



Human Rights Day

December 10th

Our senior students have discussed the subject of “Human Rights” at great length – the result being an outpouring of ideas on the subject.

Certainly, young people are entitled to their share of fun and laughter. But do we want them to be unaware of those who don’t have much reason to laugh?

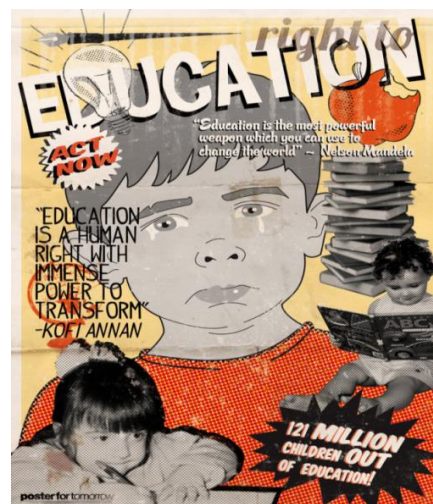
No, we want them to be wholesome and sensitive, with the courage to look beyond the narrow confines of their own lives.

In the passing of The Right to Education Act, the Government of India took a giant step forward. The future of millions of our children now looks brighter.

We must remember that educated minds can win the battle for truth and justice, fight for their rights, much more easily, than those who have been suppressed through generations due to lack of knowledge and learning.

There are countless people involved in the process of bringing about changes in society. These are people who at great personal sacrifice, stride out into the world to “help the helpless”. This results in many people who suffered once, leading happy lives today, because of support and caring.

The articles, poems and sketches have been contributed by our own students. We are proud of them because of their sensitivity towards the less fortunate.



Discrimination in India

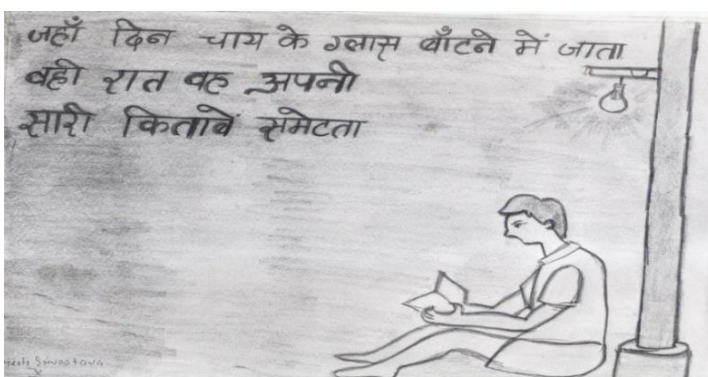
Being discriminated against, is psychological torture. It drains all the confidence and enthusiasm from a person. Harassing, abusing and denying people their rights and treating them inhumanly, can never be justified.

The types of discrimination that are most prevalent and widely discussed are caste discrimination i.e. harassing and abusing a person because of his or her caste status. The rights of women are often denied to them. Something which is debated about extensively is class based or economic discrimination, which involves discriminating against a person because of his economic condition or status i.e. harassing poor people, servants, labourers, peons etc.

Apart from these categories of discrimination, there are many more forms prevailing in our society that are both subtle and glaring. One is discrimination based on skin colour. People with dark complexions are often rejected. Advertisements now-a-days extensively display this. Most prominently the cosmetics and beauty industry, (which are basically women centric) often show girls with dark complexions being rejected in auditions because of their skin colour. And after she uses the product mentioned in the ad, she becomes fair and she can confidently perform and even win competitions, only because she is fair. Should dark skinned people consider themselves losers? Does success come only to fair skinned people? This is really wrong. Another easily overlooked form of discrimination is based on regionalism and language. This is very much prevalent in North India, where people of south India are made fun of due to their complexion and language, which for some reason appears funny to North Indians. The people of Bihar are also heavily stereotyped and laughed at because of their accent. Northeastern people are also not perceived as “truly” Indian, relating them to Nepalese, Chinese and other Asian people because of their features. Another unnoticed discrimination is on the basis of physical features. For example, short people (especially men) are seen as less desirable and often teased and commented upon. People with disabilities have a hard time.

As a responsible citizen, every Indian should make a pledge to protect the dignity of other human beings.

