Our dreams......

I want to become a doctor and also a journalist to help poor people and I want to rescue that people that they want to fight between them. And I want to come peace and freedom in our country and I want to Afghan children have a newspaper their own newspaper in "ASCHIANA" because children can solve their problems by their own newspaper and other children can take some lessons from the newspapers.

- Mustafa (14 years)
Aschiana, Afghanistan.

In our society nobody values our cries. We are here to take a training so that we can spread about our rights and do something for our society and country. Our society neglects us and therefore we should show them that we can also contribute towards the development of our society.

Bikram Tiwari (15 years)
Nepal

Breaking New Ground............

South Asian Alliance of Grass-root NGO's for Protection of Child Rights has been facilitated by Butterflies for bringing together partner NGO's from South Asian Countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka.

The priority commitment of the Alliance is to advocate and promote the Rights of Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances in the region.

Children's Development Bank and the South Asian Children's Times-both initiatives of children are directed to building the South Asian Children's Alliance.

Children's Development Bank is a strategy for empowering children and a forum for learning democratic values and practices. It is also a facility for safe keeping of children's hard earned money and for the older children, 15 years and above, to take advances to start economic enterprises.

The South Asian training workshop held in Delhi from 20th April - 2nd May 2005, provided the children with necessary skills for initiating and managing their bank and children's newspaper in their respective countries.

South Asian Children's Times is a voice of children from South Asian region for expressing their ideas, opinions and views on issues of their concern. The training workshop was insight building exercise for children on production of and publishing a newspaper. In the course of the training program the children released inaugural issue of South Asian Children's Times.

- Rita Panicker, Director
Butterflies

Let's be united for a secured future of ours........................................

- Shyam, Butterflies
My Story

Years back I was a different child as compared to where I am now. It was very much into addiction and my family problem of unemployment forced my to start work. During that time (2 years back) Bhaiya from MDC came to our area a asked me, to join them as them work. With similar children. Then I get associated with CDB. Where I gave been working for the past one year. In the process I also bought many new child to our organise and also with the bank. While working in this organisation initially although and fared many problem but with help from Asha didi I was able to overcome them and respect and fame came to my through our work. My family members were also happy with my present life. The thing which makes me the happier person is this type of development work in raising the standard of life of children like ours which is the only way to build a better and secured future of ours.

- Razi Haider (15 years)
MDC, Muzaffarpur

Let me tell you why are I am here in Aschiana. Aschiana is a place where it develops the minds of the children. And protects them and their rights. Especially provides a good environment for them to become a normal and active member of the society.

Also it maintains with good education, tasks and computer knowledge. Specially (I.T.), web designing and e.t.c.

It has got a video conference with the mostly foreign countries to improve their abilities, and relationship with the other children of these countries. Aschiana provides Good and healthy environment and allocates about their health.

- Abdul Wahab Adil (13 years)
Aschiana, Afghanistan

"Our Logo" - The Story of Formation

As a part of the children's initiative in developing a logo for the South Asian Alliance of Children for Child Rights, a logo maker and a slogan writing competition was organized on the 23rd April as a part of the workshop. All the participant attending the workshop particip -

I hope to get more knowledge and improve our children's society and to have a friendship with Children's of South Asia.

Chandra Bopitiya
Sri Lanka

My name is Sumit Thapa. I live in Pokhara and I work in dumping side and I like in street and sometimes I went home and when I get free time I went school. When I was in street, I was taking drugs, when I came to bout the office of CWS, I came here. I always come here and read, play and I sing here. After coming coming I am very happy. After finishing training I will go back to my country. I will do my work.

- Sumit Thapa (14 years), Nepal

My first dream while coming to here is to make as many friends as I can during these days. I know we will also learn lots of good things during the trainings and will be work and help our friends when we will go back to our own places.

- Md. Nazim (14 years)
Hope Foundation, KolKata

When I came here, I expected that I would learn a lot of things meant for children on returning to Pakistan and would make friendship with a lot of children here.

- Rana Gulzar (12 years)
Bahawalpur, Pakistan

My Expectations

When I was on my way to Viswa Yuvak Kendra initially and was a little afraid of things about the whole programme and also about our performance in front of all the participants from various countries. If something goes wrong. What will happen?

