

**Newsletter**

September - October 2009

No. 73

**Literacy and Population**Documentation Centre  
Indian Adult Education Association**New programme launched for newborn care**

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad launched "Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram" to address important interventions of care at birth as a national initiative to reduce neonatal deaths. The nation-wide programme will provide basic institutional newborn care and resuscitation to the infants. The interventions covered in the proposed programme include prevention of hypothermia, prevention of infection, early initiation of breast-feeding and basic newborn resuscitation.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Azad said the objective was to have one person trained in basic newborn care at every delivery, which would help prevent a significant number of newborn deaths and ensure survival of the newborn babies.

Mr. Azad pointed out that 22 lakh children below five years of age die across the country every year as a result of birth asphyxia, sepsis, premature births and hypothermia. Most of these deaths occur within the first few days of birth, he added.

The NSSK will train healthcare providers at the district hospitals, community health centres and

primary health centres in the interventions at birth with the application of the latest available scientific methods aimed at significantly reducing the infant mortality ratio.

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry will organise district level trainers' training programme for 10 States and master trainers' training programmes in other States and Union Territories. The States will be expected to roll out training for medical officers, nurses and auxiliary nurse midwives on their own.

Mr. Azad affirmed that the proposed new programme would fill a critical existing gap and address the major causes of neonatal mortality. "The NSSK will have two important components of training and infrastructure to address the needs at the grassroots," he said.

The sick newborn care units with 10 to 12 beds at district hospitals, newborn stabilisation units with four beds at community health centres and "newborn corners" at primary health centres are also proposed to be established across the country within the next one year.

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## Most street kids in a parental trap

They are downing their innocence in alcohol. A large number of street children in the capital are addicted to liquor, according to a recent survey by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Children, who beg or who work in makeshift vending shops, especially in places like central market in New Friends Colony and pockets of Vasant Kunj, are falling prey to the bottle. Not only this, they were found to be charging as little as Re 1 for opening beer bottles.

The survey, carried out over 10 days to draw up strategies for rescuing and rehabilitating kids, covered 69 areas across Delhi. Most children were found in areas of tourist importance, places of worship or around railway stations. The highest concentration, close to five percent, was found at India Gate, followed by Shahdara, Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk, Red Fort and Old Fort.

Of the 2,246 children surveyed, nearly 50% were in the age group of 9-14 years. Around 1,685

children were in the age-group of 6 to 14 years, 339 in the age bracket of 14 to 18 years and the most vulnerable 0-6 years age-group accounted for 215 children. At least 70% children surveyed were boys.

About 68% of the children claimed to be from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar while the rest were from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. At least 1800 children moved to Delhi along with their families and 242 came with relatives while 165 came alone. A small group came with acquaintances and other children.

The survey team found that almost 80% of the children were living with their parents in Delhi. Their parents are completely dependent on their children's earnings. Some of them even shared experiences of parental coercion.

A closer look at the work profile of the children reflects that 60% are involved in begging. Those involved in vending largely sell eatables, books, magazines, flowers and stationary at traffic signals, tourist

spots and religious places. Some children work as porters on railway stations.

The survey revealed that many children were working at roadside eateries. In fact, in Vasant Kunj A & B block markets and central market in New Friends Colony, children were found to be serving alcohol and opening beer bottles for only Re 1 during night hours. Most of them were found to be addicted to alcohol. The survey revealed that most children involved in begging were attached to families and most of those in vending were alone or with other groups of children and were employed to carry out the sale at signals by a network of adults.

Interestingly, a day's earnings from begging and vending can be between Rs 70 and Rs 100, said nearly 50% of the children surveyed. In most cases the earnings were either taken away by families of these children or the network of adults they work for. Shockingly, over 87% of the 2246 children surveyed have never been enrolled in schools.

## Govt sets up database on immunised children

The government would launch a pilot project in polio-affected areas of the country in order to create a database of every inoculated or vaccinated child. The database will have contact details of each child to verify if he or she has actually been immunised or not.

The health authorities would acquire the contact numbers, either from the family or any known

number in the vicinity, of a vaccinated child, and call on the same for verification.

Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said this at the launch of National Initiative for Patient Safety programme, which was organised by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), World Health Organisation (WHO) and India Clinical Epidemiology

Network (INCLIN) trust.

Citing data about safety of patients from across the world, the Minister said he was not sure of any such data being available in any part of India. "We have no such data in India. And even if we have one, we can't be sure how reliable it is. We have, therefore, decided to launch a pilot project to create a database in polio-affected areas," said the Minister.

## India still accounts for 21% of under-five deaths

First the good news - 10,000 fewer children are now dying every day before reaching their fifth birthday compared to 1990. The bad news - India alone accounts for 21% of the under-five mortality of the globe.

In fact, half of the deaths occurred in India, Nigeria, Congo, Pakistan and China. Interestingly, among them, India and Nigeria together accounted for nearly one-third of the total number of under-five deaths worldwide (21% and 12%, respectively).

According to a new Unicef study, there has been a 28% decline in the under-five mortality rate since 1990. In absolute numbers, this means that under-five child deaths in 2008 declined to 8.8 million from 12.5 million in 1990.

Nineteen years ago, 90 children per 1,000 live births died before their fifth birthday. This stands at 65 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2008. Unicef executive director Ann M Veneman said, "While progress is being made, it is unacceptable that each year 8.8 million children die before their fifth birthday." The new estimates show that the average rate of decline of under-five mortality from 2000 to 2008 is 2.3% compared to a 1.4% average decline from 1990 to 2000.

An exciting finding has been

that seven of the 67 high mortality countries (those with under-five mortality rates of 40 per 1,000 live births or higher) have consistently achieved annual rates of reduction of under-five mortality of 4.5% or higher. These are Nepal, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Laos, Mongolia, Bolivia and Malawi.

Pneumonia and diarrhoea are the two leading causes of the deaths.

These new estimates calculated by Unicef, WHO, World Bank and United Nations Population Division pointed to another interesting fact that under-five mortality is increasingly getting concentrated with 75% of these deaths occurring in only 18 countries, including India. Around 40% of the 8.8 million children who die globally every year are from India, Nigeria and Congo.

Africa (51%) and Asia (42%) combined still account for 93% of all under-five deaths that occur each year. Mortality in developing countries (71 deaths per 1,000) was 12 times that in industrialised countries (6 per 1,000). "A handful of countries with large populations bear a disproportionate burden of under-five deaths. Unless mortality in these countries is significantly reduced, the target of achieving the goal of a two-thirds reduction in the under-five mortality rate by 2015 will not be met," said the report.

## Gender equality mission sought

To address and tackle issues of gender equality it is important to set up a national gender equality mission and a women's international centre, said Streeshakti founder-secretary Rekha Mody at a seminar in Delhi.

Addressing the seminar, "A Call for Gender Equality", organised by Streeshakti—The Parallel Force, The Little Magazine and Women's Feature Service, Ms. Mody spoke about the problems generally experienced by women in rural areas.

"Low-cost sanitary towels should be made available to them," she said.

Member of Parliament Harsimran Kaur Badal, who was the guest of honour at the seminar, emphasised the need to fight female foeticide.

The women's empowerment mission to be constituted under the leadership of Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development.

## बालिका भ्रूण हत्या रोकने के लिए हरियाणा में चलेगा अभियान

दिल्ली में बालिका भ्रूण हत्या रोकने के लिए चलाए गए अभियान की सफलता से उत्साहित एक गैर सरकारी संगठन ने अब हरियाणा के दो जिलों में भी इसकी शुरुआत कर दी है। हरियाणा के कुरुक्षेत्र और अंबाला दो ऐसे जिले हैं जहां लिंग अनुपात अधिक है। सेंटर ऑफ सोशल रिसर्च अभियान चलाने के अलावा कुछ सामुदायिक समूह भी बना रहा है जो बालिका भ्रूण हत्या के खतरे को रोकने के लिए काम करेंगे और इस बारे में जागरूकता फैलाएंगे।