Swapnil Tiwari, X



Preeti Srivastava-X



The Lost Girl

Do you know This face?

I just need one moment, can you spare it?
She's been missing for six weeks.
Please, just tell me, I can't bare it,
are you familiar with these cheeks?
these eyes? this mouth? this nose? this face
You say you've seen this weathered child
In some black and rancid place?
In dreams? In songs? In cities wild?
She is your daughter, claimed by the streets?

Do you know the human race?
The race that's won by those who push
the weaker ones into the ground

Do you hear the roaring hoards
rising up against the violent world
and screaming loud, with one accord
that they will not take it.
Not anymore.

बाल मजदूरी एक अभिषाप

कल जब विद्यालय जाने के लिए घर से निकला तो एक दृष्य देखने को मिला, जिसने मुझे सोचने पर मजबूर कर दिया। दो बच्चे मेरे सामने से गुज़रे। एक ने स्कूल की वर्दी पहन रखी थी। उसके पीछे, घर के पुराने व अपने आकार से छोटे कपड़े पहने हुए अपनी पीठ पर बस्ता लटकाए हुए दूसरा बच्चा चल रहा था। आगे से आवाज़ आई “अरे छोटू ! जल्दी चल न, मुझे स्कूल के लिए देर हो रही है।” छोटू बिना कुछ कहे तेज़ी से चलने लगा।

मेरे सामने भारत की दो तस्वीरें थीं। पहली तस्वीर में समृद्ध, स्वतंत्र भारत नज़र आ रहा था। जहां बच्चों को शिक्षा व अन्य सभी अधिकार प्राप्त थे। वहीं दूसरी तस्वीर में भारत की पराधीन छवि नज़र आ रही थी। जहां शिक्षा ही नहीं बल्कि सभी अधिकार से बच्चे वंचित थे।

मेरे मन में कई सवाल उठने लगे। वह बालक बस्ते का बोझ तो उठा रहा है, लेकिन क्या वह शिक्षा प्राप्त कर पाएगा? इस बालक का भविष्य क्या होगा? क्या स्वतंत्र भारत की नींव गरीबी, निरक्षरता तथा बाल मजदूरी है?

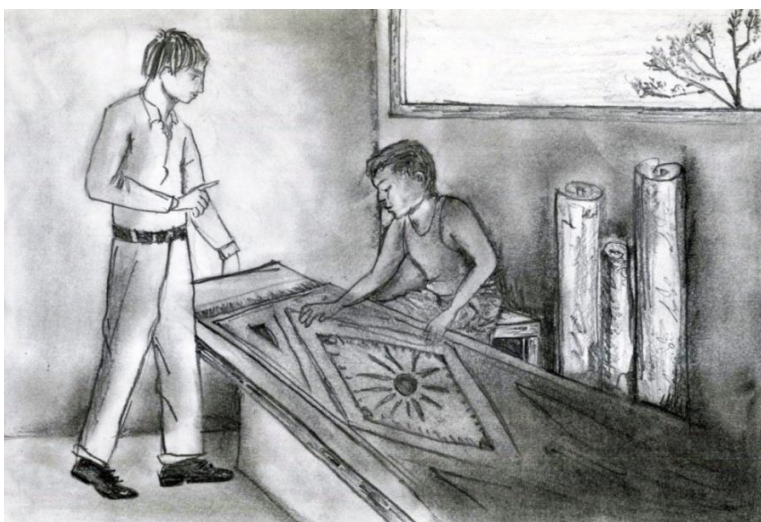
ऐसे दृष्य हम सब ने कई बार देखे होंगे और शायद उस छोटे से बच्चे को बरतन धोते देख मन में करुणा के भाव उठे होंगे। परंतु हम कुछ भी नहीं करते। ऐसा क्यों? आखिर कब तक?

