

SEGMENT 1**00:31 [TEXT SUPER]**

Official estimates claim that there are 20 million child labourers in India.

00:40 – 00:45 [TEXT SUPER]

The unofficial estimate puts this figure close to 111 million.

00:48 – 02:00

No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed in any factory, mine or employed in any hazardous environment. Article 24, the Indian Constitution. Despite this legislation, India holds the unsavory record of having the most child labourers in the world. So what are reasons for such an appalling number? The highest and the most obvious reason is poverty. It's simple. Families need money to survive and children are a source of additional income. This leads them into the deadly trap of bonded labour. Parents raise fund from local money lenders in exchange for the child who becomes a bonded labour. The next big cause of child labour is education, or rather, the lack of it. The general perception amongst most families is to let the child work and that education is of little value. Despite these shocking facts and figures, there's hope. A hope that burns bright within the few of us who live each day selflessly in order to make a little difference somewhere.

02:12 – 02:16 [TEXT SUPER]

The Parbhani slaughterhouse

02:43 – 02:47 [TEXT SUPER]

The slaughterhouse workers.

02:55 – 03:15

Parbani, a small town in the state of Maharashtra. In 1992, the Parbani Council conducted a survey on child labour in the district. What came to light is the shocking fact that 56 % of children aged between 6 to 14 years were employed in the slaughter house of Parbani.

03:16 [in Hindi]

Mohammed Rafiq

Salim Qureshi

Mohammed Afreen Qureshi

Mohammed Salim Qureshi

03:22 – 03:33 [in Hindi]

Out here the children had to cut, skin and break the bones of the cattle.

They also had to use their mouth to blow into the spleen of the dead cattle.

03:33 – 03:42

This is despite the fact that slaughter houses were among the hazardous occupations listed in the child labour act of 1986.

03:42 [in Hindi]

My name is Taufiq.
11 years old.

03:46

First we had to force the animal down.
Then cut it and place its head in this canal into which the blood would flow.

03:55 I used to clean the meat and the innards.

03:59 I had to remove, cut and clean the intestines.

04:08 I threw away the blood.

04:09 I did not like to remove the intestines.

04:13 It was horrible to hear the screams of the cows.

04:16 I was paid six rupees for this job.

04:18 – 04:25

Things changed for the better in 1998 when SETU, an NGO (non-government organisation) was identified and brought to the picture by UNICEF.

04:26 – 04:31 [in Hindi]

First, we got the working children to go back to school.
We also started special coaching classes.

04:53 – 04:57 [in Hindi]

I teach at the SETU special coaching classes from the 5th to 10th standard.

05:02 – 05:13 [in Hindi]

05:02 We like studying here.

05:04 Out here we can play as well as study.

05:07 The teachers help us with our problems and homework.

05:45 – 06:17 [in Hindi]

My name is Mohammed Naseer Ahmed.

And I used to work at the slaughterhouse.

Recently the people from SETU told me that they had started coaching classes

“And all you children should study there.”

So I said OK

SETU also explained to the parents that it would be good for the children to study.

06:17 – 06:33 [in Hindi]

My name is Mohammed Akbar Qureshi and I sell meat.

We thought it would be impossible to educate our children.

Initially we even thought that there was no point in educating our children

But now that the children are studying and reading things out to us, it makes us feel good.

06:34 – 06:39

What followed is one of the most remarkable success stories in the eradication of child labour.

06:44 – 06:48

The parents know that they are doing the right thing by educating the kids.

06:55 – 07:01 [in Hindi]

SETU and UNICEF have been like parents to us.

07:01 – 07:06 [in Hindi]

Today all the children who used to worked in the slaughterhouse are now studying in my class.

07:06 – 07:14 [in Hindi]

After my education I would like to become a Government Officer.

I want to be an engineer.

I want to be a doctor when I grow up.

I will be a professor

Teacher.

07:14 – 07:25

Today, the slaughter houses of Parbani are devoid of all forms of child labour and the hope of a new tomorrow is no longer a distant possibility. It has arrived.

SEGMENT 2**08:09 – 08:15 [TEXT SUPER]**

Deepak Kumar was a child labourer.

08:18 – 08:35 [in Hindi]

We freed Deepak at the New Delhi train station and brought him to the “Ashram” for rescued children.

He stepped out of the car without uttering a word and went straight to the tube well to shower.

08:47 – 08:57 [in Hindi]

After my parents died, I ran away from home and went to a hotel where I worked for a year.

09:00 – 09:20

Our next case study involves a pioneer organisation in the eradication of child labour. South Asian Coalition of Child Servitude more commonly known as SACCS also known as Bachpan Bachao Andolan. Over the last 20 years, SACCS has been instrumental in freeing over 55,000 child labourers.

09:20 – 09:34 [in Hindi]

My father had taken a loan of Rs5000 from the village landlord for my sister’s wedding.

In exchange for the loan, I was left with the landlord to work for the rest of my life.

[in Hindi]

09:34 I was forced to join a street gang.

09:36 When I was little, about 4 or 5, I looked after goats.

