Report

on

Inter-State Children Parliament

December 9th - 11th 2007

Join Up For Children Rights! Now

Organized By:

Sampark & CCF-India Jhabua AO

Inter-State Children Parliament

Backgroud

Sampark has organized the *Interstate Children Parliament* event for the children belonging to disadvantaged communities of the different tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharastra and Gujarat. Many of these children are first-generation school goers and have the first hand experience of education through the difficulties of rural education of India. The children are exposed to the vulnerabilities relating to nutrition, health and education. Though these vulnerabilities affecting the children from the ways of rural background, 61% tribal families were migrated every year for the period of 5 to 6 months in search of their livelihoods, in which elder children accompanying them and younger ones stay back to their home and taking care of their domestic responsibilities, nowhere it is found a situation where the children's entitlement to the well being steady growth and development is attained. The basic indicators of child development show a high deprivation in terms of nutrition, educational attainment and basic healthcare. The children are subject to the travails of exploitation and deprivations through child labour/ Bonded Labour, child marriage and eloping and migration etc.

With this thoughts keeping in mind, Sampark has organized the Interstate Children Parliament to explore the potentials of children and make them aware and enable them to utilize those potentials for the betterment of their life situations. The child active participation is neglected in the social well being process dominated by the elderly and children are excluded to explore their inherent capabilities. Children grow with a very limited worldviews on account of their existence either in the confines of their own community or in the alien environment occurring to them due to migration of their parents.

The *Interstate Children Parliament event* is organized to provide the opportunity to the children to participate in a different activities like election, cultural activities, games and stall exhibition to ensure that the deprived children get a platform to share their experiences with other children, get a feeling about their potentials and capabilities and learn about their own circumstances. The purpose of this event is to realize the children about their potentials and capabilities and develop the confidence and leadership quality.

Participants

SAMPARK has organize ***Inter State Children Parliament*** for the Educational and Personal development of underprivelidged children of tribal community. This event is organized for the 3 days from the 9th to 11th December 2007 in which ***539***

participants were participated from the CCF interventional areas including the particpants from other partners organization from different states viz ***(CARD, PRAYAS, AST, JJFHP from madhya Pradesh), (PRIDE from Maharastra) and (RBKS from Rajasthan)***. The children participated in the Interstate Children Parliament were came from the far situated areas from the different states. Basically, this event is organized for the development of inherent qualities of children for this purpose the dummy election process is organized for children and teach them about the pro-democratic process and develop the leadership quality among them. The main purpose of Interstate Children Parliament is providing the conducive and joyful atmosphere to the children where they feel free to interact, participate and express their feelings and grievences, if any. In this event, apart from the democratic process children also participated in the cultural event and stalls exhibition.

Objectives

- To provide a larger platform to expose children to wider interactive learning among children
- To initiate the child parliamentary process to provide opportunities to children to discuss about their own issues and links this process upward to resolve them.
- To share child experiences and learning of issues and stories relating to child rights.
- To provide scope for children to explore leadership and other potential qualities.

Entire Process of Children Parliament

Registration

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Group Formation

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Training of Election Commission representatives

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Inauguration session and speech from the resource person

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Formation of Constituencies

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Calling for Nominations

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Filling of Nomination form

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Propaganda of election

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Polling

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Counting of Polls

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Organizing of Elected Representatives

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Formation of Parliament

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Oath Taking

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Establishing Portfolios

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Closing Session

Activities:

In the *initial day*, participants reached the venue and registered them for the Interstate Children Parliament from the Rajasthan, Gujrat, Maharastra & Madhya Pradesh. Entire participants divided into the 10 groups ranging between 45 to 55 children. This group comprises 5 boys and 5 girls groups in the name of mountains and rivers respectively. The basic purpose of dividing the participants into the groups is to familiarize and acquainted with the others. Afterwards, documentary film has shown to the entire participants on the theme of education.

All the Sampark & CCF Partners were trained as election facilitators for the Children Parliament. These trained candidates are to facilitate the constituencies and brief the entire process of election, filling of nomination forms, guide the nominated child in the propaganda process and instruct the children time to time to run the elections.

On *10th December 2007*, *Interstate Children Parliament* inaugurated by the *Mr. Rajkumar Patak* Jhabua Collector & *Mr. Jyotiraditya Desai* by lightning the "Lamp". Mr. Raj Kumar Patak in his inaugural address mentioned the following points -

- All children should go to the School/Night School/Bridge Course.
- No Children should work below the age of 14th year in any form.
- Children's parent should taking care of personal hygiene of children like Clean Nose, Neat & Clean Dress, Daily Brushing Tooth and no flies in their homes and
- Call for attention of parents to send all their children to school and he also mention that he found the 1400 out of school children and advocate for them and bring back them to schools.