Since I was not well during the last few days I was having a fear that may be due to illness. I will not be able participate in the programme for all the days.

- Shyam (13 years)
Butterflies

"Let all the small get together and make a world of unity and love"

-Nayani Preethika, Sri Lanka
My friend's name is Kumaran. He is 13 years old & studies in standard 8th. His mother died sometime back & his father left him and never returned home. He has a younger sister but does not know where she is. Apart from his sister, Kumaran also has an aunt & grandmother.

He was admitted in the Jeevalyothis Centre at Perambur, Chennai by his father. He is good at studies & usually ranks 5th in his class. Here, he plays with my friends and watches TV. We get nice food here & Kumaran has enjoyed being here.

I liked all the presentations made yesterday. Also, the fact that children were split into different groups & each group's opinion was sought was a very good thing & I really liked it.

After our meeting, we were shown the film "Makdi", which I really enjoyed. Since, this was our first meeting so everyone worked together, in unity. I liked everyone present at the meeting. I also liked the rules & discipline at the meeting.

- Shyam, (13 years) Butterflies.

C.D.B. is the name of a bank, but to say that it is only a bank will be wrong. It is a place where not only money transaction takes place, but also one, where children participate in managing & running the bank. Earlier we had taken an initiative of forming a children's self help group but then very few children had participated in it and we also had problems in taking care of the money. Just at that time we heard about Butterflies. So we got touch with them and began this partnership and last year in the month of July we formally inaugurated the bank. At present there are 6 branches with 361 regular account holders.

And in just a year's time till 31st December 2005, children have saved more than Rs. 70,000/- .Amazingly, we never imagined that we could save such a big amount in such a short span.

We thank Mayurbangh Joint Citizen Centre for giving us this opportunity in order to build a bright future. By April 2006, we plan to open 3 new branches. In West Bengal Mayurbangh Joint Citizen Centre was the first to open a children's development bank. This year Hope Kolkata Foundation, contacted us to start a similar venture. We hope that this initiative will bring a prosperous future for all children.

- Md. Najim (14 years), MJCC, Kolkata

I am Gopal Dey. I enjoyed the three sessions on the first day of the workshop organised by Butterflies. All these days I knew that adults to enjoyed the facility of saving their money in a bank, but this is for the first time I came to know that children too could save their money in a bank. I hope that the other training sessions could be equally interesting.

- Gopal Dey (13 years), Kolkata

I am Manjurika Halder studying in class 9. It's been almost 2 years now since I have been studying at the coaching centre of Kolkata Foundation. Education is free of cost in this coaching centre. Those who cannot afford education and are from very poor background are given education completely free of cost, hope Hope Kolkata Foundation has arranged for teachers to teach in their coaching centre so that no child faces any difficulty in continuing their studies. Hope Kolkata Foundation organises free medical checking camps where medicines free given free of cost.

- Manjurika Halder

Standing together
We would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who made this workshop possible:

All our Child participants and adult facilitators who contributed with their writings for this issue.

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Special thanks to Ms. Rita Panicker, Mr. Gerry Pinto and Ms. Smita Mitra for their inputs which helped us to bring this newspaper in its present form.

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**OUR PROBLEMS**

I have a friend called Naresh, he lives in a rented house & his father runs a tea stall. Naresh shares the house with 7 other members, he complains that it is difficult for 8 people to live in one house. His father urges him to work & earn for himself, since he is old enough to do so, according to his father. Naresh is often asked to live separately & find for himself.

My friend works as a Ragpicker on the streets. He sleeps by the roadside during night. He wants to go back home but does not have a home any more. If he sleeps on the station, the police harasses & beats Naresh.

-Razi Haider (15 years), MDC, Muzaffarpur

- Ajit Maharajan (13 years), Chairperson of Dakshinkali child club, Kathmandu

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**OUR RIGHTS**

I work in a restaurant with difficulties without the light of education my life is in darkness I am not allowed to school for study before as cattle grazing is my only remedy No one helps us to send schools No chances to get to study in schools I did a blunder perhaps With my birth in a poor family closed the schools without chances as everyone should have chances to bring our rights to be done something our selves to get our rights to see united ourselves No problem I will do a lot of work And everyone can order for it But need to be consulted Just not to be exploited.

-Ajit Maharajan (13 years), Chairperson of Dakshinkali child club, Kathmandu