



bachpan
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andolan

An Initiative of Association for Voluntary Action (AVA)

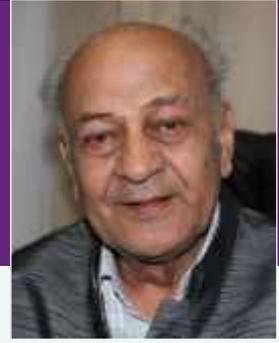
ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19





CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) has a legacy of taking the lead on defining and furthering the cause of children's rights under the guidance and leadership of Nobel Peace Laureate Mr Kailash Satyrathi. What started with the rescue of a minor girl from brick-kiln in Punjab in 1980 has now transformed into an international movement for child rights. I am proud to say that the achievements of the past year have grown the movement multifold as we expanded our presence in 20 states and garnered support from various states governments to create a child-friendly society.

In the year 2018-2019, we rescued 2,785 children from child labour and got 63 employers arrested. The Delhi Police declared in an affidavit submitted in the Delhi High Court that BBA was responsible for 90% rescues of child labour and child trafficking victims in Delhi since 2009. Our short-term rehabilitation centre, Mukti Ashram, provided 327 children with immediate care and protection out of which 322 children were reunified with their families. Efforts are also being made to rehabilitate these children effectively by ensuring their release certificate, statutory compensation and enrollment in schools.

Our endeavour to create a robust child protection framework in the country through responsible, accountable and convergent institutions has resulted in a significant increase in the registration of crime against children. The registration of cases under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 has increased by 97%, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 increased by 351%, and crimes under cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956 saw an upsurge of 4398%.

We pride ourselves in our culture and work ethic, putting our hearts and minds into solving the real problems, and building solutions for scale and sustainability. Our vision for a child-friendly world is driven by a compassionate connect with children, families and communities, and we shall settle for nothing less than the unconditional and uncompromised freedom of all children. Our dedicated team and the children, parents and partners who are part of our journey, share this dream with us. We shall continue to make strides to ensure the freedom and safety of every child.

Our endeavour

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R.S. Chaurasia'.

R.S. Chaurasia

Chairperson

ABOUT US

Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) is India's largest movement that works for the protection of children. Started by Nobel Peace Laureate, Mr Kailash Satyarthi in 1980, BBA works closely with law enforcement agencies and policy makers to strengthen the child protection system, judiciary and civil society organisations.

BBA was born out of a profound compassion for child victims of trafficking and servitude. Child trafficking is rampant in industries like garment manufacturing, stone quarrying, brick making, carpet weaving and a host of other nondescript sectors in several states of north India. The emergence of BBA heralded an era of activism that waged an all-out war against a system which had enslaved millions of children and pushed them into a state of dehumanised existence.

The compassion, liberation and humanising philosophy of the movement continues to remain central to its activism against all forms of child rights violations, and define its vision for the creation of a child-friendly society. From engendering a child-centric perspective among the government functionaries, elected representatives and civil society groups, BBA has played a decisive role in shaping various legislative enactments and policy initiatives for children in India.

BBA has so far been instrumental in the liberation of more than 87,000 children from various forms of bondage. Our work is dedicated to our activists Kalu Kumar, Dhoom Das and Adarsh Kishore for their supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives in the fight for children.



To create a child-friendly world where all children are free from exploitation and abuse.



To identify, release, rehabilitate and educate children in servitude through prevention, direct intervention, coalition building, mass mobilization, legal action and for the creation of a child-friendly society where all children are free from exploitation and receive free and quality education.



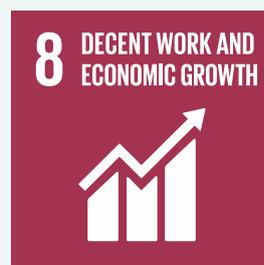
ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

BBA is working to achieve its mission in the following ways:

1. **Programmes:** Our programmes, **Victim Assistance and Access to Justice**, address issues of exploitation and violence against children through direct and indirect interventions, legal support, rehabilitation and by ensuring that public institutions are capable, accountable and convergent to protect the victims. Through our **Training and Capacity Building Programme**, we build capacities of the police, lawyers, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Board, civil society organisations, activists and other stakeholders on child-related laws and policies, and their implementation.
2. **Policy Sensitization and Analysis:** As India's leading child rights organization, we support the government in drafting child-related policies. Our goal is to ensure a strong policy framework at the national and state levels to improve the response mechanism for crimes against children and facilitate a child-friendly environment.
3. **Legal Interventions:** BBA seeks intervention of the court of law on several matters related to the protection of child rights and enforcement of laws for creating a child-friendly society. Our legal interventions include filing Public Interest Litigations for mobilizing support towards the issue and representation of individual cases.