Further, *Jyoti kaka* inspired the children by telling the Akbar - Birbal conversation about the potentials of children. Children were boosted and encouraged about their potential to attempt the greater thing in future. Thereafter, *Mr. K. Narayan* from the MV Foundation inspired the children about the education and discourage the habit of doing odd jobs in house/ field like taking care of siblings, cattle etc. and disseminate the information regarding the Residential Bridge Course for out of school children to continue their further study for the well being of their future.

After tea break, a brief orientation of children parliament has given to the entire participants by the election commission and experience shared by the *SWRC Tilonia and Sampark* to demonstrate the better pictures and also explain the benefits of child parliament. For instance the 6th Prime Minister of 6th SWRC child parliament sensitize the parents of out of school children/working children etc and motivate them to send their children to school for the better future.

In the Post lunch session, the entire groups of girls and boys re-divided into the 15 parliamentary constituencies and allocated the 2 facilitators in each constituency from the election commission. Then, Election commission with the help of constituency facilitators introduced the 3 elections parties on the field namely *Bal Ekta Dal* with the symbol of "Bow & Arrow", *Bal Adhikar Morcha* with the symbol of "Lighting Lamp", *Bal Vikas Sangthan* with the symbol of "Rising Sun on the Book" and *Nirdali Party* with the symbol of "Pen".

The three parties chief functionaries explained their agenda separately to attract the voters as follows:

1. *Bal Ekta Dal:* Party given the main emphasis to 'Unity' in their party's agenda. Further, they bifurcated their agenda into the three following points:
    - Education development
    - Water resources improvement for irrigation & drinking
    - Development through participation

2. *Bal Adhikar Morcha:* This party emphasis on the 'Implementation of Child Rights' like Educational Rights, Security & Justice to all, Safe Drinking Water, Adequate shelter & food, Participation in all developmental activities etc. and their why they build the strong youth for the nation who are able to achieve their development through their strong will power.

3. *Bal Vikas Sangthan:* Their symbol is 'Rising Sun on the Books' that means bringing the light of development to every family which drives away the darkness. Party has explained their agendas in the following points:
    - Party will bring the mid-day meal scheme and ensuring the availability for all children as per the ICDS Schedule.
    - Bringing the resources of water by deepening the community wells.
    - Providing Candles to all families to use when there is power cuts.
    - Forming the Community Groups and motivate them to take up the Income Generation Activities.

4. *Nirdali Party:* Party is given the emphasis to 'Equality' among the children as well as parents. For instance Village children will also sit on the benches like in the urban areas. Party will bring the Free & Compulsory Education up to 18 years. Party is strongly working out to abolish the child labor in any form. Provide adequate teaching staff in all schools.

After the introducing the agenda of 4 nominated parties. Sitting together with the entire voters group and selected their party chief and representative with the consent of all. Thereafter, Constituencies facilitator called for the nomination for the party election parliamentary candidates. In such a way, election commission received the 48 nominations from the 15 election constituencies including 15 nominations for *Nirdali* party. Election commission also sort out the list of voters as per their constituencies to manage the smooth polling process next day.

In addition to above, propaganda campaign started by the nominated candidates and using the different types of technique to attract the voters. The different types of technique like Aam Shabha (Mass Meeting), Rally, speeches and dance performance to capture the votes.

The children could see the reality of the election seen and how the representatives will be elected and make propaganda and process.

After dinner every body participated in the cultural program in which *Sampark Buniyadi Shala* (Basic School) has taken the main lead to entertain the participants through folk songs, dance and role-play. All the participants took their active participation in the cultural program and brought out optimum talents.

On *11th December 2007*, Election commission has arranged the 15 polling booths with their voters list copies and arranged the other required things reached earlier before starting the voting. Constituency facilitators guide the venue to the voters to the respective polling booth and two polling officers also arranged by the election commission to carry the free & fair voting process. In each polling booth, there were 45 to 50 voters to votes for the nominated candidates fighting for the parliamentary seats.

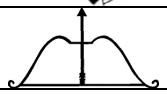
Thereafter, exhibition stalls were also started in which 6 different stalls were exhibited on different subjects like science activities including mathematical games, Human-being & Mammal skeletons, and puzzle games to entertain and familiarize the children with the modern technologies, display and explaining about children's comic books, display of poster and pamphlet related to various critical issues relating to children's health, education and sanitation etc., display of vocations-based works like stitching, pearl work, hanky & candle making by using the local resources in order to familiarize them with various ideas and life skills, Hair-cutting stall to build up the children skills in beautification.

