

NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN INDIA

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Abstract

Government of India is taking various initiatives to prevent child labor and school dropout. As a part of that, many laws have been enacted to prevent children from going to work but due to poverty and family conditions etc they have not been able to reduce child labor completely. Government has made many changes those laws according to the situation. After the introduction of child labor rehabilitation program through NCLP, the situation has reduced a bit and apart from that, children are being taught vocational education along with basic education. Through this scheme, it is revealed that the rate of child labor has decreased compared to previous years.

Key word : NCLP, child labour, rehabilitation, act , rescue, withdrawn, special training centers

Introduction

Childhood is the most important time period for a person's all round development as it creates the foundation for future individuals.

The term “**child labour**” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to **work that**:

- **is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children;** and/or
- **Interferes with their schooling** by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries.

According to Gurupadaswamy committee report Child Labour means “labour becomes an absolute evil in the case of a child when he is required to work beyond his physical capacities, when hours of employment interfere with education, recreation and rest, when his wages are not commensurate with the quantum of work done, and when the occupations he is engaged in endangers his health and safety i.e when he is exploited.”

ILO was formed in the year 1992 with the aim of elimination of child labour. This is one globally recognized programme. The ILO “fundamental” Conventions for child labour are Convention No.138 on Minimum Age i.e 15 years which can be relaxed to 14 years by members and Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

In India, Gurupadaswamy Committee Report (1979) and Sanat Mehta Committee (1984) recommendations led to enactment of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act in the year 1986. This act prohibited employment of child below the age of 14 year in certain specified hazardous occupations and processes and regulates the working conditions in others

The Article 21A was enacted w.e.f .01.04.2010 with purpose of providing free and compulsory education to children between age group of 6 to 14 years.

Subsequently the act was amended in 2016 with the enactment of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act 2016 prohibiting the employment of Children below 14 years in

all employment and also with the provisions for prohibition on employment of adolescents (14-18 Years) in the scheduled hazardous occupations and processes .

A landmark judgement was by passed by Supreme court of India on 10.12.1996 and the 10th five year plan was the turning point in the rehabilitation programmes. They recommended the following –

- Need of Survey
- Educating the children rescued
- Creation of welfare fund
- Regulating working hours in non – hazardous occupations.
- Implementation of developmental and welfare programmes in the project area
- Providing vocational training
- Creating public awareness
- Income and employment generation activities by uplifting social and economic status of families
- Providing health care
- Linking Sarva Skisha Abhiyan with NCLP

The National Child Labour Policy was approved by cabinet on 14th August 1987 in the seven five year plan period. The purpose of this policy is to rehabilitate the children rescued from employment. It was revised in the year 2003. It was framed with the objective of effective enforcement of child labour acts, benefitting child labour families with developmental programmes and establishing National Child Labour Project at high concentrated child labour areas .National Child labour Project was launched in the year 1988 to rehabilitate child labour. This Project aims to withdraw children going to work , providing them with abridge education along with vocational skills at special schools, giving them monthly stipend and supplementary nutrition as mid day meal. This project was kicked off at nine districts.

Objectives of NCLP-

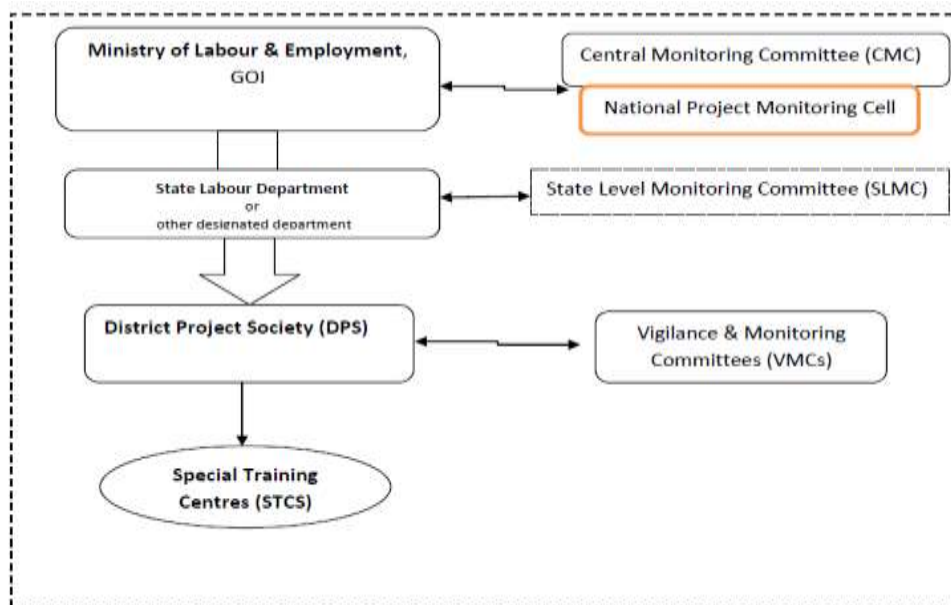
- To identify child labour and rescued them in the project area.