सेंटर फार सोशल रिसर्च (सीएसआर) की निदेशक रंजना कुमारी ने बताया कि दिल्ली, पंजाब और हरियाणा जैसे राज्यों में बच्चियों को कोख में मार देने के कई मामले रहे हैं। यहां हम सामुदायिक कर्मचारियों के

साथ लोगों की धारणा बदलने और उन्हें लड़कियों का महत्व समझाने के लिए काम करेंगे। इस संगठन ने 2004 में दिल्ली के पंजाबी बाग, नजफगढ़ और नरेला जिलों में 'मेरी शक्ति मेरी बेटा' कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत की थी।

अंबाला में प्रति हजार लड़कों पर लड़कियों की संख्या 784 और कुरुक्षेत्र में प्रति हजार लड़कों पर 770 है। यह लिंग अनुपात देश में सर्वाधिक है। जन्म व मृत्यु के आंकड़े रखने वाले मुख्य पंजीयक के कार्यालय के नवीनतम आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि राजधानी में पहली बार लिंग अनुपात घटा है। यहां अब प्रति हजार लड़कों पर लड़कियों की संख्या 1004 पाई गई है।

रंजना ने दिल्ली में लिंग अनुपात में सुधार की खबरों का संदर्भ देते हुए बताया – हम मानते हैं कि हाल में मिली सफलता में हमारी छोटी ही सही, लेकिन भूमिका तो है। अब हम यही प्रयास हरियाणा में करने जा रहे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि हमने कॉलेजों से अभियान शुरू किया है। वहां हम छात्रों को बालिका भ्रूण हत्या के बारे में बताते हैं और उनके जरिए पूरे समुदाय को इस बारे में जागरूक किया जा सकता है। 15 सामुदायिक समूहों को मदद से चलाए जा रहे इस अभियान में रैलियां, चर्चा, नुक्कड़ नाटक आदि का आयोजन किया जाएगा। हरियाणा के कैथल, सोनीपत और रोहतक सहित कई जिलों में 2001 में लड़कियों की संख्या प्रति हजार पर 800 से भी कम दर्ज की गई थी।

## बाल शिशु और मातृत्व मृत्यु दर पर आक्सफेम की चेतावनी

आक्सफेम ने कहा कि गरीब देशों में हर साल लाखों लोग स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं के अभाव में मारे जा रहे हैं। संगठन ने विश्व नेताओं से इस संख्या में कमी लाने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने के लिए कदम उठाने की अपील की है।

ब्रिटेन के सहायता और विकास संगठन ने कहा है कि बाल शिशु और मातृत्व मृत्यु दर में कमी लाने के अंतरराष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य बुरी तरह पटरी से उतरे हुए हैं। हर साल पूरी दुनिया में 40 लाख बच्चे जन्म लेने के बाद 28 दिन के भीतर दम तोड़ देते हैं। एक नई रिपोर्ट में आक्सफेम और 62 अन्य गैर सरकारी संगठनों व स्वास्थ्य समूहों ने यह भी चेतावनी दी है कि 1990 के बाद से

गर्भावस्था और प्रसूति के समय मौत का शिकार होने वाली महिलाओं के आंकड़ों में कोई बड़ा बदलाव नहीं आया है। इस तरह की मृत्यु दर में 2015 तक 75 फीसद की कमी लाने के लिए विश्व नेताओं के संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सहस्राब्दी विकास लक्ष्यों पर दस्तखत करने के बावजूद यह स्थिति है।

आक्सफेम की मुख्य कार्यकारी बारबरा स्टोकिंग ने कहा कि इन नेताओं के जागने तक कितनी जिंदगियों को मौत का शिकार होना पड़ेगा। यह सीधी सी बात है कि गरीब लोग डाक्टरों की फीस बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकते और लाखों लोगों की जीवन रक्षक स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं तक पहुंच सुनिश्चित करने में