09:41 The street gang forced me to beg for 4 years.

09:44 I was a shepherd boy.

09:45 Never went to school.

09:47 I also had to do the housework.

09:49 – 10:01 [in Hindi]

During my escape, I was stopped by the Bachpan Bachao Andolan team.

They protected me from the street gang and the police and they brought me to the Bal Ashram.

I’ve stayed here for the last 5 years.

10:02 – 10:10 [TEXT SUPER]

The Bachpan Bachao Andolan rescues children through secret raids on establishments which use child labour.

10:10 – 10:14 [in Hindi]

It’s wrong to make children work.

Do you know that legal action can be taken against you?

10:17 – 10:24 [TEXT SUPER]

Today's operation involves the rescue of a young boy working in a "Dhaba" (a roadside restaurant).

10:33 – 10:50

Rescuing children from slavery ... that we have been doing last 20 years or more but what happens after that? So we opened the Bal Ashram in Viratnagar.

10:50 – 11:03 [in Hindi]

10:50 This is where we receive our vocational training.

10:55 We stay here and learn good things.

10:59 I like to study here ... I like to play.

11:03 – 11:05

Children should feel that they are still children.

11:07 – 11:18

So the most important challenge is to restore the sense of childhood so that they can try to join the mainstream of life again.

11:18 – 11:20 [in Hindi]

No one can stop me from moving ahead.

11:20 – 11:23

Another important issue is education for children.

11:23 – 11:30 [in Hindi]

11:23 I usually score 80% in my tests.

11:25 The aim of this Ashram is education and eradication of child labour.

11:30

We want education.

11:32 – 11:54

Our dream behind the creation of the Ashram was to make the victim a leader and we are proud to say that many of the former child labourers or child slaves are now ambassadors of the message of freedom and liberty. They are the one opening the keys of slavery in many villages.

12:07 – 12:18 [in Hindi]

Tell me, what are you going to do?

You're going to be stuck in the same job.

After your marriage, your children and their children will also be doing the same thing.

So what then?

12:32 – 12:34 [in Hindi]

Don't be scared. Speak the truth.

12:38 – 12:42 [in Hindi]

At least tell me your name.

What's the harm in telling me your name?

12:48 – 13:10 [in Hindi]

What's your name?

I'm Madanlal.

Don't let these children work. Educate them instead.

Is education bad? Do you have financial problems?

If so, send them to our Ashram where everything is free.

In the first place, you should be working, not them.

13:11 – 13:42

If these children themselves become their own liberators, only then the problem will be solved. There's no other way. The whole idea is to create a child-friendly world.

So we have started this concept of a child-friendly village. The village is completely free of child labour. All the children are in schools. The children in the village form the children's panchayat or Children's Assembly. That is an elected assembly where everybody can vote and select their leaders.

10:13:42 - 45

There will be fresh elections to replace those who have left.

10:13:46 - 51

All those who are in favour of Surendernath Wadia for the post of Head of Assembly, raise your hands.

10:13:51 - 57

22,23...,28,29...

10:13:58 - 10:14:01

32 votes for Surendernath.

10:14:01 -12

All those in favour of Lokendra, raise your hands.

One, two, three...eleven

10:14:12 -20

Lokendra Kumar Sharma wins.

14:22 – 14:32

This village panchayat of children is recognised officially by official head of the panchayat which is the elected village institution.

14:34 – 14:38 [in Hindi]

Please tell us all your problems.

14:40 – 14:47 [in Hindi]

Respected Chairman, please stop all the children from working and provide them with education.

14:58 – 15:16

The Bachpan Bachao Andolan has changed a number of lives and continues making the difference everyday. Their vision is simple – to create a child-labour free society where children receive quality education. Hopefully, someday, this vision will change into a reality.

SEGMENT 3**16:09 – 16:43 [in Hindi]**

16:09 The Experimental Theatre Foundation brings you the play "My Childhood".

16:19 My name is Sheetal Devdas Rathod. I used to be a child labourer.

16:22 I was a child labourer.

16:24 I worked at a roadside food stall.

16:26 I used to make earrings.

16:26 I was made to do embroidery.

16:30 I was a fruit-seller.

16:31 I was making earrings.

16:32 I made garlands.

16:33 I was a car mechanic.

16:34 My parents put me on the job.

16:37 I earned 10 rupees a day.

16:39 I made 10 to 15 rupees a day.

16:41 I want to be an actor.

16:46 – 16:55 [TEXT SUPER]

These ex-child labourers turned young performers enact Mera Bachpan, a play on child labour that has been performed over 10,000 times.

17:01 – 17:09

He calls it the theater of relevance and the experimental theatre foundation, or simply ETF, was the brainchild of Manjul Bhardwaj.

17:18 – 17:20

I want to meet all the kids.

17:24 – 17:30

Sheetal, Prateep, Ahmed, Rohit, Niteesh. Very good.

17:32 – 17:34

My name is Pramote.

17:36 – 17:37

Good to meet you, Pramote.