- Giving them education along with vocational training so that they can be transferred into mainstream education.
- Convergence with different government department/ agencies to benefit child labour and their family both economically and socially.
- Creating awareness

Focus Area

- All child workers below age of 14 years in the Project area
- Adolescent workers below age of 18 years engaged in hazardous occupation/ processes in project area
- Focus on the families of child labour

Institutional structure under National Child Labour Project

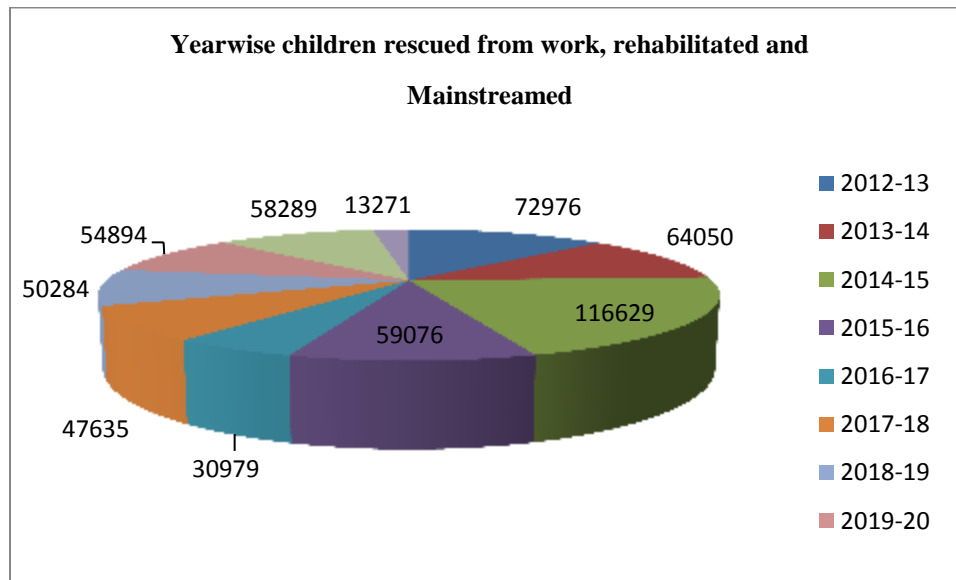


1. State-wise Children Rescued/Withdrawn from Work, Rehabilitated and Mainstreamed under NCLP Scheme

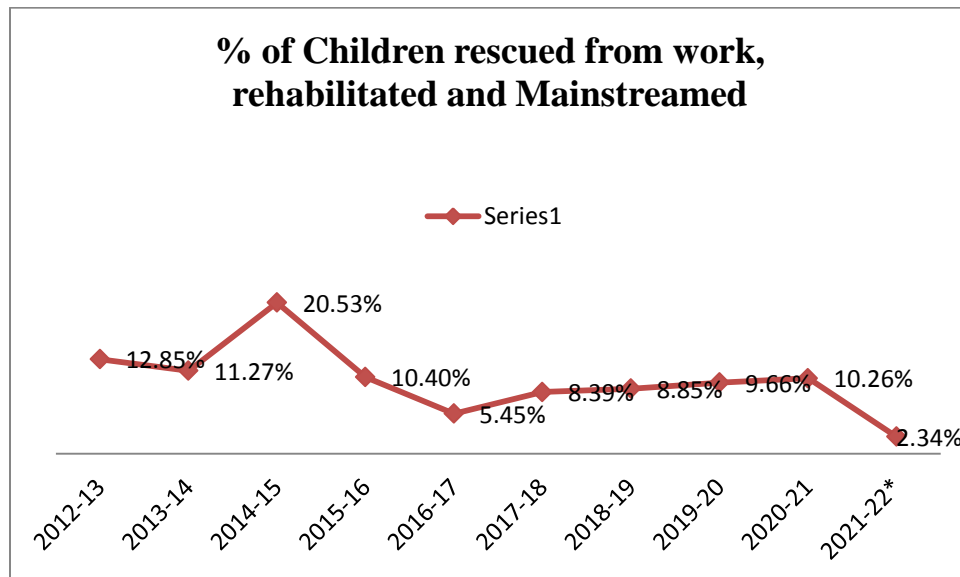
Sl. No	State	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*
1	Andhra Pradesh	7840	5715	346	716	814	203	778	1049	622	885
2	Assam	10848	0	60	9693	434	915	4562	6175	2800	-
3	Bihar	1162	3736	14028	2656	-	2800	-	-	-	-
4	Chhattisgarh	2004	8034	10173	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Gujarat	569	453	892	-	-	187	101	341	531	-
6	Haryana	1722	631	2583	-	40	-	171	NA	-	-
7	Jammu & Kashmir	132	469	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Jharkhand	4003	1028	2989	3450	334	2014	1225	2940	3239	-
9	Karnataka	758	2391	2519	1984	681	679	763	363	275	263
10	Madhya Pradesh	7116	8323	7879	7472	4442	11400	4910	4010	29179	2237
11	Maharashtra	4954	5614	3804	2177	1692	5250	8122	9337	2031	2110
12	Nagaland	-	-	436	-	-	197	111	24	-	-
13	Odisha	10309	6114	21315	1900		0	0	6	495	15
14	Punjab	-	957	290	880	592	994	915	483	1307	4867
15	Rajasthan	4155	3585	3349	8476	630	105	-	1712	-	86

16	Tamil Nadu	3671	3436	4492	4089	2850	2855	2534	3928	1456	2586
17	Telangana	-	-	2691	1810	1431	2137	935	214	300	222
18	Uttarakhand	-	-	145	-	-	-	-	62	-	-
19	Uttar Pradesh	10616	7310	16277	-	3066	-	8020	10371	9383	-
20	West Bengal	3117	6254	22361	13763	13973	17899	17137	13879	6671	-
	Total	72976	64050	116629	59076	30979	47635	50284	54894	58289	13,271

During the period FY 2012-13 till 2021-22 a total of 568083 children has been rescued from work , rehabilitated and Mainstreamed under NCLP Scheme.



In the year 2014-15 , highest number of students i.e 116629 children has been rescued from work , rehabilitated and Mainstreamed under NCLP Scheme.

