



Organized By – CUTS- Centre for Human
Development

Venue - Senior Secondary School, Ghatiyawali

Date- 14 November, 2011. Children's Day

Bal Mela 2011

Introduction

Part I

Background

India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was born on November 14. After his death in 1963, his birthday has been celebrated as children's Day in India. Children's Day is not just a day to let the future generation have its say. It is a day to remember a leader who, in his quiet but determined way, laid the foundation to convert a nascent nation into a world power. Nehru was immensely fond of children. The more popular and famous of Nehru's pictures everywhere show him with children. In all the photographs Nehru's joy at being with children is apparent. When he is not sharing pleasantries with them, the expression of intense concentration as he listens to them reveals his commitment and attitude to children.

As a tribute to this great man and his love for the children, his birthday is celebrated all over India as 'CHILDREN'S DAY'. Most schools have cultural program for the day, with the students managing it all. All over the country, various cultural, social, and even corporate, institutions conduct competitions for children. Children's Day is a day for children to engage in fun and frolic.

CUTS-CHD, in association with Save the Children, is implementing a Child Protection project named, "Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Govt. NGOs Policies & Programmes" at 28 villages of 6 Gram Panchayat in Chittorgarh Block. A series of activities are being organized under it with children, community and stakeholders. On the occasion of Bal Divas CUTS was organized huge *Bal Mela* at Senior Secondary School Ghatiyawali in Chittorgarh.

Objective of Bal Mela

Children are loved by one and all. They win over our hearts with their angelic eyes and innocent smiles. It makes one realize that maybe that's the way God wanted us to be. Making "Bal Divas" a special treat and to add more frolic and fun through different competitions and learning games to children, a huge Bal Mela was planned under IPAP Project. The objectives of it can be specified below.

- Organizing an event which meant for children and giving each child a fun filled and memorable day.
- Providing an occasion to children for meeting, developing, observing, perceiving and creating potential through Co-curricular activities also known as Extracurricular Activities.
- Provide a platform for children to enhance social interaction, leadership, healthy recreation, self-discipline and self-confidence.
- To engage children in fun and frolic irrespective of any discrimination based on socio-economic status.

Preparation & Ground work.

Once the date for the Bal Mela was finalized, during the month of November things started falling into place and everyone in the team began chipping in with their efforts, individually as well as through weekly meetings. The way we perceived it, the Bal Mela this year was to be a litmus test for the dictum "how we do a task is more important than what result we bring out from it". To put this belief into practice, we tried to ensure best practices in all arrangements for the event. It was really invigorating to see the all IPAP staff allocate responsibilities among themselves and diligently noted down their pending tasks. Following the same dictum at another level with the children, we decided to concentrate on eliciting participation from the greatest number of children, and the events for the Bal Mela was planned with precisely this in mind. Invitation with concept note and agenda were given to all participatory schools and honorary guests and followed up properly.

Participants

A near about 1200 children and 50 teachers from 7 schools (5 govt. and 2 private) of Ghatiyawali Gram Panchayat were taken part in event-

- ✓ Govt. Girls Upper Primary School, Ghatiyawali.
- ✓ Govt. Primary School, Bheelbasti, Ghatiyawali.
- ✓ Govt. Primary School, Nayi Aabadi, Ghatiyawali.
- ✓ Govt. Primary School, Kheda, Ghatiyawali.
- ✓ Govt. Senior Secondary School, Ghatiyawali.
- ✓ Children's Paradise Upper Primary School, Ghatiyawali.

- ✓ Indian Public Upper Primary School, Ghatiyawali

There were poised representations from national and international development agencies, NRHM health workers, public leaders, community members, PRIs, key change agents and sensible persons of village. Honorary guests were chosen among government, non government and PRIs institutions.

Proceedings

Part II

Sitting Arrangements

The all children arrived at 11 'o' clock in the morning with anticipations written on their bright faces from all the schools. Some of them brought sacks, spoons and colors and some were wore colorful or cultural dresses to take part in different competitions.

