



*Eliminating Child Labour in Small Mines*

***A PILOT EFFORT  
in the  
SLATE MINES OF MARKAPUR  
ANDHRA PRADESH  
INDIA***



**1. THE CONTEXT.....**

**THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

- *Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest state in India.*
- *In 1991, it had the highest incidence of child labour in India with 1.66 million child labour.*
- *By 2001 Andhra Pradesh had improved to the second highest position with 1.36 million.*
- *Andhra Pradesh has a proactive governance which places a premium on economic development*
- *And believes that economic development is not possible without social development*



**1. THE CONTEXT.....**

**MARKAPUR**

- *Prakasam is one of the 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh, and Ongole is the district headquarters of Prakasam district.*
- *Markapur is a sub division of Prakasam district located around 100 Km West of Ongole.*
- *Markapur is a semi arid area with scanty rainfall. Though agriculture is an important activity here, it is dependent on unpredictable monsoon rains.*
- *Literacy rate in this area is 15.21% only.*



**1. THE CONTEXT.....**

**THE SLATE MINES OF MARKAPUR**

- *There are more than 300 operational slate quarries within a radius of 25 km around Markapur.*
- *There are also 92 slate factories and more than 150 cottage units producing writing slates.*
- *The slates produced in Markapur account for 80% of the slates used by primary school children in India.*
- *A small percentage of the slate mines are also exported for use as decorative slabs.*



**1. THE CONTEXT.....**

**THE SLATE MINES OF MARKAPUR**

- ☞ *65 villages including Markapur town are either directly or indirectly depend on Slate related occupation.*
- ☞ *Out of the total workers, agricultural labourers constitutes 27.95%, Mine & Industrial workers 55%, and others 17.05%.*



**1. THE CONTEXT.....**

**THE STRUCTURE OF THE SLATE MINES**

- *The mines are first leased by government to 4 or 5 agencies.*
- *These agencies sub lease the mines as quarries to nearly 300 agencies/persons.*
- *The quarry is again sub leased as small pits to about 10 small individuals called pit owners.*



## **2. THE PRE PROJECT SITUATION.....**

### **WORK STRUCTURE IN THE MINES**

- *Each pit employs 25 to 30 adult workers.*
- *In addition each pit employed about 5 children.*
- *Children carried the waste rubble mud and other materials from the pits and dumped them at the surface.*
- *9000 children used to work in slate industry of Markapur, of whom 1500 children were in slate factories and the remaining 7500 children in slate mines.*



## **2. THE PRE PROJECT SITUATION.....**

### **CHLD LABOUR IN THE MINES**

- *The children were in the age group of 6-15 years.*
- *70% of them were girls.*
- *Children employed in mines worked from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and were paid Rs.10 per day.*



## **2. THE PRE PROJECT SITUATION.....**

### **SOME EARLIER INITIATIVES AGAINST CHLD LABOUR IN THE MINES**

- *The Government of India's National Child labour project (NCLP) Society, Prakasam, was formed in 1988 as part of the National Child Labour Policy to address child labour in the slate mines of Markapur.*
- *The NCLP ran 20 special schools from 1988 to 1998 covering 25 villages for 1000 rehabilitated Child Labourers from Slate mines in Markapur every year.*
- *However the number of children working in the slate mines continued to hover around 6,000 during that decade.*



## **3. THE ILO INITIATIVE: THE PROJECT .....**

### **THE INTEGRATED AREA SPECIFIC PROJECT IN MARKAPUR**

- *The ILO's IPEC Programme as a part of its Andhra Pradesh Project developed an integrated and area specific approach for the elimination of the hazardous child labour and implemented it in the slate mines in Marakpur.*
- *The Project began in October 1999 and ended in March 2004*
- *It covered 40 Child Labour endemic villages.*



### **3. THE ILO INITIATIVE: THE PROJECT .....**

#### **.....THE PROJECT IN MARKAPUR**

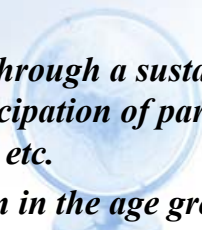
- *An integrated set of 14 interventions that addressed the prevention, release and rehabilitation of child labour involving the children, their parents and the entire village community along with trade unions, employers and the government was put into place in the 40 child labour endemic villages.*



