

Reducing and Eliminating Hazardous Child Labour from North-western Bangladesh : A Case study

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In Bangladesh child labour-both paid and unpaid, is often remain invisible because of the nature of employment. The children perform various types of work within the family, work as wage labourers outside the household or they are self-employed. The income they gain is an integral part of the household survival strategy. The rural child labourers are found not only in agricultural activities but also in many non-agricultural economic activities. The issue of child labour cuts across policy boundaries and is cause and consequence of poverty, displacements, illiteracy and adult unemployment. Extreme forms of poverty play a crucial role in encouraging child labour. This implies that child labour cannot be addressed in isolation.

An effective communication strategy, a process of social mobilization and awareness raising program targeting family, employers, children, community and civil society in general and trade unions & employers in particular, have undertaken and implemented through Child Labour Elimination Action Network (CLEAN) from October 2004 at Northwestern Bangladesh. CLEAN established community based institutions, named Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC) at Union level; a similar body at the municipality level is named Child Rights Protection Forum (CRPF). Besides involving the grass roots people, CRPF acted as a pressure group to activate and strengthen the District Child Rights Protection Forum (DCRPF) and similarly DCRPF was formed as the pressure group on Central Child Rights Protection Forum (CCRPF). CCRPF worked with the standing committee of the government department. Through the formation and activation of these bodies, consist of various stakeholders the CLEAN developed a sustainable local monitoring mechanism for combating child labour in Northwestern Bangladesh. Through this article, the author described the successful interventions, methods and strategies ,limitation and critically reviewed according to professional social work strategies .

Key Wards: CLEAN, Hazardous Child Labour, professional social work strategies.

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