Beginning of Bal Mela



Children coming in Bal Mela Children after settling down under tent Gusto and zeal of children in starting of Bal Mela

Upon arrival, they were greeted by the sight of a colorfully decorated mela ground, complete with balloons, paper streamers, banners, tents. As soon as children were coming, all were being settled down under the tent in school ground. After settling down to all, they were briefly introduced about whole day agenda of program. It was encouraging to see zeal and gusto of children to enjoy whole day in event. Huge turnouts of children were invigorating us for making it enjoyable as they want.

Inauguration Ceremony

Mr. Badri Lal Jat, Dairy Chairmen, Chittorgarh and Pratapgarh district was chief guest of inauguration ceremony. Mr. Jat along with Dharamveer Yadav, CUTS-CHD, coordinator, Amit Chodhary, Advocacy Coordinator, Save the Children, Jaipur, Bhagwani Bai, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Ghatiyawali, Aditya Singh, Vice Sarpanch, Ghatiyawali, Samir Mohammad, Principal, Senior Secondary School Ghatiyawali formally inaugurated the event through lighting lamp and offering flowers and garlanded to picture of chacha Nehru. In his commencing speech Mr. Jat remembered Nehru and urged to all children for imbibing the values and principles which Nehru stood for – peace, conflict resolution and dialogue, passionate secularism, equality, love for nature, accessibility, relating and engaging with people and all traits, through he reached apex post of country and became memorable to all. He appreciated CUTS efforts to making it really a Bal Divas by organizing Bal Mela.

Gl impse of inauGuration Ceremony



Honorary Guests lighting lamp

Mr. Jat during inauguration speech

Dharamveer Yadav delivering welcome note

Cultural fest and Competitions.

As above said, to give the children a new and exciting experience of staying away from their families and enjoying themselves in whole day lot of competitions and extracurricular activities were planned for Bal Mela. Teachers of all schools requested for joining hands with children to come out their hidden talent than academics and in performing well. Children who were given

their name for different competitions were waiting for their bout aggressively. First, Vandana Chauhan, Documentation officer CUTS-CHD, took the mike and made a jury to judge top two participants in all competitions including teachers from all schools and rules were convinced to them.

Competitions were started with Dance. Before commencing it, jury members had been taken their attention to give marks to participants. Solo and group dances performed by students in folk and filmy songs of different schools. Children were showing their interest and encouraging performers by clapping during performances. Some other competitions like role play and singing the songs and poems also going on with it. Group of students from two schools produced self-crested drama based on education and water conservation. All songs and poems were sang by performers were giving a message to listeners and strongly resisting widely spread social evils like Child Marriage and Child Labor. Watching selection of songs and subject for acts and singing performances of children, honorary guests and all spectators were feeling enrapt and applauding discretion of children over right and wrong traditions in society.

Tinge of Performances



Roles play on Water Conservation **Dance performances and delighting guests** **a boy in dress of girl singing a song**

Refreshment and stalls visit

After these three competitions children were served biscuit and banana in the lunch time. One more attraction point of Bal Mela was food stalls held by students of different school in Mela ground. All students were given an hour to purchase eating items from stalls. There were hot tea, Peanuts, Chana Zor, Poya, Biscuits, chocolates and other many items for children.



Children enjoying on Stalls

As soon as children were left, they immediately stormed on the stalls. Huge turnout could be seen in every stall during lunch time. Students were busy to purchase items of their choice and eating them with biscuit and banana.

Post Lunch Session

After purchasing and enjoying an hour on stalls, all children were settled again for post lunch session. As we said above, whole day plan was shared with students and they know the activities of post lunch. They were impatient to take part in racing games. It was time to organize Chair race, spoon race and sack race. Participants were informed to come in race ground and all children gathered around them. They were invigorating the morale of participants by hooting and showing interest. During every race students of different schools were took part with great zeal and enthusiasm and give big fight to each other to take place in top two for getting attractive prizes. To make competitions more hair-raising and competitive, participants of all races were divided in two categories according to their standard and age. These all activities were fun for the participating children and an opportunity for their overall development. Different avenues of development open up in child's mind due to this. Which implant something about his

future in to their mind and this implantation spreads becoming a tree in the future. These activities are great way to develop the hidden skills in the children. Workability is satisfied by motivating self faith and self confidence in to the children. Through these games it was tried to develop group attitude thinking power, self confidence in children and values are moulded in them. It resulted in to increase in reputation, stabilization and quality improvement in the working field.

