



## *Message* *From Principal's Desk*



**Dr Sujata Pawar**

I/c Principal

Ismailsaheb Mulla Law College, Satara

Labour rights are guaranteed in the Constitution of India as fundamental rights in Articles 14, 15, 16, 19 (1) (c), 23 and 24. Directive principles of state policy also speak about labour welfare in articles 38, 41 and 43A.

Article 14 ensures that, everyone should be equal before the law, article 15 states that, the state should not discriminate against citizens, and article 16 guarantees a right of "equality of opportunity" for employment or appointment under the state.

Article 19(1) (c) gives everyone a right "to form associations or unions". Article 23 prohibits all forms of trafficking and forced labour. Child labour below 14 years is prohibited by Article 24 in a factory, mine or "any other hazardous employment".

In spite of these constitutional provisions, the problem of child labour continues to pose a challenge before us. Government has been taking various legal measures to tackle this problem. However, considering the magnitude and extent of the problem and its socio-economic nexus linked to poverty and illiteracy, it requires persistent efforts to control the child labour.

As per survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05, the number of working children is estimated at 90.75 lakh. As per Census 2011, the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years are 43.53 lakh. An estimated 14 percent of children in India between the ages of 5 and 14 are engaged in child labour.

The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986. The Act prohibits employment of children in certain specified hazardous occupations and processes and regulates the working conditions in others. National Policy on Child Labour was also formulated in 1987.

On 10th December 1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.465/1986 in MC Mehta Vs State of Tamil Nadu the Supreme Court of India, gave certain directions on the issue of elimination of child labour.

Poverty, illiteracy, parental ignorance regarding the ill effects of child labour, the lack of strict implementation of labour laws preventing or regulating child labour, non-availability and non-accessibility of schools are some of the factors that lead to child labour.

Children who work as child labour, instead of going to school, will remain illiterate and are denied the ability and opportunity to contribute to their own wellbeing as well as to the society they live in. We must analyse these long term adverse effects of Child labour in India.

To discuss these issues in detail, our college has organized two days National seminar on "Child Labour in India".

I wish the seminar a grand success!