken by 13 Mutts on 18<sup>th</sup> June to prevent child marriage in Mass Marriages. Mutts are able to effect changes in practices among the communities.

- 6023 shop owners and 7376 farmers have given written agreement on 'no to child labour' in their respective area.
- DC's personal letter on child marriage and child labour has reached 40,000 students in Raichur.
- Farmers have started erecting boards against child labour (NO TO CHILD LABOUR) in their own farms at their expense.
- 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 marriage ceremonies.
- Child labour in cotton sector has reduced to 40%.
- 4 joint circulars have been issued by DC and CEO- ZP in the district on 1) CR clubs in schools, 2) specific role of child marriage prohibition officers, 3) activating the ATC at the GP level and 4) formation of CRPC at GP level. This step has resulted in larger impact at the ground level in terms of taking up and accelerating pro-child activities.
- CEO of Zilla Panchyath has made Child Protection issue mandatory in the agenda of KDP meetings in all taluks and district.
- Dist level CBOs have adopted Unicef-CPP models in their respective area on Child Protection issues.
- GP level CRP Committee agenda is now regular agenda of the GP level general body.
- DoE has been using CPP strategy for the survey and enrolment.
- GP, SDMC and Community join hands together for the issue of children
- Child marriages were stopped by the GPs.
- Police dept have taken ownership on CP issues in the district.
- Strong presence of CPCs and Girls' Collectives in every village.
- Deputy Commissioner has issued notice to all the pujaries (priests) and all the printers to comply the provisions of law and ensure the age of the marriage parties as per the law such as 18 years for females and 21 years for males.
- Mass awareness on child rights at the dist level and conducive environment has been created on child rights through campaign.
- Convergence of all the departments and community based organizations with district administration.

### ***Key lessons emerging from the project***

- **Convergence is a workable strategy:** In the project area, convergence was a challenge initially. However, after relentless work towards it over a period of time, convergence of all departments, elected representatives, CBOs and communities in the project area worked to reach the goal of child protection. Since the project head is Deputy Commissioner who is the head of the district administration, convergence is possible provided constant efforts are made to sensitise the concerned department officials, elected representatives and community members. Reinforcement of commitment, conviction of the cause, and instilling confidence towards change are the major factors that activate the stakeholders. Training, sensitisation and rapport were the key inputs used to activate them. When officials and community members from top to bottom worked together to ensure child protection, the project team could realise that the strategy would work.
- **Law enforcement did not work everywhere:** Law enforcement has its own limitation as it needs the cooperation and support of the communities. Creating a commitment by each villager to tackle the social problem was the real challenge. In order to address the issues of child labour or child marriage, the project team realised that the social norms in the community needed a change. From then onwards, law enforcement was not stressed, but customs, taboos, norms etc were targeted. The communities were sensitised with the help of audio visual media, theatre shows, trainings, public meetings, counselling sessions and regular awareness rallies. Gradual change started reflecting in the families.
- **Community needs skill to diagnose problem:** At grass root level, the community members do not reckon with the issues of child labour, child marriage or bonded labour as a problem to be solved. Once they are convinced of it as a problem, then the community members would react to it. Hence a skill to diagnose the understanding the problem by the community is
- **Potential of school children as change agents:** School children have lot of potential to prevent child labour, child marriage and child trafficking or any other violation of child rights, provided they are oriented on the subject thoroughly. The child rights clubs formed in the schools of the project area have understood the problem of school drop outs who become child labour and migrant labour during the training programs. Later, the members of the Clubs took up the responsibility of key monitoring of such children and their families. School children turned as reporters if any such violation took place in the project area. House to house visits of children to motivate other children to come back to school were very effective. Child marriage cases also were reported by children and thus prevented. The project

has brought out the learning that children could act as change agents in their community.

- **Balika sangha (Girls' Collective) is a wonderful strategy to prevent child marriage:** The girls who are dropped out of school and become victims of child marriage or child labour could be turned into change agents in the area. The project experience has brought in such learning that girls' collectives would be able to create changes in the social community structures. After oriented about their rights, they are enabled to ask questions about their rights and assert them for their survival. They become members of SHGs wherein they carry the messages of change. It is reflected in their married life too. A gradual change is visible in the villages through girls' collective. All of them have desisted from child marriage and become campaigners against child marriage. They could stop 62 child marriages in their respective villages. A preventive mechanism through them is in place.