लापरवाही इसी तरह जारी रहेगी। यह रिपोर्ट न्यूयॉर्क में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा की बैठक से पहले आई है। बैठक में और गरीब देशों में मुफ्त स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के विस्तार पर विश्व नेताओं के चर्चा करने की संभावना है।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि लाइबेरिया में नौ में से एक बच्चा पांच साल की उम्र तक पहुंचने से पहले ही दम तोड़ देता है और ग्रामीण इलाकों में 20 फीसद से भी कम आबादी की स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं तक पहुंच है। रिपोर्ट में नेपाल के बारे में कहा गया है कि हर 20 मिनट में एक नवजात शिशु की मौत होती है और हर चौथे घंटे में एक महिला प्रसूति संबंधी कारणों से दम तोड़ देती है।

□

## Need for gender-sensitive law to tackle prostitution demanded

The need of the hour is a gender-sensitive law reflecting the voices of women and one that punishes buyers in human-trafficking trade including pimps, brothel-owners and managers, recruiters and transporters, Apne Aap Women Worldwide president Ruchira Gupta said.

“However the victims should not be further victimised, rather they should be rehabilitated and provided with sustainable alternate livelihoods,” Ms. Gupta said, speaking at a function organised by Public Interest Foundation to felicitate her for her work in preventing sex-trafficking of women and children. “There are 1.3 million girls trapped in prostitution in India. These statistics were provided by the CBI in May and this is only the tip of the iceberg,” she added.

Speaking about the plight of victims of trafficking, Ms. Gupta who recently won the Clinton Global Citizen Award, said: “Over the years more and more people are being trafficked and the ages of the girls involved are sliding down. Prostitutes are made to stay in cramped 6 X 4 feet rooms and are repeatedly raped by often diseased and elderly men. Tackling prostitution is tough because of lack of related laws and even public perception. Prostitutes are usually from poor, lower caste families and increasingly from minority groups.” Listing the efforts of Apne Aap Women Worldwide to rehabilitate prostitutes, Ms. Gupta said: “Apne Aap Women Worldwide has opened small collectives called Mahila Mandals which are transformed into economic collectives called self- help groups (SHGs). There are currently 67 such

SHGs in Bihar, Maharashtra and West Bengal. We also run community classrooms in red-light localities in slum areas. We have a three-pronged approach which include efforts at the grassroots, policy-making and global levels.”

### Poverty and migration

Planning Commission member Dr. Syeda Hameed stressed that to address the issue of trafficking it was important to venture beyond the legal framework.

“We must focus not only on the penalisation of the culprits but also address the context of prostitution that includes poverty and migration. We need a systemic and multi-sectoral approach and also must plan out the kind of resources needed for rehabilitation of victims such as legal aid, access to healthcare, education, psychological help and economic resources.

Speaking about the efforts of the Government in this regard, Dr. Hameed said: “The Government has committed resources in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to combat violence against women. There are certain schemes such as “Ujjwal”, the Integrated Child Protection Scheme and the Right to Education which if converged and synergised can help reduce violence against women and young children.”

### Exploitation

Jamia Millia University Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung made a distinction between trafficking and migration saying that various forms of exploitation were part of trafficking whereas migration need not result in exploitation.

## Global rise in detection and treatment of AIDS

The number of people being tested for HIV more than doubled in dozens of countries last year, improving detection of AIDS and contributing to a major surge in those being treated.

The ranks of people taking antiretroviral drugs in the developing world rose by more than a million to surpass 4 million people globally, the United Nations reported in its 2009 progress report on HIV and AIDS.

The vast international effort on AIDS, financed by the United States, European countries and other donors, also ensured that growing numbers of children with AIDS, who had largely been left to die quick, unheralded deaths in past years, also benefited from the life-saving drug therapies. Their number rose to 275,700 in 2008 from 198,000 just a year earlier. And the portion of mothers who got medicines to prevent them from infecting their babies with HIV also rose markedly, to more than half those in need, in the parts of Africa hardest hit by the disease.



