

MVFoundation

Background and Approach

In 1991, MVF began working actively on the issue of child labour and released the first 30 children from bonded labour in three villages of Ranga Reddy district.

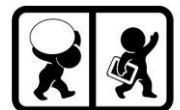
Withdrew more than a million children from work into school.

Engaged with government, communities, companies, and other stakeholders on policy and in programme implementation.

Alliance building and likeminded partners national and international.

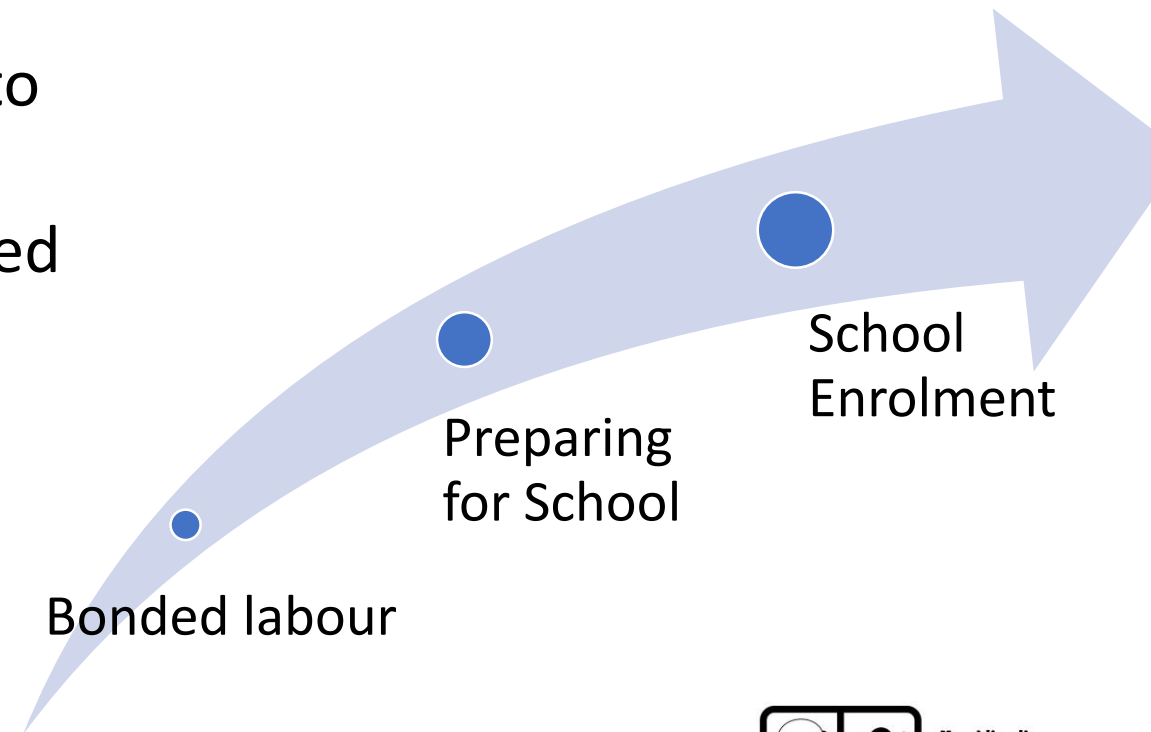
Interventions based on the following approach:

1. Address all children out of school;
2. Formal school only way to abolish child labour - a non-negotiable;
3. (residential) Bridge course for older children to be mainstreamed into formal school;
4. Change social norms in favour of children's right to education and abolition of child labour in an area.



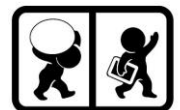
MVF's initial approach

- ❖ If child labour not prevented new set of children took the place of released bonded labourers
- ❖ As long as there were children out of school, they were available on reserve to contribute to child labour.
- ❖ Even girls who were out of school worked at home doing domestic chores and as child labour on farm work.



Shift from targeted to universal approach

- There is an inextricable link between abolition of child labour and children's right to education in full time formal day schools.
- The definition of child labour had to be inclusive and based on rights of children. Thus child labour was defined as 'all children out of schools.'
- MVF framed a charter of basic principles as 'Non-Negotiables' .



MVF's non-negotiable principles

All children must attend formal full-time day schools, not night schools or non-formal education centers.

Any child out of school is considered a child labourer.

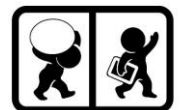
All work/labour is hazardous and harms the overall growth and development of the child.

There must be a total abolition of child labour. Any law regulating child work is unacceptable.

Any justification perpetuating the existence of child labour are all anti-children and must be condemned. (Poverty argument, schools have no quality argument, irrelevant education argument, tradition and culture argument) .

- Against all odds- 5 minutes [\(21\) against all odds short - YouTube](#)

Strategy



- Adilaxmi- 3 minutes
[\(21\) Righting the Future : The MVF Intervention for Girls in Africa - ADILAKSHMI - YouTube](#)
-
- 3. Mamata -3 minutes
- [\(21\) Righting the Future : The MVF Intervention for Girls in Africa - MAMATA - YouTube](#)

Impact – Structural changes

- Families are willing and capable of making the necessary sacrifices to ensure that their child does not go to work but to school instead.
- Communities wanted the norm ‘no child should work’ and plan and implement programmes.
- Concept of Residential Bridge Course adopted by the Central government.
- MVF’s approach replicated by state government and NGO’s in several states
- Right to Education Act and Child Labour Act incorporated MVF’s practices.
- In India the role of ILO, UNDP, UNICEF in supporting MVF and its principles cannot be understated.

Youth against Child Labour -6 minutes

[\(21\) Youth Activists Against Child Labour Part 1 - YouTube](#)

Challenges and Way forward

- Due to closure of schools during lockdown there is a reversal of all the gains made. It is unfair and unjust to hold children responsible for mitigating their poverty, hunger and loss of livelihood in this the current crisis.
- This is a moment to act now more than ever before enabling children complete their education.
- Need to invest more in education and social protection.
- This is not a battle of children alone.
- At this juncture this battle must be won by all of us for the sake of children and their rights.