### ***Key good practices***

- Convergence of various departments and community has been established and it has been in the mainstream now.
  - Farmers in the taluk put up boards on non employment of children in their farms, at their own expense.
  - Community based organisations declare their organisations free of child labour.
  - Child participation in protection of child rights has become a practice in schools.
  - Marriage is not possible without age certificates in 18 institutions in the district.
  - Printers have made the age certificates of marriage parties mandatory for printing invitations.
  - Agenda of child rights has become mandatory in all GPs in both taluks.
  - Child protection has been made a compulsory agenda in KDP meetings in the district.
  - GP suo moto resolves on child protection needs and submits project proposals thereof to higher authority for budget release.
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- *Describe implementation **constraints and problems** during the implementation of the project.*
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- Though taluk level officers of various departments are designated as Child Labour Inspectors under Sec.17 of CLPR Act, no monitoring system is in place to track their inspections of workplaces in tracing child labour.
  - Local level politicians were not willing or capable of making a commitment to stop child labour or child marriage due to their political affiliation.

- Lack of regular review and monitoring on child protection by each concerned department such as RDPR, police, DWCD, Education, Labour, social welfare and BCM.
- Despite having schemes and programs for the benefit of the marginalised and poor people, such schemes and programs have hardly reached to the needy.
- Parents are now permitted to make self declaration of their children's age in order to make voter identification card. This has led to large level of wrong recording of the age of children. Girls as young as 15 years are issued Voter Id card based on their declarations filed by the parents who have taken shelter under this provision. The girl children rescued from child marriage are now eligible for marriage.
- Poor enforcement of Child Labour Prohibition Act 1986 and Child Marriage Abolition Act 2006 has been a constraint for the better implementation of the project. The number of child labour cases is only 7 during the past 4 years while it is only 7 in child marriage cases. Poor number of prosecutions has discouraged the project implementation team in combating child labour and child marriage.

#### **D. CASE STUDIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

- *Good **case studies** on children, women, adolescent groups, villages/panchayaths, farmers, government teams*

##### **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.*

#### **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, chudidar, 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.*

#### **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.*

- *Good High quality **Photographs** for each output with details of village/place date of photograph, description of the activity.*
- *Good **press clippings** preferably in english*

## **ANNEXURE FOR OUTPUT-WISE PROGRESS REPORT**

### **1. Education**

- **Training of teachers/headmasters on child protection issues:** 1712 primary school teachers were trained on child protection issues during the project period. Till the end of 2012, the total number of teachers trained was 1386 while it was 326 in 2013 totaling 1712 during the project period. 280 teachers of Upper Primary Schools and High Schools were trained during the project period, wherein 160 participated in 2012 and 120 in 2013. This apart, School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) in 295 schools were trained on child protection issues during the same period.
- Training sessions of teachers on school safety measures were conducted in all the 295 schools in the district. Provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act were discussed

thoroughly. Through this campaign, the project could reach more than 2,35,000 children during the project period.

- Promoting quality standards in special training centres linked to Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- **Educational support to children withdrawn from work and children mainstreamed in government schools to prevent drop out by building linkages with special training centres under RTE:** 7000 children rescued from workplace and then mainstreamed were provided educational support namely note books in 2012. The number of such children was 1119 in 2013 while it was 237 in 2014. School bags were given to 1132 children during the project period. A total of 3850 children in NCLP Schools were supported with note book, water filter, sports materials during the project period. 147 children suffering from HIV/AIDS were given educational support during the same period. 3000 SSLC students were supplied study materials to improve their performance in exams.

Summer camps were organised every year for the school dropouts to instill interest among them to continue their education. Three camps were conducted during the project period wherein 300 children participated each year.

