



## **“Building Partnership to overcome challenges – Cobble Making in Budhpura”**

**One-day divisional level stakeholder consultation with line Department officials, PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institution) representatives, Cobble traders, NGOs, International Organisations, Cobble makers and local business leaders**



**Child Labour Free Zone- Budhpura  
September 18, 2015**

**Facilitated by:**

**Manjari and State Forum on Natural Stone  
Rajasthan**

An experience sharing cum sensitization workshop on building partnership to overcome challenges in cobble making in Budhpura, was organised under Stop Child Labour who supports Manjari in creating Child labour Free Zones in Budhpura, on 18 September 2015, at State institute of Agriculture Management, Kota. This event was facilitated by Manjari and ARAVALI representatives. The main objectives of this workshop was to sensitize the stakeholders on various issues and challenges involved in the cobble making process and identify opportunities to bring different stakeholders together for pooling strength and resources.

Total 92 participants participated in this workshop and shared different issues. The main speakers of the workshop are:

**1. Mr. Manish Singh, Secretary Manjari Sansthan:**

He explained the journey of Manjari and the activities implemented in Budhpura to establish Child Labour Free Zone (CLFZ). The various studies and baseline conducted by Manjari Sansthan indicated to develop a program which should have a family centered approach instead of child centered approach to bring all the children out of work and mainstream them in the formal education system. The approach also indicated to work inclusively with the Government Departments and other stakeholders. This approach ultimately focuses on strengthening local and community based institutions to own the program and change their mindset to provide each child his/her Right to Education which will ensure the sustainability of program results for a longer period.

**2. Mr. Varun Sharma: Program Coordinator, ARAVALI:**

Manjari is working in Budhpura since the last 2 years on this approach. We have created several milestones in this process. We have enrolled and retained 602 children's in the school. The Aanganwadis are now functional, schools are better than before, 1192 labors have been linked with the accidental insurance policy, 67 children are linked with Paalanhar Yojna government scheme, 82 widow are linked with IGNWPS and more than 200 old age persons are linked with IGNOAPS. Under this program a Family Livelihood Resource Center (FLRC) has been opened in Budhpura and the first 200 poorest of the poor mine labor families will be identified followed by the family livelihoods resource center approach. Based on livelihood analysis of each family, appropriate alternative livelihood interventions will be designed and implemented. The FLRC center at Bhudhpura will also graduate as center for skill development for the local youth regarding alternative livelihoods. With support of the State Forum on Natural Stone, Manjari Sansthan is facilitating diagnosis of various respiratory infections among local

stone workers. The list is still much longer but it is the acceptance of the people and their support which motivate us to move ahead. It is a long journey and we need support from each stakeholder to change the picture. Our vision is to see Budhpura child labor free and laborers being treated with dignity.

**3. Mr. Vijay Jain ETI representative, Jaipur:**

Mr. Vijay described the status of labors working in mines, crushers and outside mines. Several laborers died due to the wrong work practices and lack of PPP to sensitize them. It is great that for first time all the different stakeholders related to the sandstone sector are present and can discuss challengers and work towards a fruitful cooperation. People are working



towards good collaboration and first results have come about. As a very first step there is a great need to have a robust health & safety policy at factory and quarry level. Secondly, providing PPP is not just enough but it must be backed with interactive trainings and awareness programme with different stakeholders focusing on workers. Business community along with NGOs and government agencies should initiate an inclusive approach to minimize the occupational health risks for workers whilst working. Health issues especially the occupational diseases like Silicosis need an immediate attention and required a detail framework to bring it under "Zero Tolerance".

**4. Mr. Subhan Gaud, MV Foundation/ Manjari:**

Each and every child of the villagers should be in school and then we should talk about the quality of education. In the project area the schools lack teachers, infrastructure and environment. So in this situation where villagers take away the school property, where SMC's remain paper, children are provided single time books and there is no system to provide them books again, quality education cannot be achieved. There is no relation between the community and the school and they do not feel any ownership over the schools. The political development in the education department aims to take away the school-bell out of the school. Earlier the bell was the symbol of school time, period change, half time and the last was the closing of school time. The sound of the bell used to tell the parents the information of their children in school and the status of them and

this was a better tool for the community to monitor the school. Now its everybody's duty to ensure that the school and the children are brought in a better condition.

**5. Mr. Pradeep Jha – Joint Labor Commissioner, Kota:**

Mr. Pradeep said that the authorities from the central mining department should also attend this workshop as the role of providing facilities and social welfare to mine laborers is part of that Department. Ahead he added that child labor is a sin for the community and no child should work. There are two parties mainly responsible for this and if they control this it can be eradicated. One the parents who send the children to work and secondly the employer who gives work to children. So if the parents and the employer think on this seriously, child labor is no more visible.