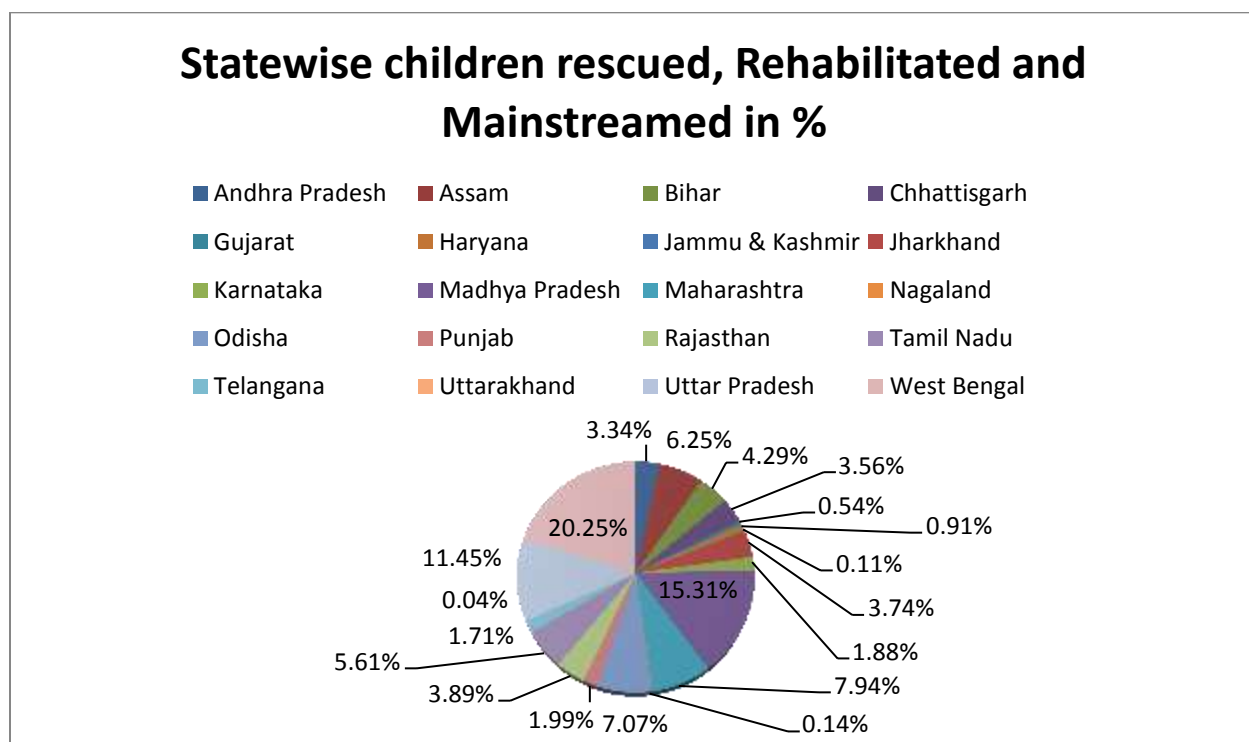


In the year 2014-15 , highest number of students i.e 20.53% children has been rescued from work , rehabilitated and Mainstreamed under NCLP Scheme.

Sl. No.	State	No of Children	%
1	Andhra Pradesh	18968	3.34%
2	Assam	35487	6.25%
3	Bihar	24382	4.29%
4	Chhattisgarh	20211	3.56%
5	Gujarat	3074	0.54%
6	Haryana	5147	0.91%
7	Jammu & Kashmir	611	0.11%
8	Jharkhand	21222	3.74%
9	Karnataka	10676	1.88%
10	Madhya Pradesh	86968	15.31%

11	Maharashtra	45091	7.94%
12	Nagaland	768	0.14%
13	Odisha	40154	7.07%
14	Punjab	11285	1.99%
15	Rajasthan	22098	3.89%
16	Tamil Nadu	31897	5.61%
17	Telangana	9740	1.71%
18	Uttarakhand	207	0.04%
19	Uttar Pradesh	65043	11.45%
20	West Bengal	115054	20.25%
	Total	568083	100.00%

During the period FY 2012-13 till 2021-22 , West Bengal has rescued from work , rehabilitated and Mainstreamed 20.25% children being the highest under NCLP Scheme.