## देश के 53 प्रतिशत बच्चे हैं यौन शोषण के शिकार

हमारे देश में लोग चाइल्ड सैक्सुअल अब्यूज पर बात करने से जितना हिचकते हैं समस्या उतनी ही गंभीर हैं। इस विषय पर चुप्पी साध लेने वालों का मानना होता है कि यह पश्चिमी देशों की दिक्कत है और हमारे देश में यह नहीं होता। लेकिन हकीकत मुंह चिढ़ाने वाली है। सरकारी आंकड़े के अनुसार देश के करीब 53 प्रतिशत बच्चे कभी न कभी सैक्सुअल अब्यूज का शिकार बने हैं। बावजूद इसके, इससे निपटने के लिए कोई अलग से कानून नहीं है। बाल अधिकारों के लिए काम करने वालों का मानना है कि इस मुद्दे पर चुप्पी ऐसे अपराधों को बढ़ावा देती है और बच्चों के मन में डर बैठ जाता है। वह पीड़ित होने के बावजूद खुद को दोषी मानने लगते हैं और अपने साथ हो रहे गलत बर्ताव का

विरोध या शिकायत नहीं कर पाते और बार-बार शिकार बनते हैं। भारत सरकार की एक स्टडी के मुताबिक 52.94 प्रतिशत लड़कियां एक या अधिक बार सैक्सुअल अब्यूज झेल चुकी हैं। यह 5 साल की उम्र से शुरू होता है, 10 साल की उम्र में ज्यादा और 12-15 साल की उम्र में सबसे ज्यादा होता है। यानी टीनएजर्स सबसे ज्यादा खतरे में होता है। बच्चे स्कूल, पार्क से लेकर घर के अपेक्षाकृत सुरक्षित माहौल में भी सैक्सुअल अब्यूज के शिकार हुए हैं। चाइल्ड अब्यूज के खिलाफ काम करने वाले संगठन 'तुलीर' ने 'टेरे दस होम्ज' की मदद से बच्चों को जागरूक करने की मुहिम छेड़ी है। इसके तहत उन्होंने ऑडियो सीडी और बुकलेट में कहानी के जरिए बच्चों को यह सिखाने की कोशिश की है अगर तुम्हें किसी के

स्पर्श से गुस्सा, बेचैनी या असमंजस का अहसास हो तो जोर से चिल्लाओ और इस बारे में किसी विश्वस्त अभिभावक को बताओ। इसकी टैंग लाइन है—गुदगुदी करना, गले लगाना, स्पर्श के नियम सीखीए। 'टेरे दस होम्ज' के प्रोग्राम कोऑर्डिनेटर किशोर ने बताया कि यह सीडी और बुकलेट 23 सितंबर को रिलीज की गयी है। सीडी में बॉलिवुड स्टार राहुल बोस ने अपनी आवाज दी है। यह सीडी और बुकलेट विभिन्न संस्थाओं की मदद से बच्चों में बांटी जाएगी। हमारे कोशिश यही है कि बच्चे दोबारा इसके शिकार न बनें। बच्चे अपने साथ हो रहे गलत बर्ताव का विरोध करना और शिकायत करना सीखें। बाल अधिकारों के लिए काम करने वाले संगठन 'प्रतिधि' के राज मंगल प्रसाद कहते हैं कि अभी इससे निपटने के लिए कोई अलग से कानून नहीं है।

## NCW: Women trafficking rampant in half of India

At least half the 612 districts in the country are affected by trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, according to a report. The report by the National Commission for Women (NCW) says that in 378 districts, there are 1,794 identified places of origin from where females are trafficked and 1,016 areas where commercial sexual activities take place.

The southern and eastern states are the most vulnerable as far as trafficking is concerned, with states like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal having all their districts affected by the problem.

Among other most affected states are - Tamil Nadu (93.33 per

cent of all districts), Orissa (86.66 per cent) and Bihar (86.48 per cent).

The report further adds that 2.4 per cent of the total female population in 15-35 age group in the country is engaged in the flesh trade. "The estimated number of commercial sex workers in India is about 28 lakh," it says. In this, over 43 per cent of the girls were minor at the time they enter the flesh trade.

"The entry of minors in flesh trade is comparatively high in regions where incidence of poverty and hunger are chronic. Reasons like violence against women, high unemployment and lack of options contribute to the vulnerability of trafficking of adults," the report says.

