



COVID Impact:

Educational and Health

Support During the Pandemic

Cities like Delhi were impacted more by the Covid19 pandemic than others, witnessing an immense loss of life that left many children without the care and protection of their parent/s.

HAQ: Center for Child Rights, in collaboration with the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Vedantu (academic partner,) reached out via a Sponsorship Support Programme through which 25 children are currently being supported (15 girls and 10 boys). Thirteen children were provided with devices to pursue online education. In addition, 12 of them are being provided monthly support for internet connection.

Vedantu has enrolled 10 children who need extra coaching and mentoring, and 2 more will soon be enrolled.

20 children do not have any health insurance. We are looking for an insurance company that can partner with HAQ to take this forward as health insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana PMJAY can only be provided to children who have lost both parents.

[HAQ WEBSITE](#)

Justice for All?

Mostly caught for petty offenses and branded as monsters, what are we really doing to ensure “Delinquents” do not turn into something worse?



A recent news report highlighted that “it is the collective failure and apathy of the institutions of care and informal social control - family, neighbourhood, and school - that pushes children towards delinquency... An overwhelming majority of cases are of theft. In most cases, the crime was committed under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or under the orders of a “dada” (petty crime gang boss). The common denominator in all such cases is a marginalised socio-economic background.” (Read Failed, Jailed & Forgotten).

Most children caught for petty offenses are likely to languish in observation homes for long, even if their case is pending inquiry and disposal.

However,

- Can they move on to lead a normal life till their case is pending?
- Will their school take them back?
- Will they find employment if their prospective employers come to know that they have a case pending against them, irrespective of the outcome of the case?

A peek into the system.

Delhi has six Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) that deal with children who come in conflict with the law. The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) recently brought to the court’s notice that 1108 cases of petty offences booked against children were pending before the JJBs for more than a year and another 795 cases more than six months to a year.

This despite the law requiring such cases to be terminated after six months if the inquiry against the children cannot be completed in such time. (Find the Judgement [here](#)).

The Fringe Workers: Turning helplessness into Hope for Communities and Children affected by Mining



According to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), mining is the key to India’s double-digit growth rate. This double-digit growth can become triple-digit if the communities affected by mining are also taken care of.

District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Funds

In 2015, the Government of India amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act to mandate the establishment of the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in every mining district under the chairpersonship of the District Magistrate. Mine owners or leaseholders are required to contribute a certain percentage of their profits to a Fund established under the DMF, which is meant to be used for the welfare of people living in the mining areas and those affected by mining. Representatives of affected communities are supposed to be members of the DMF. However, people who are supposed to benefit have no clue about DMF and its Funds.

Colossal Impact on Women and Children



Deprived of basic amenities, including roads and access to health and education despite industrial development, women and children bear the brunt of it the most. Poor health and nutrition indicators, lack of educational opportunities and protection from trafficking, child marriage, child labour and other forms of exploitation are a few common problems in mining areas. While the funds that accrue under the DMF lie unspent and much of what is spent is on infrastructure, people's woes and struggles with day-to-day existence remain unaddressed.

Samvaad, a National conference by HAQ on Mining and Its Impact on Children



In an effort to bridge the gap, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights along with six civil society organisations from Sonbhadra and Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, Nellore and Krishna in Andhra Pradesh and Korba and Kabirdham in Chhattisgarh organised "Samvaad", a dialogue between the affected communities, DMF officials, mine owners, associations of mine workers and civil society groups in New Delhi on 08 October 2021. Conducted in a Hybrid Mode, it was possible to enlist the participation of both the affected communities and district officials online.

A way forward emerged as the Deputy Director, Mines & Geology, Nellore district opened up to receiving representations from the people and committed to addressing their problems. As requested by him, we hope to have more "Samvaad" in future to enhance the efficacy of DMF, make children a priority in the DMF project planning and implementation and find sustainable solutions to issues confronting the affected communities.

For more news on mining and DMF, keep reading our series "The Under(mined)" available on the HAQ website.



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for
Child
Rights

HAQ: Centre For Child Rights

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