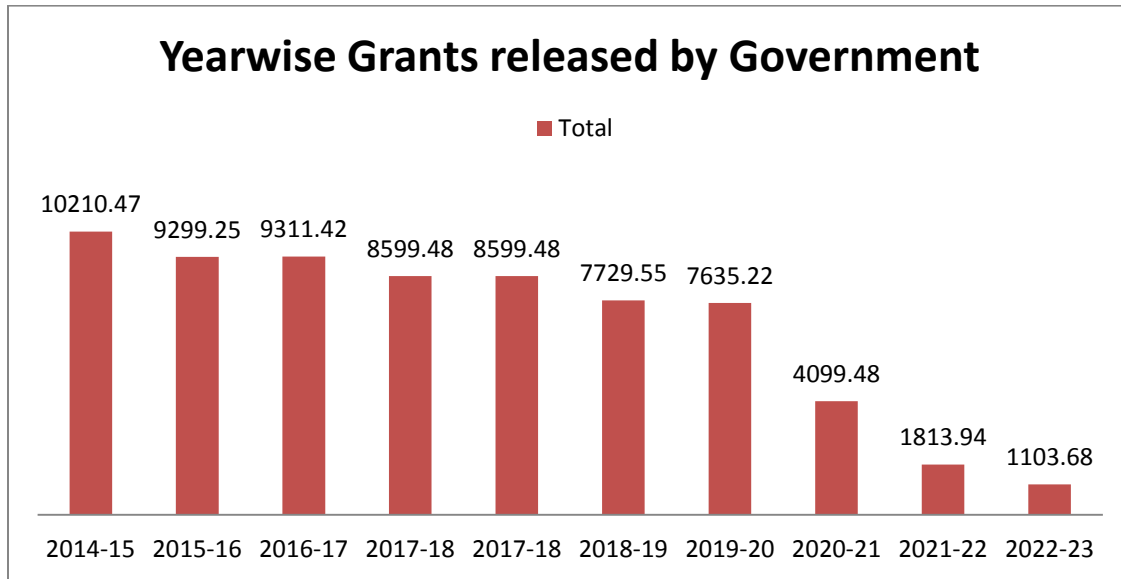
Statewise funds released

Name of State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Andhra Pradesh	143.33	196.58	213.01	298.12	298.12	309.46	202.68	306.29	32.01	64.83
Assam	471.64	807.97	257.3	460.3	460.3	1109.45	198.28	49.64	81.1	139.67
Bihar	1071.82	948.42	168.92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	432.53	26	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	7	8.25	33.78	112.26	112.26	99.41	154.31	61.36	12.23	0
Haryana	218.71	161.79	412.18	123.13	123.13	234.66	191.77	116.83	34.79	0
Jammu & Kashmir	62.97	47.13	61.04	0	0	56.14	0	32.48	0	0
Jharkhand	406.78	375.97	543.72	280.14	280.14	0	274.54	177.42	0	60.72
Karnataka	204.6	212.08	132.26	100.53	100.53	184.23	127.38	82.74	7.53	12.27
Madhya Pradesh	768.71	701.12	878.68	687.37	687.37	514.34	491.67	363.41	143.29	162.76