The report says that gender

discrimination and gender specific violence and crimes perpetuate the vulnerability of women and children and act as one of the reasons behind trafficking.

The NCW says that the promise of a job is the biggest way of deception and accounts for over 50 per cent of trafficking cases. Presenting a gloomy picture, the report says that more than 22 per cent women in flesh trade are trafficked and forced into it by family members.

"Around 8 per cent (women) are trafficked by husbands or in-laws and 18 per cent are lured by friends or neighbours. More than 51 per cent women in commercial sex were trafficked either by family members or in-laws," it says. □

## सेक्स वर्कर्स पढ़ेंगी आत्मनिर्भरता का पाठ

साक्षर बनाकर स्वरोजगार की दी जाएगी ट्रेनिंग। पहले चरण में पांच हजार महिलाओं को दिया जाएगा मौका।

समाज में खुद को दायम दर्जे पर खड़ा पाने वाली सेक्स वर्कर्स को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने का अवसर मुहैया कराने के उद्देश्य से अब न सिर्फ उन्हें साक्षर बनाया जाएगा, बल्कि उन्हें वैश्यावृत्ति की दलदल से बाहर निकलने की राह भी दिखाई जाएगी। यूनाइटेड नेशनल डिकेट फॉर लिटरेसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए शुरू हो रहे इस अभियान के तहत पहले चरण में दिल्ली के उत्तर-पूर्वी जिले में रहने वाली करीब पांच हजार महिलाओं को शामिल किया जा रहा है। इन महिलाओं में सेक्स वर्कर्स के अलावा अल्पसंख्यक, अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति से सम्बंध रखने वाली असहाय महिलाओं को भी आत्मनिर्भरता का पाठ पढ़ाया जाएगा।

दिल्ली विवि के प्रौढ़ सतत् शिक्षा

विभाग के शिक्षक डॉ. राजेश के प्रयासों से शुरू किए जा रहे इस अभियान के तहत पहले-पहल इस अभियान की आवश्यकता का आंकलन किया जा रहा है। विश्व साक्षरता दिवस पर शुरू हुए इस अभियान के तहत न सिर्फ महिलाओं को शिक्षित किया जाएगा, जिसके बूते वह अपने लिए सम्मानजनक पेशे का चुनाव कर सकें। वोक्शनल एजुकेशन के अन्तर्गत महिलाओं को कम्प्यूटर एजुकेशन, ब्यूटीशियन, कढ़ाई-सिलाई सरीखे हुनर सिखाए जाएंगे। डॉ. राजेश ने बताया कि इस अभियान के तहत प्रायोगिक प्रोग्राम की शुरुआत सितम्बर माह के अंत में होगी। समाज के अछूते वर्ग से सम्बंध रखने वाली महिलाओं को वोक्शनल ट्रेनिंग देने के लिए ऐसी स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं को

इस अभियान से जोड़ा जा रहा है, जो मौजूदा समय में भी महिलाओं व गरीब तबके के छात्रों की स्किल डवलपमेंट की मुहिम में जुटे हैं। इतना ही नहीं अभियान में आईटीआई और दिल्ली सरकार से सम्बंध रखने वाले कम्प्यूटर व प्रोफेशनल कोर्स कराने वाले संस्थानों का सहयोग भी लिया जाएगा।

साक्षरता व आत्मनिर्भरता के प्रति महिलाओं में जागरूकता पैदा करने के पीछे का लक्ष्य डॉ. राजेश बताते हैं कि हमारी कोशिश है कि असहाय महिलाओं को जीवनयापन के उम्दा अवसर मिलें। इसके लिए राष्ट्रीय महिला कोष के तहत आने वाले स्वयं सहायता समूह का निर्माण किया जाएगा और इसके जरिए असहाय महिलाओं को सशक्तिरण किया जाएगा।

## Seeking protection for girl child

Child Rights and You, a non-government organisation, has firmed up a charter of demands seeking better education, health care and protection from abuse for the girl child.