### **3. THE ILO INITIATIVE: THE PROJECT .....**

#### **.....THE PROJECT's INTERVENTIONS: PREVENTION**

- *The community was mobilized to send all young 3 - 8 year old children whether working or not to pre-schools and schools.*
- *This was achieved through a sustained community level campaign and participation of parents, teachers, anganwadi workers etc.*
- *About 6000 children in the age group of 3-8 years were admitted into pre-schools and government schools*





### **3. THE ILO INITIATIVE: THE PROJECT .....**

#### **.....THE PROJECT's INTERVENTIONS: REHABILITATION**

- *About 2500 children working in the mines were withdrawn from the mines and enrolled into Transitional Education Centers.*
- *80 such Transitional Education Centers were run for a period of 2 to 3 years till all the children in them were mainstreamed into regular government schools.*
- *The children were provided free uniforms, text and notebooks and a hot cooked meal at lunch time.*



### **3. THE ILO INITIATIVE: THE PROJECT .....**

#### **.....THE PROJECT's INTERVENTIONS: REHABILITATION**

- *The Transitional Education Centers became a focal point around which the importance of school education became a talking point in the community.*
- *Parents took keen interest in the running of these TECs.*
- *In addition above 500 older child labourers in the age group of 13-16 years were withdrawn and provided skill training*



**3. THE ILO INITIATIVE: THE PROJECT .....**

**.....THE PROJECT'S INTERVENTIONS: LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT**

- *Over 2500 mothers of the rehabilitated child labourers were trained on Micro Entrepreneurship and were assisted in identifying, setting up, grounding, running and sustaining very very small micro enterprises.*
- *This ensured that the families were no longer economically dependent on the children.*
- *In addition 182 Self Help Groups of mothers of the rehabilitated children were formed and assisted in receiving revolving funds from credit institutions and government.*



**3. THE ILO INITIATIVE: THE PROJECT .....**

**.....THE PROJECT'S INTERVENTIONS: ENVIRONMENT BUILDING**

- *Trade Unions were mobilised to take a strong stand against child labour in the slate mines.*
- *Employers (pit owners) were sensitized and encouraged to replace child labour with adults.*
- *The government machinery in the district was mobilized to converge their activities against child labour*





### **3. THE ILO INITIATIVE: THE PROJECT .....**

#### **.....THE PROJECT's INTERVENTIONS: ENVIRONMENT BUILDING**

- *Tripartite committees of government officials, employers and trade unions on child labour were formed to sustain the work.*
- *Intensive community drives against child labour were launched.*
- *The pit owners were encouraged to bring in technology change in the pits to replaced child labour with adults.*
- *Thus the work done by children of removing the rubbles was encouraged to be done through the use of small cranes.*



### **4. THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT .....**

#### **OVERALL IMPACT**

- *Child labour has been completely eliminated in the 40 villages (whether working in mines or not).*
- *Child labour in the slate mines in Markapur has reduced significantly.*
- *Village communities have fully internalized the need to eliminate child labour and send all the children to schools. They have taken over the task of monitoring the reemergence of child labour.*



#### 4. THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT .....

##### IMPACT ON PIT OWNERS

- *Pit owners have become highly sensitive to child labour and realise that adult labour is efficient and cost effective in the long run.*
- *Pit owners are quickly taking over to the use of small cranes to discourage child labour.*
- *They find that with the use of small cranes their efficiency has gone up and they are able to mine more rapidly and cost effectively increasing profits.*
- *This had led to an increase in the number of adult labour employed in the state mines.*



#### 4. THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT .....

##### IMPACT ON EDUCATION

- *The Education Department has become re-energized in Markapur.*
- *The teachers in government schools have taken leadership initiatives to ensure that all out of school children, particularly those working in mines are re-enrolled in schools*
- *In view of the increased enrolment of children in the 40 villages, the Education Department has opened more schools, more classrooms in existing schools and recruited more teachers.*



#### **4. THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT .....**

##### **IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY**

- *The village panchayat has begun to actively involve itself on child labour.*
- *The community forum formed on child labour is now looking at other larger development issues like land development, irrigation, marketing agriculture produce, use of fertilizers etc.*



#### **4. THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT .....**

##### **IMPACT ON THE VILLAGE ECONOMY**

- *In some villages they have used their new found empowerment to dig borewells using government subsidy.*
- *This increased irrigation has led to many hundreds of acres of fallow land now being cultivated.*



*The Markapur Model has thus sustainably eliminated child labour in the slate mines of 40 villages and has emerged as a holistic effort for ending child labour.*



Thank You