बाल मजदूरी कोई आज की समस्या नहीं है। ये तो सदियों से चली आ रही है। गरीबी के बोझ के मार के कारण लोग मजबूर होकर अपने बच्चों की नन्हें हथेलियों में किताब और खिलौनों की जगह झाड़ू तथा अन्य काम करने के औज़ार थमा देते हैं।

आज भारत को स्वतंत्र हुए 64 साल हो चुके हैं। परंतु अब तक हमें बाल मजदूरी से छुटकारा नहीं मिला है। भारत के संविधान में बाल श्रम को अवैध माना गया है। सरकार ने भी अपनी तरफ से कई कानून बनाए। देखा जाए तो कानून बनने के बाद कुछ मात्रा में बालश्रम के मामलों में कमी आई है। परंतु इस चुनौती को पूरी तरह से समाप्त करने के लिए हम सब को एक साथ होना पड़ेगा और षपथ लेनी होगी कि जहां भी हम बालश्रम देखेंगे, उसके खिलाफ आवाज़ उठाएंगे। जब हम मन व मस्तिष्क से जागरूक हो जाएंगे तो बालश्रम व षोपण अपने आप समाप्त हो जाएगा। आज के समाज में भावना, हमदर्दी जगाने की उतनी ही आवश्यकता है जितनी कानून की।

गौरव भगत

X



Stuti Pandey-X

A young boy weaving carpets(Child labour)



Tanya Singh-VIII

EXPLOITATION

In our society which is characterized by gender segregation and social stratification, certain sections unfortunately occupy a subordinate position. The Indian constitution guarantees democracy and confers the right of equality to all people. But the reality is that this right, has not reached many lower sections of Indian society. It is these impoverished and alienated people, who struggle, for basic survival. It is sad to know that domestic workers remain exploited even after 64 decades of India's freedom. There is much evidence to show that over a period of time their condition has become much worse. Occupational segregation based on gender has been a global phenomenon. This is a shared concern amongst social activists and researchers. As far as the Indian condition is concerned we find that woman workers constitute one third of the total workforce in India. The non-availability of jobs in rural or tribal areas makes it necessary for lower class women or men to come to big cities like Delhi and work as domestic workers.

Today even middle class people have shifted their workload onto the poor working women whom they call "maids". The increasing demand of domestic workers in Delhi has been the reason for migration of women and children from outside Delhi.

Contd....

Most of the women who migrate to Delhi are from poor families and are illiterate. Their lack of education and skill leaves them with limited choices and when they come to big cities such as Delhi they have to face a number of problems and because of their inexperience and lack of skills they become easy victims of exploitation.

The existing problems of domestic workers have been studied by many researchers, social activists and voluntary organizations at different levels. But they have not succeeded in providing a suitable solution to the problem. In wealthy houses or even in middle class houses if by mistake a maid breaks something, they are sometimes made to pay for it. If they do not do their work properly or come late for work they are abused and ill-treated. We mindlessly say rude words to them without even thinking about their feelings. We forget to treat them like human beings.

Nowadays even children speak rudely to them. They think that talking to them or sitting with them is below their standards and replicate the same rude behaviour in treating them just as their elders do. Our actions speak louder than our words.

Perna Aggarwal, IX



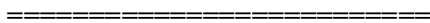
I have been imprisoned here
For someone else's crime.
I have lived my life in fear,
And I have done my time.

All I want, is to feel safe-
Relaxed and calm and free.
I have been good, to fellow men.
Why aren't they good to me?

I try to keep my head up high,
Imagining the day
When I will be allowed to fly,
When I will go away,

I only want this misery
And fear and pain to end.
I only want a life at peace
Surrounded by my friends.

Not now. It isn't over yet
I must sit out my time,
As I have done for all these years,
For someone else's crime.



Imagine a child of eight without a mother and father, and no home. The child lives on the streets, with other children. Unless one goes and actually live with these children, and experience what they experience, there is no way that we can even begin to understand their lives.

We often see them while passing in our cars. We stop at the red light, and one or two of these children walk up, and stretch out their palms for money.

We have much wealth in our country. So many who have so much that they don't know what to do with. Some give huge sums in charity. Some have lavish parties, and some even have their own jets and cadillacs. But lets come back to the child with a hand stretched out. Do we give or no? Ask yourselves.



Birth, childhood, youth, middle years and finally old age. Every life has the same cycle.

Two stages – birth and old age need special care. Some are fortunate and get it. Some do not.

Imagine the presence of beloved grandparents in your home. They bring in a special light of understanding and wisdom. Yet, some old people are neglected. Their right to live a loved and dignified existence gets taken away.



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Protect Human Rights
All Over The World



VIDYA NIKETAN, SAKET, NEW DELHI