YOUNG LABOURERS

(Navya 9th JK2)

Child Labour a very often heard topic in our school syllabus and in the headline of the daily newspaper. But how many times do we actually realise the seriousness of the matter? Usually, people just read the headline, talk about it, taunt the government and its system and leave the discussion like a hanging rope which will soon choke the country and its development.

I would like to share my experience of the ‘Child Development Project’ that we were performing in the month of March. For extra research, we had decided to survey the development of child in rural areas too and our vans had halted at a tea stall for a short break. There, I saw a young boy of hardly nine or ten years old cleaning the tables, collecting the used plates and doing the other menial work at the stall. After all his work was done, he sat down in a corner staring at the customers having tea and snacks and enjoying with their ‘families’. I thought for a moment, ordered for a tea and some biscuits which the young boy came to give me and offered the same to him. He expressed his gratitude by just a smile, sat down and quietly had the snack. Certainly, he was very hungry.

Of all the student who were working on the ‘Child Development Project’ with me, none of them took efforts to fulfil the needs of the project by actually working for the development of the child. They, including all the others at the stall and the owner himself who seemed to be well- read, know about the problem but are not realising it.

Child Labour just this has laid its hands over whole of the country of India, the main cause of which are poverty and over- population. In different ways we cant even think of in our wildest of imaginations- shops, factories, restaurants, construction-sites, garages and even rich people at their home employ these small, little buds which are yet to bloom, bringing out work from them out of their capacities. Taking wrong advantage of their helplessness to run the house, buy medicines for their sick parents, pay fees for their own night schools, they don’t realize that they are doing such a heinous crime.

Child Labour and its adverse effects have been seen by the country its people. Atleast one column in the newspaper tells us about incidents of child labour each day be it death of a child due to working in a hazardous chemical factory or torture by their inhuman employers. I also believe that forcing poor children to beg at the signals, railway station, bus-stops, etc. is no less than child labour.

Children under the age of fourteen should be using pens and pencils as a weapon to decorate their future and not axes or saws. But….

‘Working for our benefits, They’ll never slow, they’ll never quit,

For the money that they make, Gives them a meal, not expensive cakes’

To end with, I leave you a question. What will they do? Where will they go?

If they don’t work for their living, they’ll die of hunger as it is! I agree that the Government is trying to improve the condition of these children, but do you think the tries are enough?