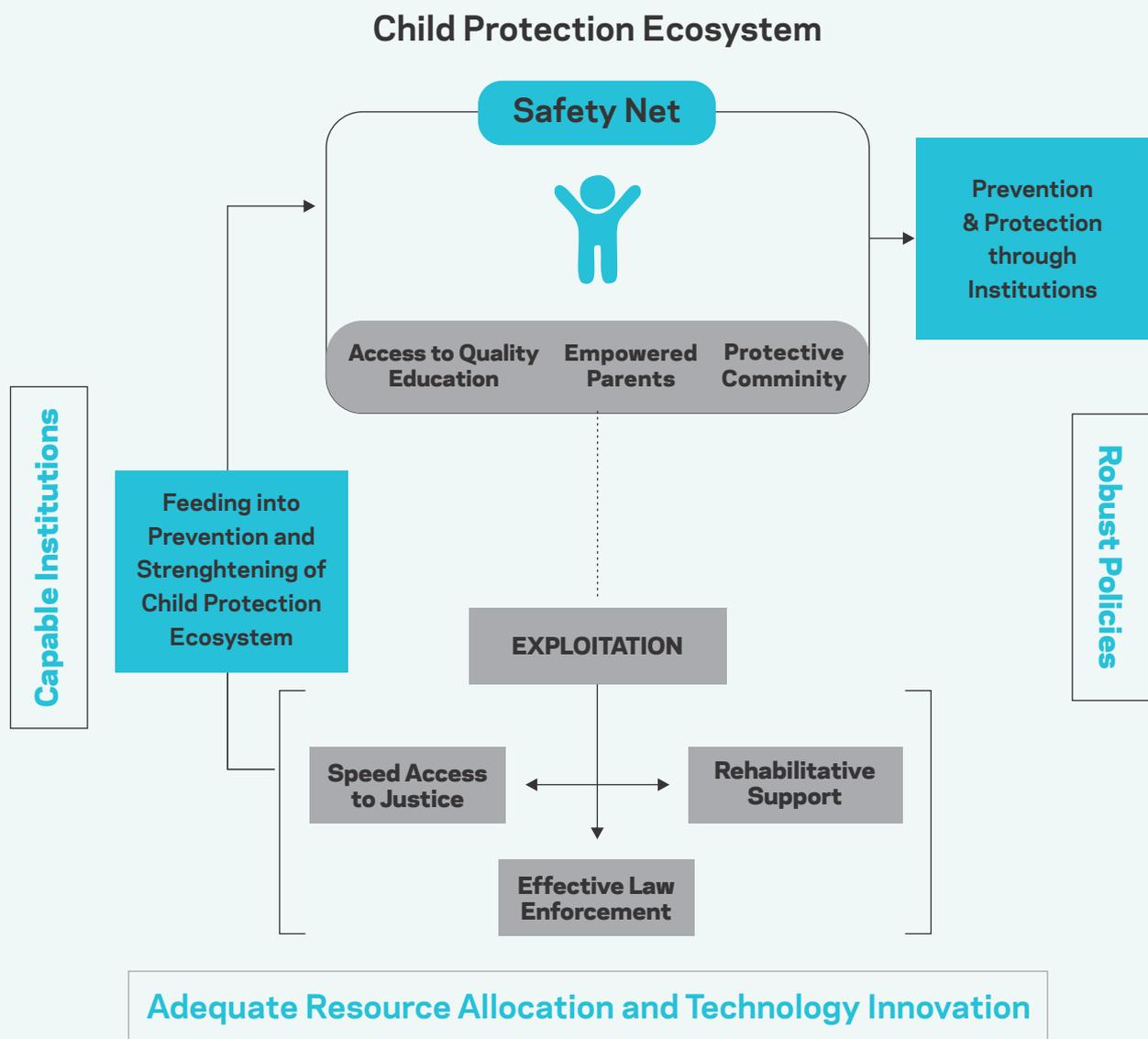
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



THEORY OF CHANGE

The prevention of exploitation of any child is ensured through a safety net of an empowered child, access to quality education, empowered parents and a protective and responsive community. If a child is still exploited, BBA seeks to ensure a robust framework for rehabilitation that ensures psychological, medical, economic and social rehabilitation, and reintegration into mainstream society.