- **Training of community volunteers on child rights, child protection issues with special focus on child labour:** Two training programs in a year were conducted for the benefit of the staff. In 2014, all the staffs were trained on various child related issues and laws like UNCRC, POCSO, NPC, JJCT, etc organized by Child Rights Trust (CRT), Bengaluru.
- **Capacity building of Child Forums /child clubs in schools including child reporters:** 286 Child Rights Clubs have been formed in schools so far during the project period. 212 Clubs were formed in 2012 and 34 in 2013. The number of Clubs was added by another 40 during 2014. All the members were trained and oriented about child rights and child protection issues. Speech and essay competitions on child rights were conducted in the schools. Assembly of children at district level and state level were conducted wherein child rights related issues were highlighted. Club members have pro actively informed the Unicef-CPP team and departments about violation of child rights in their school or neighborhood. All of them were given numbers and address of the concerned departments and Unicef-CPP to send letters or make a call.

Conference of Directors of Child Rights Clubs was organized wherein their roles and responsibilities to ensure rights of children were reinstated.

- **School based campaign highlighting Children's Rights:** The Child Club members have identified the school drop outs and visited their houses and motivated their parents to send them back to school. Pamphlets and brochure on behalf of Child Clubs were printed and disseminated in schools and among parents and teachers. Street plays and skits on child labour and child marriage through the Clubs were conducted in school campus. Anti-child labour day was observed in all schools. Information on child rights was given to children during the Prayer time in the morning assembly in every school in the project area. In 328 schools, films on child protection were screened involving all the students. Child Rights Clubs in 293 schools passed resolution that they would not allow child marriage in their respective areas.
- **Supporting higher education of children to pursue education after tenth class, particular, girls from weaker sections and other vulnerable situations:** 478 children were supported for their higher education during the year 2012 while the number of such children was 121 in 2013. In 2014, only 15 children were supported for their higher education. Unicef-DPP supported a total of 614 children with fees and text books during the project period.

Project 1947 was introduced in 20 high schools in collaboration with SVYM and Dept of Education to enhance the results in SSLC. It resulted in increase of 5% in SSLC results in 2011-

12. Later it was extended to 38 schools where 7% increase in SSLC results was possible. It is still going on in 30 high schools.

- **Provide skill training to adolescent boys and girls who are outside regular mainstream education:** 1378 girls and 125 boys were provided skill training in Income Generation Programs during the project period. They were trained in garment making, mobile repair, 4-wheeler driving, Desk Top Publishing, refrigerator and electrical repair. In 2012, 546 girls and 125 boys were benefited by the program while 684 and 148 girls were provided skill training in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Benefited from the training, 180 girls and 95 boys were able to get placed in jobs in a year. They have started earning income and are able to supplement income to their families.
- **Strengthening Early Childhood Education for children in 3-5 years age-group:** Enrollment to Anganwadi centres was taken up as a prominent activity in the project area. 5477 children in the age group of 3-5 years were brought to Anganwadi centres during the project period and ensured early childhood care and education for them. Out of them, 3600 children were enrolled in 2012 and 1200 children in 2013. The rate of enrolment in 2014 was 677. The Anganwadi workers were oriented about the consequences of child labour and child marriage system through various training programs and regular rapport. Mothers' meetings were conducted through Anganwadi centres and the mothers were oriented about ill effects of child labour and child marriage. Joint programs were organized with ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers in coordination with CPP.
- **Preventing school dropouts from families under migration:** 558 children were prevented from migrating to elsewhere for work during the project period. Their parents were motivated and sensitised about the consequences of child labour and lack of education. They continued in education. 249 vehicles were seized for transporting children for work and a fine of Rupees 14 lakhs was imposed on such vehicles.

## 2. Awareness and Mobilisation

- **Organizing street plays on child labour, girls' education, prevention of child marriage, in project area in Raichur:** Kalajatha (theatre show) was organised in the district covering 115 villages in 2012 which benefited about 50000 people. Similar exercise was taken up in 2013 also, which again reached same number of people through 115 street theatre shows.
- **Organising and facilitating communities to dialogue on children's rights on children's issues in 46 panchayats 35 wards in Raichur:** Gram Sabha (Village Assembly) on child rights and child related issues were organized in all the GPs and Wards wherein children raised their voices and concerns about their basic issues in the presence of parents, village/Ward leaders, GP officials and representatives of local community based organizations. 55 villages in 14 GPs were declared free of child labour during the year 2013.
- **Formation of village level Child Protection Committee (CPC) with panchayat president, Anganwadi Centre, teacher, V.O of SHGs, leader of balika sanghas and child clubs. Regular meetings of village level child protection committees:** 46 CPCs have been formed in the project area and their meetings have been conducted regularly.
- **Identify and prevent all the agreements between employers and parents in sending children to work:** About 7000 employers have given undertaking in writing to Deputy Commissioner emphasising their vow not to employ children in their workplaces. 400 shop owners in Raichur district have displayed permanent boards on not to employ children.
- **Identify middlemen groups in recruiting children to work and build their awareness against child labour and link them to mandal joint enforcement teams:** 36 Printers in the district were motivated to take age certificates of the marriage parties before printing the marriage

invitations. Now they have made it as a practice in Raichur. They refuse to print invitations without submitting the valid age certificate of marriage parties.