Maharashtra	830.08	1017.66	1192.54	1338.84	1338.84	106.19	998.7	931.49	196.53	97.74
Nagaland	151.17	131.45	192.69	74.07	74.07	0	4	0	0	0
Odisha	355.31	290.91	8	106.4	106.4	138.62	188.57	115.16	236.66	25.9

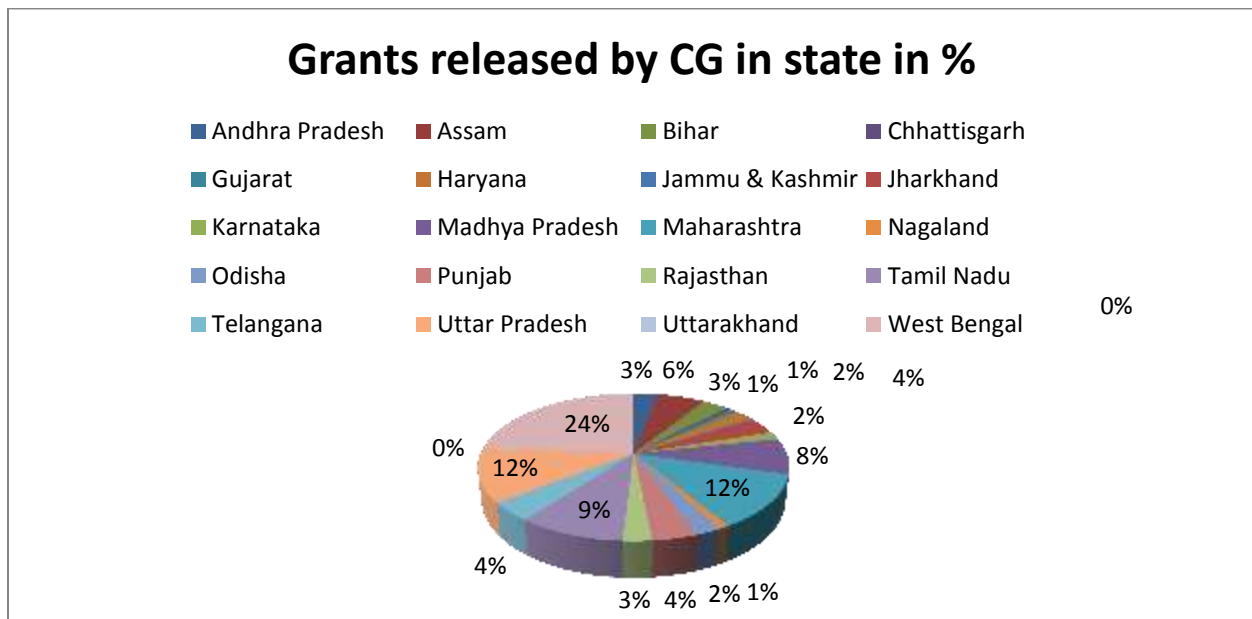
Punjab	350.2 4	256.6 3	325.14	322.33	322.33	256.88	282.35	206.41	317.3 5	37.53
Rajasthan	269.2 5	223.7	138.89	179.06	179.06	319.46	281.4	124.19	16.64	0
Tamil Nadu	731.1 4	643.0 8	1015.0 7	749.67	749.67	878.53	811.44	482	323.4 5	39.64
Telangana	521.6	547.1	475.76	323.29	323.29	204.56	132.11	152.86	71.56	73.89
Uttar Pradesh	1103. 72	430.0 7	1333.2 5	1176.1 5	1176.1 5	1420.7 2	759.66	433.83	137.7	0
Uttarakhand	9	4	12.34	36.62	36.62	0	32.64	0	0	0
West Bengal	2100. 87	2269. 34	1916.8 5	2227.2	2227.2	1896.9	2503.7 2	463.37	203.1	388.73
Total	10210 .47	9299. 25	9311.4 2	8599.4 8	8599.4 8	7729.5 5	7635.2 2	4099.4 8	1813. 94	1103.6 8