BBA seeks to create a deterrence for crimes against children by enabling an effective and responsive law enforcement machinery and a speedy and child-friendly justice delivery mechanism. On one hand, it seeks to create a society which is compassionate towards the needs of an exploited child, and on the other, deters the perpetrator and enforces behaviour change, which together feed into prevention of exploitation.



PROGRAMMES

Access to Justice (AtoJ)

Access to Justice works to establish and sustain a robust child protection framework in the country through responsible, accountable and convergent institutions, which work together to ensure that every child is protected from exploitation and abuse; and has access to rehabilitation. The primary objective of the intervention is to increase the registration of cases of crimes against children by 100 per cent, keeping the National Crime Records Bureau's crime in India Report, 2015, as the baseline. The number of cases under JJ Act was collected from 13 states, CLPRA from 14 states and CSEoC from 12 states through RTIs and personal visits to the police stations. It is provisional till Jan 2018. The project is being implemented in 20 states.

Impact

Increased registration of cases of crime against children under JJ Act	97%
Increased registration of cases of crime against children under CLPRA Act	351%
Increased registration of cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956	4398%

Source: RTIs and data collected from police stations

Outcomes

Law Enforcement officials trained on child care and protection	4689
Legal camps held	249
Individual case interventions	502
Child-friendly police stations established in 13 states	818
CCI inspection visits	607
Awareness rallies held	11
Partnership with NGOs	722
Meetings with states and non-state actors (eg. department of WCD, Labour, Education, Police, NGOs etc)	3522

Presence in 20 States



HIGHLIGHTS

Andhra Pradesh: Partnership was established with the state Labour Department after submitting State Action Plan for elimination of child labour. BBA also made recommendations to the state government to make it a child-friendly state, which was also acknowledged by the Chief Minister at a public event.

Telangana: BBA's State Coordinator was appointed as a member of the Child Juvenile Justice Committee by the Telangana state government for regular visits to observation homes. The state government has also allotted space to the organisation to open a regional office in Hyderabad. This will help BBA to implement the commitments made during the Karimnagar Declaration, a huge public event held in February 2018 wherein several measures were promised by the government to make the Telangana a child-friendly state.

Punjab: As part of the partnership with the state government, State Action Plans were developed by BBA on various issues related to child protection like child labour, child marriage, child sexual abuse, missing and found children. All these State Action Plans have been notified by the government.

Maharashtra: Guidelines for care and protection of pregnant child survivors of rape were drafted and submitted by BBA to the Home Department. In Mumbai, we were able to re-activate District Task Force and the Vigilance Committee.

Uttarakhand: BBA supported Women and Child Development department of the state government in drafting the State Rules for Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. We also assisted in the formation of District Task Force in all districts.

Kerala: BBA supported in making 2018-19 work plan for Kerala's State Legal Services Authority (SLSA). The work plan outlines the planning and execution of legal support in cases related to children throughout the year. As a result of our consistent knowledge building and training to government officials towards the issue of child protection, the state police has assured to incorporate section 370 of IPC, which corresponds to trafficking, in all the cases of child labour.

Assam: BBA also developed a similar 2018-19 work plan for Assam State Legal Services Authority for planning and executing activities throughout the period. BBA was also empaneled as District Task Force member of Kamrup Metro in Assam.

Madhya Pradesh: BBA has completed the construction of eight child-friendly police stations in the state as a model to be replicated in other states.

Gujarat: BBA undertook evaluation of 42 Police stations across eight districts on request of the police department.

India Action Week: To commemorate World Day Against Child Labour in June 2018, BBA conceptualised and initiated a rescue drive in partnership with State Governments, law enforcement agencies and other local organisations. Named 'India Action Week Against Child Labour', it led to the rescue of 1,561 children across 13 action states and registration of 77 FIRs against child labour employers.

CASE STUDIES

Hebra Case, West Bengal

A resident of illegal residential facility, Sarada Sevashram, was sexually abused by its founder. The incident came to light when the victim's mother filed a complaint about the abuse of her young daughter. BBA's West Bengal team intervened and conducted the fact finding about the case. Letters were written to local police authority and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for cognizance of the case. NCPCR proactively responded to the case and directed the district magistrate to act swiftly on the matter. It led to closure of the facility and the owner was arrested.

