

Take steps to help Sonam and other child labourers

To report any matter related to child labour, contact any of the following:

- District Child Protection Unit
- Child Labour Officer
- Childline: 1098
- Local police station: 100

I will learn to read and write and become intelligent and bright

Not only will I become self-dependent, I shall also make my family independent



Sonam could not complete her studies, her dreams were shattered



Sonam is 12 years old. She could go to school only till class 6 and had to discontinue her studies. But she still wishes to study, finish her education and become self-reliant. Economic conditions at her home require her to lend a helping hand to her mother. Sonam is now working as a child labourer along with her mother. Her parents believe that children of labourers can only become labourers, so there is no benefit in spending money on education. Instead, if Sonam will work, she will contribute to the family's income. Thus, they forced her to quit studies and work as a labourer.



Sonam could not complete her studies She could not fulfill her dreams



What is child labour?

Any kind of work that takes away childhood, respect and competency of a child below 18 years of age and that is harmful for their physical and mental development is called child labour.



Bad effects of child labour

- Deprivation of opportunities to go to school
- Unable to complete their studies
- Despite being present in school, required to carry out physical labour
- Physical and mental development of children is lost over years and they lose their childhood.

There are other children like Sonam too

Statistics related to child labour:

India: In India, about 320 lakh children are victims of child labour.

Girls: 4.5 million Boys: 5.6 million

Source_ NCPCR 2004-2005 Report

Forcing children like Sonam into child labour is punishable

Coercing children to become child labour is a punishable offence

As per the Child Labour Amendment Act 2016:

- Making any child under 14 years to work is liable for imprisonment for up to 2 years.
- Employing children aged 14-18 years in hazardous work is liable to punishment.
- If found guilty, fine from Rs 20,000-50,000/- can be imposed.

