

District Level Consultation on Child Labour Prevention

“Rescue is Not Enough”

Dewas, 26 February 2026

In a significant step towards sustainable child protection, a Stakeholders’ Consultation on Child Labour Prevention (Looking Beyond Rescue) was organised by AARAMBH – Education & Community Development Society at Hotel Ramashray Paradise, Dewas on dated 26th Feb 2026. The consultation focused particularly on the Nihaal community, which remains largely unrecognised in poverty, where children are disproportionately affected by child labour and deprivation.

The programme commenced with amazing cultural performances by children from child labour-affected communities. Their confidence and talent were deeply appreciated by Ms. Ekta from the Women & Child Development Department, setting a meaningful tone for the consultation.

The event was graced by District Panchayat CEO Ms. Jyoti Sharma, ADM Mr. Sanjeev Jain, officials from the Labour Department and Women & Child Development Department, Sarpanch – the elected representatives, teachers, community members, parents, youth, children, and the AARAMBH team. The programme proceeded as per the planned agenda.

Following the children’s performance, AARAMBH Founder Anup Kishore Sahay shared the organisation’s journey and its sustained commitment to child protection for the last 33 years. A documentary titled “Faislon Se Badalti Kahani” was screened, portraying how informed decisions and community-based interventions can transform children’s lives. Thereafter, a PPT presentation and stakeholder dialogues on child labour prevention were conducted.

Addressing the gathering, District Panchayat CEO Ms. Jyoti Sharma urged Sarpanch representatives to think beyond routine village development work and embrace their role as catalysts of social change, especially in securing children’s futures. She emphasized that the consequences of child labour are far deeper and more long-term than commonly perceived. Calling Sarpanch representatives the “parents of the Panchayat,” she encouraged them to extend protective support to vulnerable families. She appreciated AARAMBH’s work in advancing child rights, particularly its preventive approach to child labour, and strongly remarked that the 362 children and families lacking legal entitlements like Birth Certificates, Voter Cards, and Samagra IDs must be treated as a priority. She further directed Sarpanch leaders to accelerate processes related to birth certificates and other essential documents.

ADM Mr. Jain expressed deep concern regarding the continuing presence of child labour and strongly endorsed the theme of the consultation—“Rescue is not Enough.” He stressed that behavior change is fundamental to prevention. He stated that education must not be narrowly understood as merely a pathway to government employment, but rather as a means for mental development, critical thinking, and solution-building. Explaining through a practical example from brick kiln labour, he highlighted how education equips individuals to navigate and resolve life’s challenges. He assured the gathering that his office remains accessible for collaboration and support whenever required.

AARAMBH Founder Mr. Anup Kishore Sahay reflected on the organization’s 33-year journey in child protection, rooted in research, studies, and innovative community-based models. He shared how AARAMBH continues to evolve to ensure sustainability of solutions, including child reunification with families, working with unrecognized communities, and building child-friendly institutions and systems at the grassroots level.

Programme Lead Ms. Rita emphasized that prevention through family strengthening is the most sustainable pathway to eliminate child labour. She highlighted that rescue without education and parental capacity-building often results in children slipping back into labour. She stressed the need to build parenting skills and child-friendly communities that collectively create protective environments for children. She emphasized that collaborative efforts can not only take children out of labour but can also remove many practical barriers to education. It was suggested to hold VLCPC training in the upcoming month to be represented by the concerned departments, and that regular consultations can enable us to make the district free from child labour.

Concluding the programme, AARAMBH's CFO presented visible outcomes of the prevention model, including improved school enrolment, facilitation of more than 300 birth certificates, and prevention of child marriages through counselling and community engagement. Stakeholders acknowledged the prevention model, especially for the Nihaal community who have been unreachable for generations, as a unique and effective framework for long-term child protection.

The consultation concluded with a renewed commitment from district authorities, Panchayat leaders, and community representatives to work collectively towards making Dewas a child labour-free district through prevention, behavior change, and family strengthening.

The district level stakeholders consultation on child labour prevention model was organized to bring realization among the district officials that, rescue is not enough. And also the event was meant to promote the behavior change model that brings sustainable outcome. This unique model was highly appreciated by CEO-zila Panchayat Mrs. Jyoti Sharma along with Dewas ADM Sanjeev Jain showing their deep concern for child labour as social evil. This was represented by key departments of concern like Education, Labour, WCD, Sarpanchs and other key stakeholders like community members, youth and children directly connected to us. The labour department showed interest to know more about the project and also desired that this program should be scaled up.