Arrest of Trafficker through Legal Camp, Chattisgarh

In August 2018, BBA organized a mass legal awareness camp in the trafficking-prone district of Sarguja in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority and our regional NGO partner, Path Pradarshak. For the first time, community members came forward and raised their voices about cases of child rights violation. As many as 26 parents gave written complaints of their missing and trafficked children. Several prominent traffickers were also identified through discussions with the parents and their details were retrieved. Subsequently, written complaints and information regarding the trafficker were shared with the ADGP Chhattisgarh who further directed the police officials in Sarguja to take cognizance of all cases and launch investigations. As a result, one trafficker involved in trafficking of minor girls was traced and arrested. A regular follow-up is being done with the police and the State Legal Services Authority to arrest the remaining offenders.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The Victim Assistance (VA) programme functions as a comprehensive model for child protection, from identifying trafficking and forced labour to rescuing and providing legal and rehabilitation support to the rescued children. This intervention started in 1980 with the rescue of a minor girl in bonded labour in a brick-kiln in Punjab, who was about to be sold into prostitution in Mumbai. This was the beginning of the journey for BBA, and we have since rescued more than 88,500 children from trafficking and forced labour. The learnings and experience gained from this programme have contributed immensely in reforming and advancing the legal and institutional mechanism of child protection in the country.





RESCUE

Operations are conducted by developing local reporting mechanisms and creating vigilant squads in suspected areas, for identification of children trapped in child labour. The team gathers information about the industry, the approximate number of child labourers and type of work they are engaged, in along with other details, to do a risk analysis. This information is further confirmed with physical verification of locations or places of employment. Support and partnership with local administration is sought before the operation, which is an important aspect of this intervention, to avoid any violation of the law. Thereafter, the identified victims are removed in a raid led by the of District Task Force and other government authorities. BBA ensures that at this stage the children are safely extradited from the site and are transferred to a safe environment.

REHABILITATION

After being produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), children are sent to either Mukti Ashram or another Child Care Institution run by the government and other NGOs, for short-term rehabilitation.



FOLLOW-UP

Once children are reunited with their families, efforts are made to reintegrate the children in mainstream society. These efforts include issuance of Release Certificates, access to immediate rehabilitation support, compensations under legal provisions, access to socio-economic welfare schemes and most importantly, enrollment into school. Home visits are conducted for each rescued child, to assess the status of their access to the statutory rehabilitation package and to extend necessary assistance for the release of rehabilitation package.



In order to supplement individual follow-up and rehabilitation support, a pilot was done in three districts in Bihar - Araria, Katihar and Samastipur - to create a community-based rehabilitation model through child participation. Children's groups were formed and trained to communicate with their peers, support the newly repatriated children, generate awareness about child rights, and educate the community on how to raise an alarm if they notice something suspicious in their surroundings. People Vigilance Committees (PVCs) were also formed and the committee members were trained to facilitate rehabilitation of children and report any violations of children's rights in the village.

MUKTIASHRAM: SHORT TERM REHABILITATION FOR BOYS



After rescue operations, some children are sent to our short-stay home 'Mukti Ashram' for their immediate care and protection on the order of CWC, until their repatriation with parents or legal guardians. During their stay in Mukti Ashram, children are provided with legal assistance, medical care, psychological and emotional support, and learning and recreational opportunities. The duration of their stay depends on the completion of the legal formalities, ranging from 2-6 weeks. This year 327 children were provided immediate care and protection out of which 322 were reunified with their families.



OUTCOMES

Children rescued from child labour through direct intervention	1199
Children rescued from child labour through partners	1586
Children enrolled in schools through direct intervention	153
Child marriages foiled through direct intervention	2
Children empowered to lead the change in their villages	72
People's Vigilance Committees (PVC) formed	6
PVC members engaged	72
Employers arrested	63
Establishment sealed	61
Back wages recovered	INR 50,50,570 for 213 children
Statutory compensation accrued	INR 7,47,00,000
Release certificates issued	249
Bank accounts opened for children	507
Children received state/central compensation	62
Children assisted to receive immediate support of Rs 20,000	34

OUTREACH

States Covered	6
Children identified	3561
Complaints filed	141
Rescue operations conducted	148
FIRs registered	213
Children followed-up	1399
Families assisted to register for Below Poverty Line card	600
Families assisted to benefit from Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana	79
Families assisted to take the National Health Insurance Policy	61
Families assisted to benefit from the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	130

HIGHLIGHTS

90% Rescues in Delhi: The Delhi Police declared in an affidavit submitted in the Delhi High Court that BBA was responsible for 90% of child labour and child trafficking victims rescued in Delhi since 2009.