- **Build key relations with school and key community members in terms of focusing on enrollment of out of school children, monitoring of school attendance etc. Creating awareness on child rights and against child labour using posters, wall writings, other communication materials:** 3883 out of school children were re enrolled into school till 2012. In the year of 2013 alone, 761 such children were brought back to school. 850 children were re enrolled in 2014. During the project period, 5494 out of school children were brought back to school. Out of them, 1536 were children working in the cotton sector. Number of girls was more compared to boys among them. In 2013 alone, 1536 child labourers in cotton sector were rescued and put back to education stream. The total number of children rescued from cotton sector is 5494 during the project period. Out of them, 2575 are female children.

Various behaviour change materials were used to create awareness among the communities on child rights, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking and other related issues. 8 Pamphlets, 3 brochures, 6 types of posters, 4 types of stickers, 2 hangings on CRC, 75 hoardings in prominent places, 3 documentary films, 60 radio episodes on 'today's children are today's citizens' were produced to create awareness among the stakeholders and disseminated in the entire project area during the project period.

414 wall writings were done in the district, 157 on child labour in cotton sector, 187 on child labour in rural areas and 70 in urban area.

In two movie theatres, seat cover with a message against child marriage and child labour have been put up to create awareness among the movie goers.

As part of establishing rapport and contact with the officials, phone numbers of the concerned officials at the GP level have been put up in all schools, anganwadi centres, GP offices, Raitha Samparka Kendras, PHCs and police stations.

- **Organise campaigns, rallies with key influencers, balika sanghas, child clubs, SHG members on key festival days and local important days:** Exhibition stalls on child rights, child protection, child marriage and child labour were arranged in village festivals. 13 such stalls were installed in various places in the district during the project period. 130 colleges in the district were focussed and 22150 students were sensitised on child protection issues. They were oriented in 2012 and 2013. In 2014, only 23 colleges could be focussed. Anti child labour day was observed at the GP/taluk and district levels.
- **Identifying child labour in cotton seed sector including other sectors, never enrolled children dropped out children from schools and enrolling them in schools, special training centres:** 7454 inspections were conducted during the project period to identify children working in cotton seed farms, shops and establishments. Out of them, only 91 were conducted in the year 2013. 176 cases have been filed against cotton farm employers under Minimum Wages Act during the project period.
- **Training of community based organizations including mandal teams, women's groups, youth groups, adolescent collectives, farmers groups, , NGOs, training of functionaries and others on child rights with special focus on child protection including child labour elimination:** 4555 farmers and owners have been sensitized in training programs on child rights and child labour during the project period. Out of them, 3327 were trained within the year 2012 and the rest in 2013. The farmers signed a Memorandum of Understanding and submitted to the Deputy Commissioner vowing that they would not employ children in their farms. 6052 farmers executed it in 2012 and 1324 farmers in 2013 totaling 7376. In 2014, 322 farmers signed the MoU.

558 farmers have displayed boards in their farms with a slogan against child labour employment. 6023 shop owners also have signed MoU and displayed board in their shops.

- **Strengthening of Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Committees and child care institutions on CRC:** 80 people in the Juvenile Justice System were oriented on child protection and child rights and related issues during the project period. They include members of JJB and CWC and District Child Protection Unit formed under ICPS. Moreover, Superintendents and staffs of Govt Children's Homes and other child care institutions also were trained in the same period. Rescued children were produced by Unicef-DPP team before JJB and CWC regularly for effective rehabilitation. 102 girl children were provided rehabilitation in Children's homes through CWC. JJB and CWC were made to involve in rescue operations and training programs regularly. Chairperson of CWC, Ms Veena Pallaki has attended several programs organized by Unicef-DPP in various parts of the district.

Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) meeting is regular in every month at the district level where each case is reviewed and suggestions are made to improve the delivery of performance. Every month, review meeting of Child Welfare Officers of all police stations is conducted by the project team. A separate cell was introduced in each police station with table and chairs to assist the women and child victims, under the guidance of SP, supported by Unicef project.

- **Training of police personnel with judicial officers and public prosecutors on child labour /child protection issues:** 818 police personnel were trained on child rights, child labour and child marriage issues during the project period. 160 judges and lawyers were oriented on child protection issues. 212 officers designated under section 17 of CLPRA, 1986 also were trained during the same period. 221 designated child marriage prohibition officers were specially trained on child marriage prevention and strategies.
- **Organizing "Open courts" by labour department implementing the child labour legislation:** Open house program was organized in police stations wherein students were invited to interact with the police personnel on various issues related to child protection. 1395 programs were organized wherein 49042 children participated during the project period.
- **Convergence meetings and trainings with key departments and NGOs on progress as per Action Plan targets:** In 2013, 'Panchatantra Computer Programme' of the department of RDPR was included children's gram sabha and related programs, through regular negotiation with the concerned department officers.
- **Facilitating maintenance of Community registers / child data base:** Details of children of migratory families were collected and their list was prepared with a view to retain them in the villages. A list of vehicles carrying children from villages to farms in the border of AP was prepared in order to invoke action against such erring vehicles.
- **Capacity building of panchayats, mandal parishad members, teachers, Anganwadi workers, labour department officials, police, District Child Protection Units formed under ICPS, ICDS officers on child rights, child protection and child labour elimination:** 197 district level officers, 120 DWCD officers, 1700 anganwadi workers, 92 hostel wardens, 650 college lecturers, 4400 youths, 91 Literacy Preraks, 117 municipal workers and staff, 270 ASHA workers of health department, 840 GP members and 88 Municipal Councilors, 46 Village Accountants, 261 women's leaders in the urban area and 75 women's leaders of rural area, 136 BRPs, CRPs and Subject Inspectors of Education department, 211 taluk level officers, 358 college student leaders, 210 Panchayat Development Officers, 2364 school student leaders were trained during the project period on child rights, child protection, child labour elimination, prevention of child marriage.

Moreover, 90 religious leaders, 1676 Child Rights Club leaders, 2655 SDMC members, 422 women SDMC members, 762 Child SDMC members and 2996 members of village level Anti Trafficking Committees (ATC) were sensitized and trained on the above mentioned topics.

Convention of Child Clubs and Balika Sanghas (Girls' collectives) also were organized separately wherein 1022 Club members and 1200 girls of Balika Sanghas participated. Issues on child rights, child protection, child marriage, health and hygiene, significance of education, life skills, and carrier guidance were discussed in the conventions.

Posters 'our village, our children' were displayed in the GPs and the handbills on CRC and CRPCs were distributed in GPs in order to enhance their awareness on child rights and consequences of child labour and child marriage. 'Children's Helpline numbers' also was displayed in schools, GP offices, Anganwadi centres and other prominent places in GP. 'Child Rights Complaint boxes' were installed in GP offices during the year 2013, which helped the children in the area complain any issues related to violation of their rights.

Red boxes were installed in 40 villages for filing complaints. It was opened twice a month. The response was enormous. Though it was aimed to get child related complaints, it attracted all sorts of complaints from the villagers and children. A local committee consisting of School head, police, Anganwadi worker, GP member and others was made to see the complaints. Majority of the complaints were about water related issues. The second one was about school compound while the third one was about mid day meal in the school. The fourth largest complaint was about child labour. About 40% complaints were solved by the project through facilitation with local agencies. Other complaints were transferred to concerned depts.

### 3. Women's Empowerment

- **Facilitate linkages with livelihood programs of Government including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) for women with special focus on mothers of child labour and out of school children:** 492 women members of 41 Self Help Groups were provided livelihood support and linkages with bank and other institutions. 26 women's groups have got financial assistance from NABARD.
- **Political empowerment and participation of women in local government:** 26 GP female Presidents were trained along with 20 male presidents in the project area.
- **Increasing awareness of women on social issues including child protection, child marriages, gender violence and ensuring their integration into SHG members activities:** 7500 women were trained in child rights and child protection. 196 SHGs have become free from child labour. All of them have ensured their children are in school. 8900 women have resolved against child marriage through their Self Help Groups.
- **Training women's groups on leadership qualities for their enhanced participation in political issues/activities:** 1160 women members of SHGs were trained on leadership.