**6. Mr. Nandlal Pawan, Retd, Add. Superintendent of Police:**

Mr. Nandlal Pawan said that each and every person who is sitting in the hall has some relation with child labor. From Parents to importers, this chain has the responsibility to do ethical work which the law prescribes. The ones who follow the law should be rewarded and who don't should be punished. Each sector should be given the opportunity to present the views of his sector and it is everyone's responsibility to think and act seriously on this issue. He also explained the example of Eklavya and Dronacharya. Eklavya was thrown out school by classifying him as untouchable, but today it is everybody's right to get education without any barrier. He expressed his sincere thanks to Manjari for organizing such a wonderful and useful workshop and he urged to conduct a state level workshop in which State human Right commission should be invited and every one should be given time to express his issues and challenges.

**7. Mrs. Savita Krishnaiya, Deputy Director, Social justice Department Bundi:**

Mrs. Savita Krishnaiya said that child labor is prohibited under law. Her department is running 19 schemes for the rehabilitation of children who are in need of care and protection. She explained and provided details of each scheme and their eligibility. Her department is committed to provide full protection to these children.

**8. Mrs Pukhraj Bhatia , CWC president, Kota:**

Mrs Pukhraj Bhatia addressed the issue by saying that India is one of the countries having the largest number of child laborers. We are still struggling for the appropriate law which supersedes other laws because there are different laws in India which claim a



different age of the child as child labor. We should think on this seriously as the schools and anganwadi centers are not serving their duty. We all need to think on this seriously and work together to put a full stop on this issue.

**9. Mr. Bram Callewier, MD, Beltrami, Belgium:**

I am here because it is my duty to discuss on the issue of child labor involved in cobble stone making. It is every child's right to be in school and the right of mine laborers to live in a healthy environment, receive proper wages and work under decent working conditions. Yesterday I visited Budhpura and I was glad to see women who are asking for more teachers in the schools, the business community



coming forward, Manjari working so hard and the center for the labors is running very well. If we keep on working and implementing such interventions we will be able to create a better future for the community and for the children in Budhpura. It is also the duty of the community to come forward and own this program.

**10. Mr. Navneet Aggarwal, MD, Bundi Silica:**

Mr. Navneet Aggarwal told the participants that the children whom we are talking about also should have been invited in the meeting. So we can ask them directly what they need and can discuss on what can be done collectively to bring change.

**11. Mr. Amandeep singh Kapoor, IPS, SP, ACB:**

Mr. Amandeep singh Kapoor said that all of us sitting in this hall are stakeholders of this activity. Only the legal mines will be provided with facilities and illegal mines not. It was a challenge to define the parameters of illegal mines but we could do as all did their responsibility. Silicosis is a very big issue among the laborers and each month several people are diagnosed with silicosis. It is a big issue of rehabilitation of such labors and also an issue of alternative livelihood option so that they can earn



their a decent income with dignity. It is the duty of all the departments to work together for the welfare of the mine laborers. I wish you all good luck.

**12. Mr. Sawai singh Godara, IPS, SP, Kota city:**

Mr. Sawai singh Godara asked about the definition of child labor and urged to know the root cause of child labor. We will have to see the social and economical situation at the ground. A father always feels that if he has four sons, they will earn 1000 rupees per month, so in this way he thinks of coming out of the poorest community. No social illness can be cured by the law, awareness and education are the only tool to overcome it. It is quite clear that anybody involved in employing child labor will be charged under the law and appropriate action will be taken. We all should do collective action to eradicate it.

**13. Mr. Steven Walley, MD, London Stone, UK:**

Mr. Steven Walley said that he and his company are very serious about the issue of child labor in Budhpura. The living and working conditions of the people are not good, there are people who are not able to work now. The situation is alarming and we need to think about it. I am impressed with the work of Manjari. Being a social responsible company, we will do whatever possible for the welfare of the laborers and their family.



**14. Ms. Diewertje Heyl, Stop Child Labour, the Netherlands:**

Ms. Diewertje Heyl mentioned that one important stakeholder was not present in this meeting: the consumer, end-user of the sandstone cobbles. An important consumer of cobbles in European countries, like Belgium, UK and the Netherlands are municipalities and local governments. Municipalities and Governments in Europe do not want their city squares to be paved with cobbles produced with child labour or under other labour conditions that are not acceptable. She was invited by a municipality to talk about possible solutions of child labour involved in the production of sandstone cobbles in India. She said that not buying these cobbles is not a solution, the solution is to buy cobbles from companies, suppliers and local traders that are producing cobble in an



ethical and responsible way. To ensure child rights and workers' rights are respected in Budhpura, all stakeholders have to cooperate and play their role.