Kala Ghoda Installations: At the famous Kala Ghoda Arts Festival in Mumbai in January this year, we set-up installations on a tree to represent the lost dreams of children who have been victims of exploitation and trafficking. The installations were much appreciated by the visitors who were encouraged to participate by sharing their stories of childhood. The event saw a footfall of more than 50,000 people, including school children, college students, celebrities, professionals, parents, and artists, and went viral on social media with 93,059 posts on Instagram.



Training of CWC/NGO in Maharashtra: A training workshop for Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) and Child Protection Officers/State Juvenile Police Unit was organised in Mumbai in January this year, with an aim to sensitise them on various on child protection laws and mechanisms. Around 70 PSI from 12 zones and 10 Juvenile Officers participated in the training.



World Leaders Visit Mukti Ashram (Short-Term Rehabilitation Centre for boys): The Ambassador of Panama H.E. Dr. Gilberto Ierena Garcia along with the 3rd secretary from Embassy of Panama visited Mukti Ashram in April. The Ambassador and the Secretary were briefed about the Ashram as they interacted with the children who shared their aspirations and life stories.



The US Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley visited Mukti Ashram and met Nobel Peace Laureate Mr Kailash Satyarthi last year. She interacted with the children and they discussed issues related to children's rights and their safety. The Ambassador reiterated America's commitment to ending child trafficking. Mr Satyarthi urged the Ambassador to form an international response mechanism under the aegis of the United Nations to address the issue.



Youth Ambassadors from Taipei University:

Youth Ambassadors from Taipei University visited Mukti ashram in September. They spent an entire day at the Ashram playing sports with the children and participated in cultural and art activities.



CASE STUDY

15-year old Harsh from Uttar Pradesh was trafficked to Mumbai on the promised of a lucrative job in the city. He was brought to Mumbai and placed in a local restaurant at Ghatkhopar. The boy soon realized that things were not how he had imagined them to be when he was promised the job in the city. He was made to work late hours and was barely paid his wages. He felt trapped and there was no escape until the day he was finally rescued by BBA. The team ensured that an FIR was registered against the owner of the restaurant. Prosecution procedure was initiated and the boy was reunified with his family. Our activists visited the boy's family in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh and enrolled him in school, and motivated him to pursue his studies. The team is also following up with the District Administration, for issuance of Release Certificate so that the child could access rehabilitation services.

TRAINING

The implementation of laws for the care and protection of children, and government schemes and programmes are inaccessible to survivors. BBA addresses this gap through training and capacity building workshops, which impart knowledge and skills through innovative, practical approaches. The team conducts training programmes for all the agencies and stakeholders that are meant to provide care and protection to children and thereby strengthens the implementation of their initiatives. These institutions include judiciary, police officials, Child Welfare Committees(CWC), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB), Child Care Institutions(CCI), non-governmental organisations, community leaders, frontline workers, parents and children.



OUTREACH

Law enforcers trained (officials of CWC, JJB, Police, SJPU, DCPU)	736
Special Juvenile Police Unit, Police trained	754
Members trained from Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards	154
Members trained from State Child Protection Society and District Child Protection Units	415
Members trained from District Task Force	121
Media personnel trained	300
Members trained from Civil Society Organisations	948
Members trained from Child Care Institutions	267
Stakeholders trained in all districts of Punjab and AP	1177
School children, teachers and support staff trained	1203
Master Police Trainers trained	270

POLICY SENSITISATION AND ANALYSIS

BBA works towards establishing a robust child protection framework in the country through identifying gaps in child rights, child protection policies and legislations. BBA is driven by the need to create responsible, accountable and convergent institutions that work towards protecting every child from exploitation and abuse; and providing access to rehabilitation. BBA supports State, National and International Agencies (both government and non-government) to ensure that sound policies and best practices guide the approach to child protection. It also aims to build a culture of critical discourse around the issues of child protection in the country followed by affirmative action to bring about a robust response mechanism for crimes against children.

HIGHLIGHTS

Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection, and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018

BBA provided intensive support to government to pass the Bill in the Lok Sabha. It is the first proposed comprehensive anti-human trafficking law that set institutional accountability for prevention of trafficking, the right to rehabilitation for survivors, and strict criminal and economic punishment against the offenders.

