



## National Girl Child Day

24<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Event organized by:



in cooperation with Paycheck India Project @ IIM- A, ITUC, UNI, and  
WageIndicator Foundation

Websites

<http://www.paycheck.in>

<http://dfl.wageindicator.org>

<http://www.unitespro.org>

**Event: National Girl Child Day**

**Venue: APSA, Bangalore**

**Date: 24 January 2011**



All over the world and across regions, races and communities there are girls suffering from sexual harassment and domestic violence. Today on January 24, 2011, it is for each one of us to find the awareness in our hearts, and share it with those who are still in the dark. It is for us to make extra effort, the government declared January 24 as the national girl child day, coinciding with the date of swearing in the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the first women to take the post in the country.

Around the world millions of girls continue to remain marginalized. January 24, national girl child day looks to bring light to the issues and awareness to the plight of girls across the globe. The fight for equality is far from new, and while historical battles have been fought and won across the globe. Around the globe the girl child suffers needlessly, as daily struggles are increased by the relentless hold of history and cultural taboos.

These battles for gender equality are compounded by the bureaucratic process of government and politics. A family of limited economic means see daughters as a financial liability because of a religious tenet that requires the bride's parents to provide a substantial dowry to the groom's parents. Gender bias also drives child marriage, child labour, and child trafficking.

Thus, the goal of the Take a Girl Child to Work Day initiative is to "deepen the thinking of the girl child with regard to their infinite roles in society, enhance her self-esteem, inspire and motivate her to reach her full potential and through exposure to diverse careers and positive role models assist her to prepare for the woman. Additionally, Cell C believes that the impact will be far-reaching, as "benefits will be shared as she passes them onto her children, her community and her country.

The Bahá'í International Community welcomes UNICEF's efforts to focus attention on the plight of the girl child. Since deciding a year ago to give the girl child priority, UNICEF has contributed significantly to an increase in global awareness of the effects of gender discrimination on millions of girl children. By funding research, encouraging the disaggregation of data, disseminating information, and requiring that UNICEF programs be sensitive to the needs of girls, UNICEF has initiated a process that deserves ongoing, wholehearted support.



Women and girls must be educated -- spiritually, emotionally and intellectually -- because a mother cannot pass on what she does not have. A child needs a nurturing environment and wise guidance in the first years of life in order to develop sound character and a well trained mind. If the mother is unable, because of her own deficiencies, to provide her children with experiences which will equip them for later, formal schooling, they will find themselves at a serious, often crippling, disadvantage. It must be stressed, however, that this dual responsibility of developing the child's character and stimulating his intellect also belongs to the family as a whole, including the father and grandparents and to the community. As Dr. Aidoo pointed out in her statement to the 1991 Commission on the Status of Women, "The family context provides unique opportunities for boy children and men to become involved in changing the status of the girl child and women." NGO's can also contribute substantially by focusing attention on the girl child in their community-based activities.

Decisions for Life campaign members visited APSA on the occasion of national girl child day to create awareness about the Decisions for Life campaign and its objectives.



APSA is a child –centric community development organization. It is urban development oriented famous for child helpline and welfare of the child. It is a school for drop out child and they have a residential school where the children stay named "Namma Manna". Their main purpose is to help children and to understand the human body undergoing sexual harassment, HIV Aids Protection, life skill project which help to cope up with the challenges to live up a healthy life.

There are 120 children studying in their organization where they have both Kannada and English medium students named as "Dream School". APSA runs a 24- hour toll-free hotline for children in distress. A collaborating agency of the childline India Foundation, APSA provides emotional support as well as appropriate direct intervention for children who call 1098. Support such as intervention range from rescue and protection from abuse to shelter, medical and legal help and repatriation.

APSA runs a variety of outreach educational programmes, from crèches for slum children to build the school going habit early, to bridge courses and enrolment campaigns to get dropouts and former child labourers back to school, and tutoring centres to support potential dropouts. The Dream School prepares non- traditional learners for exams of the state Secondary Education Board, as well as the more flexible National and Karnataka open school systems, while simultaneously providing co-curricular and extra- curricular opportunities.

APSA supports persons with disabilities and mental illnesses in slum communities in multiple ways. Nutrition and health programmes work to prevent the incidence of disability.

Community- based rehabilitation occupational therapy, corrective surgery, opportunities for inclusive education, vocational training and collectivization for access to credit for persons with disabilities.

APSA is a member of many networks advocating on child rights and urban poor issues, and plays a lead role in several of them. To reinforce the responsibility of the state towards its citizen and for up scaling sustainable solutions to the issues of people in poverty. APSA also works collaboratively with the government, building capacity and engaging in dialogue through their membership in government committees at the district, state and national levels..

APSA media centre trains young people from disadvantaged circumstances in photography and documentary filmmaking through workshop. Documenting the realities of their lives, including child labour, and inequitable access to land, they advocate for better understanding and solutions from a wider audience.



Decisions for Life campaign member distributed slates and chalk to the children and also interacted with them. Gave a brief on Decisions for Life project to the director and also to Canadian faculties who were taking classes for this poor children.