

Permission to conduct the survey was granted by the Sub – Division Officer

Participants:

Time span: 11 a.m –  
3:30 p.m



The Laws  
awareness on Child  
Labour



Hill Cart Road and  
Sevoke Road,  
Siliguri.



Number of Hotels &  
Restaurants Covered:  
21

## Survey on Child Labour



Sister Leena (Director of DMWSC), Sister Sanjyoti and the staff namely, Shikha Basnet, Priska Kandulna, Deepika Sharma, Ajay Kujur, Sushil Barla, Tarunima Jaiswal (Intern)

We were also accompanied by an SDO representative Mr. Buddhadev Mardi.

**Target:**

The Hotels & Restaurants located on the Hill Cart Road and Sevoke Road, Siliguri.

Sister Leena (  
Director of  
DMWSC)

Number of Hotels & Restaurants Covered: 21

Namely; Tai Wah Restaurant, Amardeep Restaurant, Sartaj Hotel, Basant Restaurant, Gupta Snacks, Mahabir Restaurant, Monarch Hotel & Restaurant, Prasad Hotel, Bhojwalaya, Fancy Hotel, Golden Garden Residency, Hotel Vinayak Inn, Hotel Diamond, Puja Lodge, Hotel Simla, Hotel Sarathi, Hotel Balaji, Hotel Saluja, Hotel Ying Yang, New Ranjit Hotel, Bombay Store.

#### Aim:

To spread awareness on Child Labour, the Laws related to it and the consequences for breaking the law.

#### Experience:

All hotels had the basic knowledge of Child Labour. However, they did not know the Laws existing on Child Labour and the Punishments one could face on violating any of the laws. The reaction that we received from the owners and managers of these Hotels & Restaurants varied. While some of them expressed hospitality and cooperation the others showed complete disrespect and negligence. There was the complete absence of child labour in a few hotels. At the same time, we had owners who lied about the absence of child labour in their hotels. Some pleaded guilty and were scared and expressed apology. Most of the kids working came from the neighbouring city of Islampur. Among the children we encountered working, some were petrified, some lied about their real age, while some boldly questioned us –“ Agar hum kaam nai karenge toh humare pariwar ka kaun dhyan rakhega?” (If we don't work then how are we supposed to fend for our family?) “Mai kamaunga nahi toh apni behen ka shaadi kaise karaunga?”; Without working how can I save up for my sisters wedding?

This was the first survey conducted by the Mary Ward Social Centre, Champasari, Siliguri on Child Labour. It was a successful one and also turned out to be a great experience for all the staff members. Two days later we celebrated the World Day Against Child Labour to which we invited all the heads of the hotels we visited.

Documented by Tarunima Jaiswal & Photographed by Ajay Kujur

Sister Sanjyoti

DMWSC

and

the staff



Shikha Basnet

and

Local business owner