Children enjoying through participating in different racing contests



Chair Race



Spoon Race



Sack Race

Concluding Ceremony

After completing all the competitions, it was time to distribute prize to winners and conclude the event. A great tinge could be seen in the eyes of participants to get prize and all were in the hope in order to listen their name in winner list and get prize from guests. In this session, Mr. Surendra Singh Jadawat, Members of Legislation Assembly (MLA) from Chittorgarh, along with some other guests adorned the stage as a Chief Guest. CUTS- CHD Coordinator welcomed the all guests.

1. Releasing of books.

As earlier said, with the motive to stronger voice to excluded children CUTS-CHD in association with Save the Children is implementing a Child protection project. Through meetings, interaction with experts and publishing IEC materials, efforts are being made to enrich their knowledge and self confidence on different issues. It is seen that children learn and participate in everything if they are taught and convinced in a way what they like.

Love towards comics of children can be seen everywhere in India. Comic books employ a complex interplay of text and images that gives them the potential to effectively convey concepts and motivate student engagement. Looking on it, the story of Murli was published in this way under IPAP project in which Right to Education act and impact of Child Labor in the life of children were described delicately. It was hammered out in a way which certainly will convey the message to readers.

Concluding Ceremony



MLA during his inspirational Speech

Honorary Guests Releasing the Book

2. Prize Distribution

The prize distribution ceremony brings forward the talents of the students in public to keep instances of splendour for others and encourage them for something alike. Many distinguished persons are invited as guest in chief in this occasion. They deliver speech or demonstrate on various interesting topics and current affairs to entertain as well as encourage the students.



Prize Distribution

The well performers are awarded by honorable personalities and are blessed with the hope of greater success in their future career. It was pleasure for the CUTS to distribute prize for the top performers.

3. Valedictory Session

In this session Mr. Dharamveer Yadav, Centre coordinator, CUTS-CHD, Chittorgarh showed acknowledge to children, teachers, honorary guests and community members for taking part in Bal Mela and making it successful. Congratulating to the all, he said the children of the today are the future of tomorrow and it is very imperative to sensitize them about themselves and their surroundings through the medium of non academics and extracurricular activities. These are one of the most excellent tool for the personality development and boost the hidden talent of the children. This is the right time to strike when the child is in his growing stage and very keen to grasp everything. He added.

In the end of program, everybody who engaged with it was so happy. Children have myriad dreams, we need to nurture and help to realize them. Through contributing in a program where they are enjoying and looking jubilant, everyone was feeling satisfied and happy. At last all were tired but enrapt and cheering each other. It can be seen in the smiling faces of all in below photo.



Sweet end Moment of Bal Mela

Bal Mela Ghatiyawali

Agenda

S.No.	Activities	Time	
1	Inauguration Ceremony	11:00 – 12:00	Honorary Guests
2	Competitions & Rules	12:00: - 12:15	Vinod Kumar Jain, CUTS
3	Competitions – Painting, Rangoli, Bora Race, Spoon Race, Chair Race,	12:15 – 1:30	All Teachers and CUTS Staff
4	Lunch	1:30 – 2:00	
5	Poems, Songs and Role Play, Essay writing, Debate, Quiz	2:00 – 3:30	All Teachers and CUTS Staff
6	Conclusive Ceremony and Prize Distribution	3:30 – 4:00	Honorary Guests

Note:-

- Competition will be categorized according to standard of students.
- Top three participants will get prize in every activity or competition.
- Teachers from all schools will be included in jury to judge top three participants.

Media Coverage