**After the presentations and speeches the participants were divided in sub-groups and an exercise was done in which the challenges and expectations of cobble stone workers, were discussed.**

The topics were presented by the women laborers themselves, the major expectations are:

1. Equal wages for men and women.
2. Insurance coverage for the workers.
3. Payment of wages in time and total wages should be paid.
4. Free medical facility in Budhpura.
5. Increase in the rate of cobble.
6. Loan facility for laborers without interest.
7. There should be a facility of shade, first aid, safe drinking water and toilet facilities available at the workplace.
8. Due to heavy risk in work proper PPP and quick medical assistance should be provided to each laborer, free of cost.
9. There should be a system to address the debt issue of the laborers.
10. The health workers, ICDS and teachers should provide quality services
11. There should be teachers in the school according to the teacher-pupil ratio mentioned in RTE Act.
12. There should be alternative livelihood options for laborers affected with silicosis and other repertory infections, HIV-AIDS, and accident during working with stone.



**Manjari's Secretary Mr. Manish Singh thanked all the participants for participation in the workshop and for sharing their views.**

**Post meeting reflections by Manjari staff (Education Volunteers and other team members) to understand the local community perspective on the stakeholder event:**

- Lots of people discussed on the right to education of ALL children (also dalit children and children from poor families), I liked that (shared by education volunteer who participated in this type of event for the first time).
- I learned about the existence of all the 19 government schemes, we can benefit from this.
- There was a discussion on the challenges faced by the workers (actually the first time that the women cobble workers openly discussed about their challenges with cobble traders and contractors directly). The cobble traders have never had a discussion like this with their workers before.
- Very brave that the Education Volunteers presented the challenges they faced in front of all the stakeholders.
- It was good to hear from the speakers that child labour is not good for the society, that they feel the same about it as us.
- Back in the mini-van a SHG member from Budhpura said to Babu Lal (Child Motivator) that they thought that they would get something when participating in the workshop. Babu Lal replied that the question is wrong itself, because the entire workshop was about them. All people were talking about their issues; their issues were heard and discussed. Now the women better understood the purpose of the meeting and also decided to take up the issue of child labour in their SHG. Next time they would also miss a day of work to come to a workshop like this (now the Manjari team really had to convince them to come).
- The good part of the workshop was that there were so many women from Budhpura. Now they feel they make part of the program as well.
- Good that the issue of Silicosis was raised and that the big officials were talking about it.
- Communication among all stakeholders is the key to success.
- Sensitization among the stakeholders and confidence building at ground level.
- Some of the government officials told the Manjari team that they would like to contribute, that Manjari can ask them what kind of support they need.



**Conclusion:**

Based on our discussions and reflections, we can conclude that the stakeholder meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> September has been successful. Many more stakeholders participated than envisaged (especially the number of government officials and cobble supply chain stakeholders was



beyond expectations). Most important is that the government officials are sensitized about the living and working conditions in Budhpura (probably none of the officials visited Budhpura and they were not aware of the situation). Another achievement was the interaction between the workers, contractors and cobble traders in the second part of the meeting, when they discussed on the workers issues of cobble makers in small groups. Manjari will follow-up all communication with stakeholders to ensure their support.

## Annex 1: program for stakeholder meeting



### **“Building Partnership to overcome challenges – Cobble Making in Bhudhpura”**

**Child Labour Free Zone- Bhudhpura**

**September 18, 2015**

**Venue: State institute of Agriculture Management, Kota**

#### **10.00 Am: Registration**

#### **10.30 Am: Context setting**

Overview of Budhpura ( Varun Sharma, ARAVALI)

Objective of Consultation:

- To sensitize the stakeholders on various issues and challenges involved in the Cobble making process
- Identify opportunities to bring different stakeholders together for pooling strength/resources

#### **10.45 Am: Three Challenges –**

- Access to Quality education
- Work related challenges (Health and Safety, Wage)
- Service delivery in Health

#### **11.00 Am: Presentation on CLFZ Budhpura by Manjari, Bundi**

#### **11.15 Am Tea Break**

#### **11.30 Am: Breakout session**

(Three groups will be formed to discuss the challenge at length and identify solutions in participatory way. Group participants will write down role need to play by Government Department, Business communities and NGO)

#### **12.30 Pm: Presentation by Group (Presentations followed by discussion)**

#### **01.00 Pm: Experts Opinion (5 Min. each)**

- Mr. Bram Callewier
- Mr. Steven Walley
- Ms. D Heyl
- ( two more to be finalised)

#### **01.30 Pm: Open discussion**

#### **01.50 Pm: Way forward**

#### **02.00 Pm: Lunch**