### 4. Girls' Collectives

- **Formation of girls' collectives:** 232 girl's collectives were formed during the project period, 46 at the GP level and 24 at Urban Ward level wherein 5351+649 members have enrolled. 2 Balika Sangha Mela were organised for oath and one for EPIC CARD enrolment. In each program, 525 girls participated.
- **Training of girls as leaders:** 581 girls were trained as leaders in leadership, qualities of leaders etc.
- **Issues of training for girls' collectives:** child rights, child marriage, school dropout issues, child labour, protection of children, especially girls, adolescent issues, health and hygiene, skill

development, significance of education, life skills, leadership were the main issues for training of the collectives.

- **Their linkages with CPCs and other community groups:** Majority of the members of collectives have joined SHGs in their respective area. Girls' Collective members are part of the CPC in the area and they attend the meetings regularly and take up responsibilities in protecting the rights of children.
- **Girls' Collectives' empowerment, its impact, results:** The girls when enrolled to the Collective were school dropouts. However, soon they re-enrolled themselves to schools in age appropriate classes and continued their education. All of them vowed not to marry before attaining 18 years of age. They regularly met in their respective areas and discussed various issues related to their life, social issues and village development. Capacity building on various issues has empowered them to take steps by their own. They are now involved in any social activities in the village. They were active participants of EPIC campaign during the last assembly and parliament elections.
- **Changes in the lives of girls, child marriage prohibition:** The members of the Collectives were able to prevent 289 child marriages and in 7 cases FIR was filed against the erring persons involved in the marriage during the project period. The collective has helped the members to stand on their own feet to assert their rights. The first step they took after getting organized was resolution against child marriage. They took oath to stay away from marriage till the age of 18 years and they succeeded in their resolution. A majority of them took up skill development training and were able to develop a way of living.
- **Impact on skill training, education, prevention of dropouts, identification of child labour by them, school enrollment by them:** 1230+148 girls were given skill development training and 180 girls were given placement in jobs. They got enrolled to schools and continued their education to reach a goal. They were able to identify school dropouts and enroll them back to schools. 000 children thus were put back to the education path by the girls' collectives. The members of the collectives have moved door to door to advocate education for children and motivate the parents to send their children to school regularly.
- **Girls as change makers:** 6000 girls in the adolescent age are active members of Balika Sangha (girls' collective) and have been involved in the campaign against child marriage in their respective community.

## **Conclusion**

The efforts initiated by UNICEF project in the district have created an impact on the district administration as well as the civil society on protection issues of children. A kind of ownership has been brought in among the community and stakeholders through the relentless campaign. The mechanisms like task force at the GP level, Child Rights Club, Balika Sangha were only on paper when the project was initiated. The project activity has helped activate such mechanisms in the district. The concerned departments have now taken ownership of such community based mechanisms. The NGOs associated with the UNICEF project have implemented the activities at their level best. The cooperation of the Deputy Commissioners and other officials was exemplary.

The most encouraging factor is that the replication of the project achievements elsewhere in the state. The Dept of Women and Child Development has taken note of the step taken by the Raichur district administration on making the age certificate of marriage parties mandatory for printing invitations. Based on this, DWCD director has issued notice to all DCs in the state to take the same step in their respective districts. All printers and Pujaris, in turn will receive notice

from the DCs with respect to marriages conducted in their jurisdiction. DWCD has warned the DCs that they will be held responsible for any child marriage in their jurisdiction.

Similarly, the Labour Commissioner Karnataka has issued notice to all NCLPs in the districts to collect undertakings from the farmers not to employ children in their farms.

The Labour and Revenue departments have jointly initiated a step to display seat cover with the slogan of 'no child labour' in movie theatres in the districts.

Raichur project has initiated several steps in ensuring child protection, and lot of money and hard labour has been spent for it. It is very significant to carry forward this pace towards achieving 100% child protection in the district. The community mechanisms activated by the project need to be encouraged and monitored on a regular basis.