

Worksheet 2: India: Working Together to End Hazardous Child Labour

In India both employers and trade unions are actively involved in the fight against child labour, especially when it comes to keeping children out of hazardous work. Carpet weaving involves many steps, each one of them potentially hazardous. There is constant danger of cuts and injuries from sharp tools, repetitive work and machinery. Welding, hammering, dust and proximity to open flame makes small repair shops dangerous in a different way. And in both kinds of work, if children are involved, they are in great danger. Companies, like this one, won't work with any supplier or craftsman who uses child labour. It regularly monitors its thousands of subcontractors and suppliers, based on international labour standards and ILO conventions against child labour.

[Ram Pujan, Carpet Weaver] "I send my child to school, and I don't make her work."

At the Project Mala School, funded in part by the carpet company, children's attitudes about child labour are changing, too.

[Geeta Yadav, Project Mala Student] "Childhood is not the time for children to be put to work. They should go to school, get a good education, and be successful in life."

Santhosh Kumar almost never got the chance. His father insisted he work at a motorcycle repair shop. But two years ago a local trade union rescued Santhosh and 95 other child labourers in the area, and helped them get into school. The trade union also worked with small business owners to help them understand that child labour is not only illegal, it can be hazardous.

[E.M. Chandrasekaran, Motorcycle Repair Shop Owner (in Tamil)] "From now on, I will tell other shops not to use children for work. The work in my shop is very difficult, and for children, it is even more so. You risk getting burns and boils on your hands."

Working together with employers and government, and with funding from Norway and help from the International Labour Organization, trade unions in Tamil Nadu State are teaming up to eradicate child labour. It's an approach that is supported by the local authorities.

[Thangaraju, President, INTUC Erode District Council (in Tamil)] "To eliminate child labour completely the government has to monitor it and be completely involved by giving their 100% support."

Eradicating child labour has profound implications for the entire society.

[Gotabaya Dassanayaka, ILO Employers' Activities Specialist] "The future labour force of a country consists of children and employers need to be responsible, to ensure that the future labour force is cared for, is looked after, is educated. So that by the time it comes to working age, they have educated, trained people who can be a productive workforce for a country."

Busy with his school work, Santhosh has plans of his own, free from the dangers of hazardous work.

[Santhosh Kumar, Student (in Tamil)] "I want to study so that I can take care of my mother and father. After finishing my studies I want to get a good job. Getting children out of child labour and hazardous work has clear benefits: it's an investment in the children's future. Through social dialogue, this is possible!"

1) Vocabulary

weaving	having a thin point capable of piercing or cutting
hazardous	make sure or certain
sharp	interlacing (threads, for example) into cloth
kind	dangerous
supplier	a sum of money or other resources set aside for a specific purpose
monitors	controls
funding	sort
ensure	a company which offers services to another company

2) Right or wrong

1) Trade unions only try to prevent children from working at a young age. Right or wrong?

2) Children who weave carpets may be injured by the wool. Right or wrong?

3) Santhosh was not the only child to be helped by the trade union. Right or wrong?

4) If child labour is banned, there will be serious changes in India. Right or wrong?

5) Santhosh wants to work to become rich. Right or wrong?

6) Indian parents are impossible to convince. Right or wrong?

3) Grammar

a) Construction infinitive sans to

Find three instances with the following pattern:

Proposition infinitive incomplète: verbe+ pronom complément+base verbale

b) Expression du but

Find 4 instances in the text:

To, in order to , so as to .. si les sujets sont les mêmes dans les deux parties de la phrase

They worked / they helped

They need /they ensure

Si les sujets sont différents obligatoirement so that, in order that+ modal.

Transformer la phrase

I want to study so that I can take care of my mother

en utilisant in order to à la place de so that:

c) Link the sentences

Children must stop working in shops / they must get an education

Children must be educated /they become a productive workforce

Trade unions rescued these children / these children went to school

The government controls companies / child labour can disappear

4) La modalité

Le conseil : _____

La nécessité : _____

L'obligation: _____

Quel modal aurait pu être utilisé ici à la place de ____ ? _____

Quelle nuance ? _____