In post the lunch session, the functionaries of election commission started the counting of the voting as per constituencies wise in front of the party representatives and provided the opportunity to the winning and losing candidates to express their feelings to the voters as well as election commission as soon as they were elected. The results of the voting are also simultaneously displayed on the board for the information of the public. The final score sheet of the different parties as follows:

Display Board:

Thereafter, result of the 15 constituencies election were declared for the establishing the Children Parliament house. Out of 15 seats *Nirdali Party* won with the 10 seats and *Bal Ekta Dal* won with the 3 seats and *Bal Adhikar Morcha* & *Bal Vikas Sangthan* just able to manage showing their existence with 1 seat. In this way it is clearly explicit that the Nirdali Party came in to the power in the parliamentary house and got the opportunity to establish their ministry with the portfolio. Further, the portfolio of the Nirdali Party Ministry representing the government has taken the Oath of serving their responsibility and protection of the government as follows:

- *Ms. Surta Bhuria* Prime Minister
- *Mr. Monaj Goyal* Home Minister
- *Mr. Shailendra Gundiya* Education Minister
- *Mr. Bhabharlal Bubaria* Information & Broad Casting Minister
- *Mr. Dilp Bhuria* Water, Agriculture & Environment Minister
- *Ms. Gangaram* Health & Family Welfare Minister
- *Mr. Bherulal Garwall* Speaker of Bal Shabha (Child Club)
- *Mr. Mohan Patidar* Member of Child Parliament
- *Mr. Karansingh Sisodiya* Member of Child Parliament
- *Mr. Ishwar Sema Gamad* Member of Child Parliament
- *Mr.*

S. No.	Parties	Symbol	Results
1	Bal Adhikar Morcha		1
2	Bal Ekta Dal		3
3	Bal Vikas Sangthan		1
4	Nirdali Party		10
		Total	**15**

  Rakesh Gova Member of Child Parliament
- *Mr. Mahesh Mishrilal* Member of Child Parliament

Thereafter, Anti-incumbent party has elected their leader for ensuring the fair and free government role in the development sector and also time to time asking the questions to government about the promises and also taking the report of their progress. The leader from the Anti-Incumbent party supporting the government is:

- *Mr. Vipin Cauhan* Anti-incumbent leader from the Bal Adhikar Morcha

- *Mr. Ramesh Nanuram Charel* Anti-incumbent leader from the Bal Adhukar Sangthan
- *Mr. Vishal Bhabharlal* Anti-incumbent leader from the Bal Ekta Dal
- *Ms. Pushpa Maida* Anti-incumbent leader from the Bal Adhikar Morcha
- *Mr. Prabhu Nanji Gamad* Anti-incumbent leader from the Bal Ekta Dal

Further, Election commission has explained the role and responsibilities of each minister and establishes their portfolio. In this, Education Coordinator or (Child Participation & Protection) CPP key person were help in managing the portfolio to the ministers in his/her respective area and if any issue is arise from their area then key person will be responsible to forward the information to the cabinet house and immediately corrective measure will be taken to resolve the issue.

In the final session Sampark has presented the memento for each of its partners presented for this three days *Interstate Children Parliament event*. The memento has presented the point person from the partner organization addressed the participants and vote of thanks expressed by point person from participating organization. In this, following point person address the participants:

- *Mr. Yashwat Rao Gayakwad* from PRIDE-India, Maharastra explained about the Bal Panchayat and child rights. Further, he is giving the vote of thanks to Sampark & CCF-India Jhabua Area Office to conduct the *Interstate Children Parliament* and disseminate the information about the democratic process, Child Rights, Bal Panchayat etc. through the participatory method in which the entire children find the space to participate and learn about the above stated process by being the part of them.

- *Mrs. Sakuntala*, RBKS, Rajasthan giving vote of thanks to Sampark and CCF-India Jhabua Area Office for conducting participatory event for the children and also for the translating the democratic information to the small children for ensuring their rights in the remote areas of rural India.

- *Mr. Anil Verma* (Area Manager), CCF-India AO quoted that the 'Children are the future of our Nation'. Thus, children should get conducive atmosphere to attend the well-being and for attaining this self-regulation habits should be developed from this age. Further, He also emphasized that in future children will be active participants in the democracy of country. In this, this event may provide them some insights regarding the India democratic practices and make them enable to participate actively in near future in the democracy for the development of their area.

- *Mr. Jyoti Bhai Desai (Jyoti Kaka),Gujrat* has appreciated the Sampark & its workers for the way they have conducted this type of motivational child parliament successfully and initiated the process of understanding the parliamentary functions to sensitize the children the future citizen of India to participate and develop.

- *Mr. Gendalal Upadhyay*, CCF Project Manager, Sampark giving the vote of thanks to the entire participants, CCF Partner Organization and CCF-India Jhabua AO for the active participation in this First *Inter-state Children Parliament*. Further, he explained that this is the first time Sampark is organized the Children Parliament at the Interstate level with the collaboration CCF-India and expecting the partner organization and their participants will learn about the democratic process of our country and hopeful to continue this efforts of establishing the Bal Panchayat/ Sansad in their respective area and ensure the child rights. In addition, he also explained that the Education/ CPP key person will actuate the role & responsibilities of Interstate Child Parliament's minister and forward the concerned issue to the parliamentary members/ Cabinet Ministers and link these issues to resolve them.

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