Source: <https://data.gov.in>

During the period FY 2014-15 till 2022-23 an amount of 68401.97 lakhs has been given as grant to states for rescue of children from work , rehabilitated and Mainstreamed under NCLP Scheme.



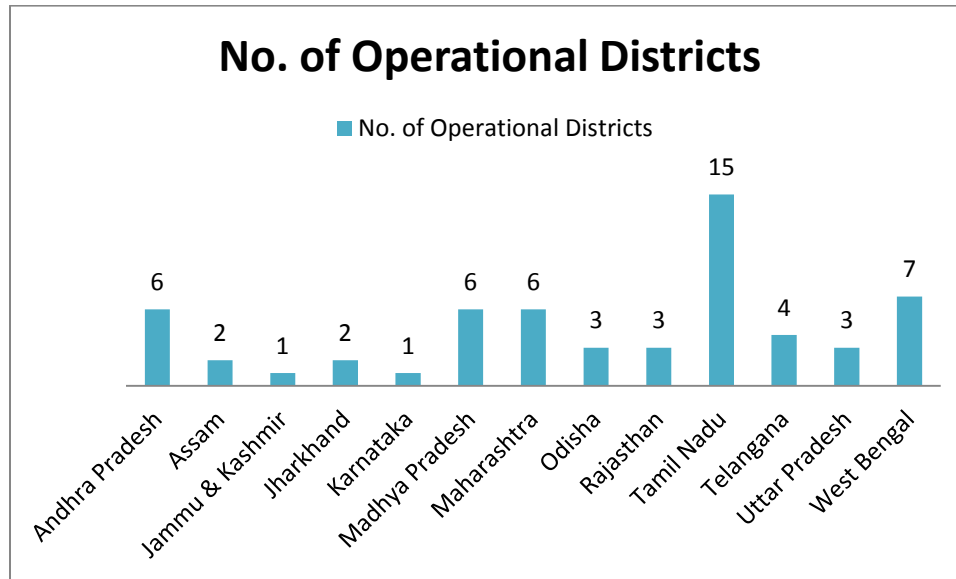
During the period FY 2014-15 an amount of 10210.47 lakhs has been given as grant to states for rescue of children from work , rehabilitated and Mainstreamed under NCLP Scheme. There is a decreasing trend observed in the amount of grant given to states.