17:38 – 17:41 [in Hindi]

Let's welcome our dear sister, Raveena.

17:47 – 17:52

What does it mean?

This is a Telgu word for children.

17:54 – 18:03

The theatre of relevance was drawn to bring about a social change. By using street plays with socially relevant themes to bring about social events.

18:04 – 18:17 [in Hindi]

18:04 What will you eat if you don't work?
You want to be a drunkard like your father?

18:07 My boss beats me.

18:10 I'm going to die in a month.
So many children are born, only to die.

18:18 – 18:32

The project was started in 94, 95. It uses theatre media to change the society. The objective is very clear. That the child will stop working and will be going to a normal school.

18:33 – 18:41 [in Hindi]

Will you educate me?
No one will teach me.
Will you educate me?
Come on Gangu! Get to work!

18:41 – 18:45 [in Hindi]

They freed me from my job and I started schooling.

18:45 – 18:52

ETF realised that when children are deprived of their basic right to education, the inevitable result is child labour.

18:52 – 18:56 (in Hindi)

Hey Pakia, aren't you going to school?
No, my mother told me to go to work.

18:56 – 19:11

First, we perform in an area where there is a lot of child labourers. After the performance, we interact. Through that, we create a system of connecting with them and understanding them and their needs.

19:35 – 19:46

Over time, a change which happens in the children. Their confidence grows. They being accepted. Somebody is there to hear and somebody is there to spend more time with them.

19:46 – 20:00 [in Hindi]

I love acting.
I was really scared to talk to people.
Now I can speak confidently with anyone.

20:00 – 20:13 [in Hindi]

What are you going to do with all this information?
Wherever I find needy children, I'm going to try to help them.
If I want to be a big movie star like you, what can you do to help me?
A lot.

20:15 – 20:16

She was amazing.

20:21 – 20:26 [in Hindi]

I'm amazed at the brilliant performance all of you gave today.

20:27 – 20:40

The plan today was to perform Mera Bachpan at a little area in a Bombay suburb. It has a high incidence of child labourers working in the small workshops that repair cars.

20:56 – 21:03 [in Hindi]

Pay attention. We shall entertain you.
Let us tell you about the state of your children.

21:03 – 21:10 [in Hindi]

You've written his fate. You are his destiny.
Work a little hard and give the child some peace.
Return childhood to the child.

21:11 – 21:14 [in Hindi]

I'm very drunk today...

21:16

The Father

21:20 – 21:22 [in Hindi]

Wake up and go to work Pakia.

21:23

The Mother

21:26 – 21:33 [in Hindi]

You fought all night and won't let me sleep.
Don't lecture me. There's no food at home. Go to work!
I'm going.

21:33

The Son

21:40 – 21:42 [in Hindi]

Why are you late?

21:43

The Boss

21:44 – 21:46 [in Hindi]

What time is it?

21:48 – 21:51 [in Hindi]

My boss called me a son of a pig.

Are we not human too?

21:56

The Victims

21:57

The Disease

21:59 – 22:01

Child Labour

22:08 – 22:24 [in Hindi]

All these children who are working should be educated.

And all of you should ensure that these kids have a bright future.

22:24 – 22:58

The constitution of India clearly states that any form of child labour is unlawful. The question here is not whether the government is doing anything about it. The question is what are we doing about it. Despite the great work done by a large number of people and NGOs (non-government organisations), we are a long way from solving the problem. There are still millions of children working when at an age they should be at school. And if you look deep into their eyes, there's a little child scared, asking to be helped. Don't turn your back on them.

TEXT SUPERS**SEGMENT 1****00:31**

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00:40 – 00:45

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02:12 – 02:16

The Parbhani slaughterhouse

02:43 – 02:47

The slaughterhouse workers.

00:48 / 09:00 / 20:29 [once every segment]

Raveena Tandon

SEGMENT 2**08:09 – 08:15**

Deepak Kumar was a child labourer.

08:15 – 08:18

Bal Ashram

Viratnagar, Rajasthan

09:05

South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS)

09:10

Bachpan Bachao Andolan

09:14 "bachpan" – childhood**09:16** "bachao" – save**09:19** "andolan" - movement**10:02 – 10:10**

The Bachpan Bachao Andolan rescues children through secret raids on establishments which use child labour.

10:17 – 10:24

Today's operation involves the rescue of a young boy working in a "Dhaba" (a roadside restaurant).

10:43

Kailash Satyarthi
Bachpan Bachao Andolan

11:50 – 11:53

Kuhada, Rajasthan

13:43 – 13:52

Election of the head of the Children's Assembly

SEGMENT 3

16:46 – 16:55

These ex-child labourers turned young performers enact Mera Bachpan, a play on child labour that has been performed over 10,000 times.

17:04 – 17:07

Experimental Theatre Foundation (ETF)

18:18

Manjul Bhardwaj
Experimental Theatre Foundation

21:16

The Father

21:23

The Mother

21:33

The Son

21:43

The Boss

21:56

The Victims

21:57

The Disease

21:59 – 22:01

Child Labour