The soon-to-be-submitted charter is aimed at drawing attention of policy-makers to the burning issues of female foeticide, malnutrition, trafficking and abuse. According to CRY officials, the charter of demands will be submitted to ten key decision-makers including President Pratibha Patil, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Union Minister for Women and Child Welfare Krishna Tirath.

"We are in the process of collecting signatures from a cross-

section of society and will soon submit it to the officials and ministries concerned," said a CRY official. "After submitting the charter, CRY will continue to engage with the public through online forums and public meetings to make sure the girl child remains high on the public agenda throughout the year," the official said.

### Problems

Referring to the problems faced by the girl child in the country, CRY general manager Kumar Nilendu said: "In India, the girl child faces four heinous crimes – foeticide, child labour, child marriage and abuse. In addition, she suffers three key deprivations: she is deprived of an education, of the right to health and

nutrition and the right to develop." The NGO now wants the Union Women and Child Development Ministry to take immediate action to stop female foeticide through effective enforcement of the law and take severe legal action against offenders, to set up autonomous law enforcement agencies to work against traffickers and exploiters with appropriate redress mechanisms, and assistance programmes for the affected child. It also wants the Ministry to provide easy access to schools and create a safe environment so that girls also readily attend school. The charter also includes a demand for a separate Act against child sexual abuse.



Headey, Derek D. and Hodge, Andrew. **The Effect of Population Growth on Economic Growth: A Meta-Regression Analysis of Macroeconomic Literature.** Population and Development Review. Vol. 35 No. 2. 2009. pp.221-248.

Many studies have sought to gauge the impact of population growth on economic growth. A well-known stylized fact of this literature is that the estimated effects of population growth measures on economic growth are not robust, varying between being positive, negative, and insignificantly different from zero. The present study analyzes 471 statistical regressions from 29 prominent economic growth studies using meta-regression analysis to identify the effect of alternative methodologies on key population growth results. This study finds that a broad set of methodological factors explains more than half of the variation in the population growth effects observed from this literature, including the types of variables used to measure population growth, the countries selected, the time frame of the

analysis, and the nature of the control variables specified. The study also yields results that have implications for policymakers, especially insofar as several policy factors seem to influence the population change—economic growth nexus. Particularly strong is the evidence in support of the increasingly adverse effects of population growth in the post-1980 period, suggesting that



demographic issues should warrant greater attention than they currently receive from the policymaking community.

Su, Dejun. **Risk Exposure in Early Life and Mortality at Older Ages: Evidence from Union Army Veterans.** Population and Development Review. Vol. 35 No. 2. 2009. pp.275-295.

This study examines the relation between risk exposures in early life

and hazard of mortality among 11,978 Union Army veterans aged 50 and over in 1900. Veterans' risk exposures prior to enlistment—as approximated by birth season, country of birth, residential region, city size, and height at enlistment—significantly influenced their chance of survival after 1900. These effects are robust irrespective of whether socioeconomic well-being in 1900 has been taken into account; however, they are sensitive to the particular age periods selected for survival analysis. Whereas some of the effects such as being born in Ireland and coming from large cities became apparent in the first decade after 1900 and then dissipated over time, the effects of birth season, being born in Germany, residential region in the United States, and height at enlistment were more salient in the post-1910 periods. Height at enlistment shows a positive association with risk of mortality in the post-1910 periods. Compared to corresponding findings from more recent cohorts, the exceptional robustness of the effects of risk exposures prior to enlistment on old-age mortality among the veterans highlights the harshness of living conditions early in their lives.

Printed and Published by Dr. Madan Singh on behalf of IAEA, 17-B, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110 002, for National Documentation Centre on Literacy & Population Education (Tel: 23378436, 23379282, 23379306, Fax: 23378206) E-mail: dc\_iaea@yahoo.co.in & Printed at M/s. Graphic World, 1686, Kucha Dakhini Rai, Darya Ganj, New Delhi - 110 002.  
Editor-in-Chief : KC Choudhary                      Executive Editor : Dr. Madan Singh                      Editor : SC Dua