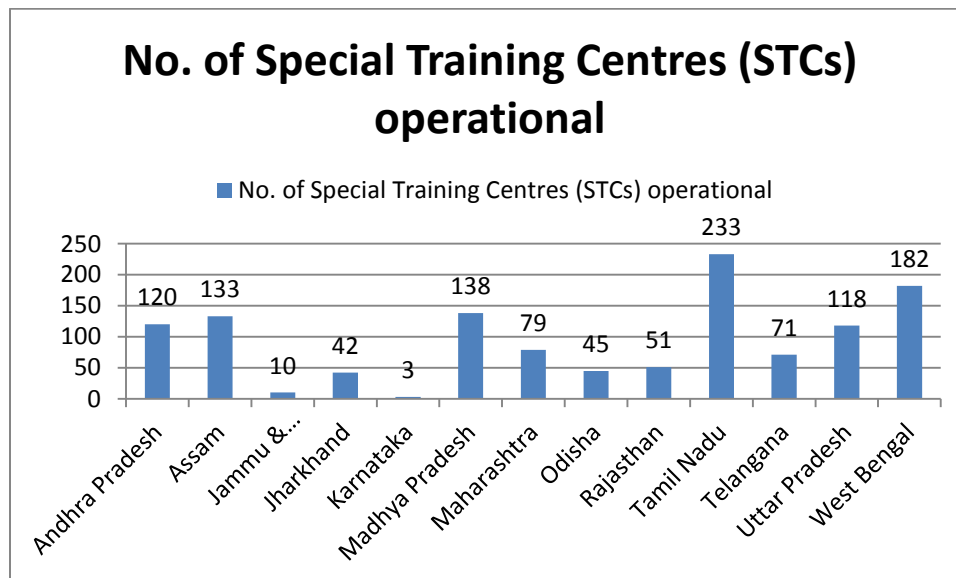
During the period FY 2014-15 till 2022-23 , West Bengal has rescued from work , rehabilitated and Mainstreamed 20.25% children being the highest under NCLP Scheme. The government has given them grant of 23.68% of the total grants given to all the states.

Status of NCLP Scheme: Operational Districts and Special Training Centres as on Date 31.03.2021

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Operational Districts	No. of Special Training Centres (STCs) operational
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	120
2.	Assam	2	133
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	10
4.	Jharkhand	2	42
5.	Karnataka	1	3
6.	Madhya Pradesh	6	138
7.	Maharashtra	6	79
8.	Odisha	3	45
9.	Rajasthan	3	51
10.	Tamil Nadu	15	233
11.	Telangana	4	71
12.	Uttar Pradesh	3	118
13.	West Bengal	7	182
	Total	59	1225



In India at 59 districts special training centres were operational as on 31.3.21. Out of this 15 districts were operational at in Tamil nadu as on 31.3.21 being the highest.



In India at 1225 special training centres were operational as on 31.3.21. Out of this special training centres 233 were operational in Tamil nadu as on 31.3.21 being the highest.

Rehabilitation programmes covers the following –

Survey

A survey is conducted in a district to identify no of child labour , drop out in that district. On the basis of survey NCLP is formed in the district under supervision of District Collector.

Identify and Rescue

Once NLCP is formed identification of child labour or child not attending school is done through the information of child help line, volunteers and field inspection. Once identify through raid or visits they are rescued.

Special Training Centre

The rescued children are then enrolled in the special training centre for providing abridged education as per their age and education qualification. The state syllabus is followed in these centres. They children kept in these centres for maximum period of 2 years before sending them to mainstream education.

Vocational Training

Along with education vocational training will be given to these students like embroidery, tailoring, basket making, handicrafts etc. These life skills will be helpful to them once mainstreamed and will help to develop career or earn through these skills.

Stipend

These children are paid stipend of Rs. 400 per month by central government. Earlier it was Rs.150 p.m. This amount was directly transferred to their bank account.

State government support

Apart from education midday meal is provided to children.The state government will bear the expense of mid day meal scheme. The learning material and uniforms is also taken care by state government.

Awareness Generation

The NCLP as a part of rehabilitation programme are bound to conduct awareness programme in the industries, project area, public places about child labour and their legal aspects.

Health care

The health check up is done at these centres at regular intervals for these children in co-ordination with state health department.

Conclusion :

NCLP's rehabilitation programme is project aimed at reducing child labour by recusing them and providing them basic education and vocational training and mainstreaming in regular school. It encourage children to come to centres through mid day meal, stipend and the polite behaviour of volunteers. This alone cannot eradicate child labour but has reduced the quantum substantially. Now this NCLP scheme has been subsumed under Samagara Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Scheme.

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