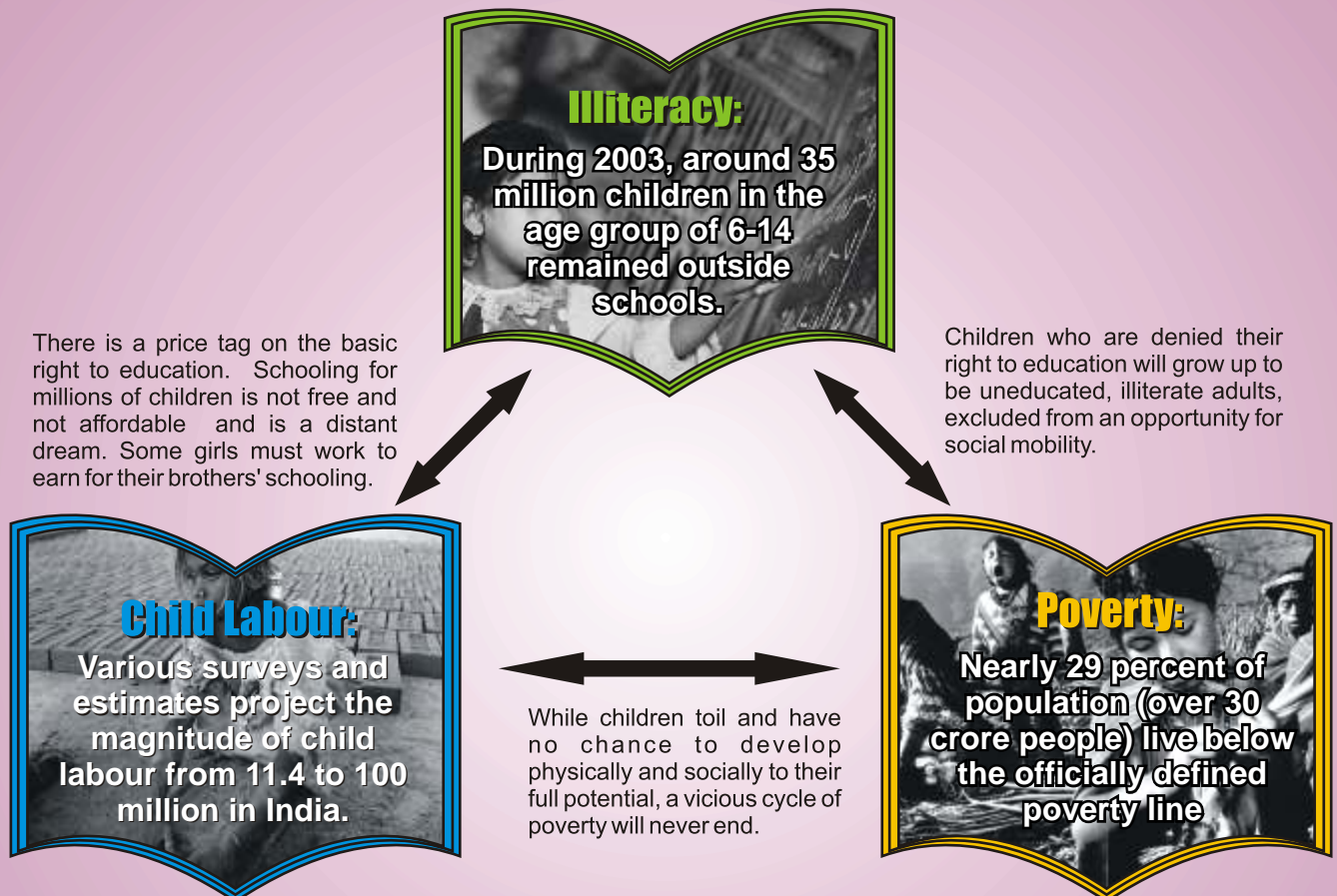


# Education for Liberation Liberation for Education

## Achieving the Elimination of Child Labour and Education For All in Overall Poverty Reduction Strategy

### The Triangular Paradigm

The three key processes affecting the future of the world, in particular our children, are the elimination of child labour and Education For All and poverty alleviation.



In poor countries the effects of poverty and unemployment are dramatic. The child's very right to survival may be threatened by the parents' unemployment. In addition to suffering severe economic hardships, families are disintegrating. Increased child labour, rising drop-out rates and even juvenile delinquency are the outcome. These issues are not fully captured in the poverty alleviation strategies.

The education sector has a great potential to contribute to the prevention and elimination of child labour, which should be an integral part of education policies worldwide. In addition to preventing child labour, the education sector can provide special measures to reintegrate children withdrawn from hazardous work into school. Still, policies that focus exclusively on the education system without accounting for the economic environment of households and the general state of the labour market will be insufficient to reduce child labour and achieve education for all over the long term.

This underscores the importance of addressing the root causes of child labour and the poor quality and access to education within a broader poverty alleviation strategy.



# Bringing together policy and action for a unified response to child labour, illiteracy and poverty

An anti-poverty, child-friendly strategy must therefore pay much attention to converge with other policies on education and the elimination of child labour. Education For All and the elimination of child labour should find a prominent focus in poverty alleviation programmes.

## Education For All

International Instrument:  
**Dakar Framework of Action and Education For All Goals**



National Instrument:  
**National Action Plan for EFA**

- Improving access and enrollment
- Construction of school buildings
- Resource mobilisation for improving enrollment
- Improving teacher pupil ratio
- No specific policy to retain all children who are enrolled
- No policy effort to address the special needs of working children

### ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age for Employment:

The Convention calls for the elimination of child labour up to the age of the completion of compulsory education but this has not been translated into actions at national level actively.

## The Elimination of Child Labour

International Instrument:  
**ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour**



National Instrument:  
**National Action Plans and Time-Bound Program on the Worst Forms of Child Labour**

- Legal intervention to ban child labour in selected occupations
- Non-formal education for a small fraction of children withdrawn from work
- No effort to mainstream children withdrawn from work in formal schooling system
- No effort in prevention of child labour
- Not addressing the issues of families that are vulnerable to child labour

## Poverty Alleviation

International Instrument  
**Millennium Development Goals**



National Instrument:  
**Poverty Alleviation Strategy Papers**

- Welfare approach of providing relief to poor people
- Economic assistance through micro credit facilities with out focus on improving lives of children
- No focus in general on child friendly poverty reduction strategies
- No specific policy on the elimination of child labour
- No specific policy on ensuring free education

A multi-dimensional approach consisting of awareness building and consciousness raising, community participation, alternative and viable social economic rehabilitation, and enforcement of national and international legal instruments in relation to children and other similar plans, is needed for linking the elimination of child labour with the overall poverty alleviation and education strategies. There needs a synergy in policy planning and programmes that address these three vital issues that affect the lives of millions of children for a sustainable development.

There must also be a better cooperation and understanding between policy planners, children and advocacy groups working on children's behalf.



## National Coalition for Education

C/O. SOUTH ASIAN COALITION ON CHILD SERVITUDE

L-6 Kalkaji, New Delhi-110 019 Ph.:(91 11)26224899, 26475481 Fax:(91 11)26236818