

Key Findings Child Waste Pickers Study 2007

In the year 2007, a rapid survey was conducted across three days to check and interview children who collect waste and are engaged in this activity either full time or part time. A questionnaire was prepared to get the information about the demographics of the children engaged in waste picking, understand their work situation and their life situation. Volunteers from different colleges and other organisations collected this information.

This study revealed that:

366 children from 330 families were found waste picking in 13 selected pockets of Pune

72% were boys and 28 % were girls. This is in contrast to KKP KP's study of 1995 where girl child labourers were more.

Most of the child waste pickers were in the age group of 10 to 14 years but there was a small number of children below 7 years of age

Only 33 were children of members of the KKP KP. None of them were children of KKP KP members in door to door collection. This is a significant finding as it confirms that better working conditions for the parent's results in lower child labour.

90% of the children reported that their parents were in domestic work, construction labour, sundry work and other informal sector occupations.

Most of the children belong to Hindu Matang community

27% also currently go to school. 48 % have been to school at some time. Most dropped out between Stds IV - VII.

26.7% of children surveyed had migrated to Pune within the last 5 years , most of the children migrated with their parents and live with relatives. .

Although most of the children were found working in containers along the roads, there was a concentration of 46 children working at the garbage depot at Uruli Devachi. We wrote to the Education Officer, PMC; Commissioner; to start a class there under the SSA. We also put pressure on the labour department to stop children from entering the land fill site. In November 2008, the PMC sent out notices and put up boards banning child labour at the garbage depot. In December 2008, the labour department conducted a raid. Simultaneously, KKP KP started a class at the garbage depot in space provided by the PMC. At present, there are 25 children enrolled there. This is a bridge class so that children can be enrolled in mainstream schools in the coming academic year. We also started a systematic campaign to eradicate child labour in the waste picking industry by developing a poster for bringing awareness amongst citizens about the issue.

A hotline service (98819 14149) was made available for a period of 3 months where children engaged in waste picking and citizens could call and access help from the organization. The same number was publicized actively through the press reports and poster displays.

The whole initiative was covered extensively by the press and we also tried to work with the different journalists so as to get feature articles in the news papers. We used the Press too as a medium of creating awareness amongst citizens about the issue.