Punjab Child Protection Policy and State Action Plans

BBA supported the Punjab Government in drafting the State Child Protection Policy and State Action Plan with special focus on child marriage, child labour, child sexual abuse and education to create a robust policy and institutional convergence framework within the State for child protection. The same was notified by the Punjab Government.

Juvenile Justice Rules for the State Of Uttarakhand

BBA was the Principal Advisor to the Uttarakhand State Department of Women Welfare and Child Development in drafting the State Juvenile Justice Rules of Uttarakhand.

Victim Compensation Scheme and Witness Protection Scheme With National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)

BBA supported NALSA in drafting the amendment to the Victim Compensation Scheme for increased compensation to women and child survivors of crime and the Witness Protection Scheme for the fair and speedy justice delivery.

Guidelines for setting up of Child Friendly Police Stations

BBA developed guidelines and indicators for child-friendly police stations, which were submitted to all the state governments. These guidelines are currently being used by the governments to set up child friendly police stations in their respective states.

Maharashtra State Guidelines on Pregnancy due to Child Rape

BBA submitted guidelines and the Standard Operating Procedure for government agencies in cases of pregnancy due to child rape as per directions of the High Court of Maharashtra.

Standard Operating Procedure for Missing Children for Delhi Police

In compliance with the order of the Delhi High Court, BBA supported the Delhi Police to strengthen and implement the Standard Operating Procedure for Missing Children.

State Juvenile Justice Rules for Punjab

BBA supported the drafting of the State Juvenile Justice Rules for the department of Social Security and Development of Women and Children, Punjab, as a part of the ongoing partnership with the state government to develop a child-friendly state.

Child Labour Action Plan in the State of Andhra Pradesh

As the official partner of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, BBA supported the development of the State Child Labour Action Plan.

Paper Presentation BBA team represented at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress jointly organised by Delhi School of Social Work (DSSW) and National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) wherein a paper was presented on The Global Discourse on Child Pornography.

Meeting with the Gujarat Juvenile Justice Committee BBA Participated as an invitee to the Juvenile Justice Court Meeting where recommendations regarding prosecution in cases of trafficking and child labour, rehabilitation of bonded labourers and curbing of child marriage and need for inter- government convergence and accountability through judiciary, were accepted.

LEGAL INTERVENTIONS

BBA uses judicial intervention as a strategic tool to ensure holistic child development and create a child friendly society. Through petitions, legal representation to victims and broader legal strategies we ensure easy access to justice and the development of child-centric policies and improvements in existing legislations to ensure all aspects of child protection are duly recognized in the country.

INDIVIDUAL CASE REPRESENTATION

BBA has provided legal aid to children and undertaken efforts to ensure release of compensation, initiate prosecution against offenders, achieve conviction in child abuse cases, etc. which has resulted in following achievements:

No. of individual cases represented in Court	251 cases
Number of convictions	45
No. of direct and indirect legal intervention	545 cases
Number of children supported through legal interventions	7,180
Amount of court sanctioned compensation released to child survivors of abuse	USD 11,760

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATIONS (PILs)

BBA uses judicial intervention as a major tool to further its goal of ensuring holistic child development and creating a child-friendly society. Various legal initiatives and strategies are developed to ensure easy access to justice, development of child-centric policies and improvements in existing legislations to ensure all aspects of child protection are duly recognized in the country. This is done by filing petitions and providing legal representations.

Implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2015

In the writ petition filed under Sampurna Behura vs. Union of India [W.P.(C) 473/2005], the Supreme Court of India directed that all the respective High Courts of the states shall take suo-motu cognizance of the issue of implementation of the stated 16 directives given by the Court in the said writ petition with regards to the matter. Subsequently, in compliance with the order, all High Courts have taken due cognizance of the same and have directed the state governments to file respective affidavits of compliance.

Delhi High Court, in the writ petition filed under Sampurna Behura vs. Union of India [W.P.(C) 2495/2018 and CMAPPL. 6385/2019] has directed the government to place a status report regarding finalization and notification of recruitment rules of Counsellors with regards the implementation of the JJ Act.

Strengthening Children's Home and Observation Homes in Jharkhand

In an order passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi [W.P.(C) 1052/2018] it has been directed that the State Government shall furnish details with regards to sanctioned strength of staff in Children's Homes and Observation Homes lying vacant; and that the Government shall ensure no child is lodged in the prison.

Accountability of government institutions

In Jharkhand, there are a large number of vacancies in Observation Homes that are not duly filled. At several places, there are 100% vacancies in the Observation Homes. The court has directed the Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, not to pay the salary to the Secretary, Women, Child Development and the State Social Security Department till the public advertisement is given.

Implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act

In this writ petition filed by BBA – Bachpan Bachao Andolan vs. Union of India [W.P.(C) 466/2016] – it has been specified in orders passed by Delhi High Court that:

- Special Commissioner of Police shall review the cases and state the reason for their pendency and suggest how the cases can be expedited.
- Acquittal Review Committee shall be set up to review cases whereby accused have been acquitted of charges in crimes against children.
- Member Secretary, Delhi State Legal Service Authority, shall indicate a methodology to identify the victims of cases registered under the Act and to ensure that victims are aware of their right to statutory rehabilitation.
- Delhi Government shall file status a report in the Court regarding the procedure to be followed for filing of appeals against acquittal and other interlocutory orders passed under the Act.

Reducing Substance Abuse among Children

In a writ petition filed by BBA in the Supreme Court of India – Bachpan Bachao Andolan vs. Union of India [M.A. 431/2017 in W.P.(C) 206/2014] – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has drafted the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (2018-23) in compliance with the Supreme Court directives.

Neetu Thru. Rewatiram vs. State W.P.(CRL.) 869/1998 (Facial Recognition Software)

The need for sophisticated technology to address child protection issues in the country was highlighted by BBA in the Delhi High Court. In an order passed under the above mentioned case, in which BBA was an intervenor, the Delhi High Court directed for time bound exchange of data and procurement of software by the concerned government departments. Consequently, in April, 2018, during the first round of application of the software, the Delhi Police was able to successfully match the data of 2,930 missing children with the children placed in Child Care Institutions. Till April this year, 10,561 children were matched using the technology.

Sadhan Haldar v/s state of NCT OF Delhi & Ors. W.P.(CRL) 1560/2017 (High Court of Delhi)

In the above mentioned case where BBA was a petitioner, Delhi High Court directed all the concerned government officials and other stakeholders to ensure meetings of various agencies involved in the recovery and restoration of missing children. It also directed the Central Government to simplify the prescribed procedure stated on the website, TrackChild (www.trackthemissingchild.gov.in), to enable the parents of missing children understand the process and get proper assistance.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Complaint Cell: Despite increased efforts of the government to set up various response mechanisms to prevent crime against children, there has been an upsurge in such incidences, which calls for a need to launch a dedicated platform for children who are abused, exploited and are seeking immediate help. With this objective BBA's launched its 24x7 integrated system for receiving complaints of child rights violation. The cell received 292 complaints this year, mostly from West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.

Complaint Cell 1800-102-7222

Reunite Mobile App for Missing Children: One child goes missing every eight minutes in the country. In a landmark step to address this grim situation, BBA developed a proto type mobile application which comes as a ray of hope to thousands of anguished families of such children. The application was launched by Noble Peace Laureate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi and Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Mr. Suresh Prabhu. The application, named 'ReUnite' works on the technology of facial recognition software and will be a tool for citizens to report, search and identify abandoned children on the streets.



CASE STUDY

13-year Ishan was missing for the past one year from Purnea in Bihar when his parents filed a complaint with Complaint Cell. He was taken to Gujarat to work in an embroidery factory by a person from his village named Md. Guddu his parents had not heard back from him since then. On the receipt of the complaint, the photograph and details of the child were shared with BBA's State coordinator in Gujarat. The Complaint Cell team approached the Chairperson of Gujarat State Commission for Protection of Child Rights for necessary and prompt action in the case. After regular follow-up on the complaint, Surat Police took the custody of the trafficker, Md. Guddu, for interrogation in the case. The child was finally found by the Surat Crime Branch within three months and has now been repatriated back to his home.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

National Review Meets: We conducted two national review meets for strategic planning and review of the Access To Justice program, as part of organisational development. One was held in June 2018 and the other was organised in January 2019. State Coordinators from across the country participated and shared their experiences and challenges in carrying out the project activities.



Perna Diwas: Drawing inspiration from the life of its Chairperson Mr. R.S. Chaurasia, BBA announced to observe his birthday as Perna Diwas every year. The first celebration of the day happened this year on 15th February in Mukti Ashram where all associates of the Satyarthi Movement participated.







**bachpan
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