

THINK ABOUT THE POOR KIDS FOR A MINUTE!

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Think for a second about the poor and unfortunate kids who are supposed to enjoy their childhood without any worries, running around with friends, flying kites, going to school, parents tucking them in and reading a story or memories from their childhood! They are supposed to sleep comfy and cozy dreaming about all kinds of fun things or dreaming what they want to become in life, play their favorite sports, watching the fun movies, reading their favorite story books, learning their favorite musical instrument – I mean doing all the things our kids are doing! Don't you think so?

When I had my first son and experienced what it is like to have a baby in your arms and love him, protect him, give all kinds of comforts in life. At the same time when I watched the young kids like 3 to 4 yr olds wandering on the roads, wearing muddy clothes, eating (sometimes not eating at all) sleeping in the unhealthy environment where they can catch up diseases easily it made me so sad. The underworld or mafia take advantage of their poverty and attract them with bare necessities of life, use them for their illegal activities and create the criminals who rob, kill, do drugs, drug dealing, smuggling.

Is it their fault that they are born in the poor families? Is it their fault that the difference between rich and poor is so vast? Is it their fault that even after so many years of independence we are not able to abolish the child labor and not able to stop them from becoming criminals? Is it their fault that the socio-economic situation of the countries is not improving as supposed to creating equal distribution of finances, land among all the people? When are the fundamental rights guaranteed by constitution going to become reality? Is it not the duty of all the educated people as citizens to help these kids out and do our duty?

Just think about a minute! Don't these kids need a chance and don't they deserve to live like our kids with all the good things in life? The kids who are supposed to carry books and learn to write with their hands are learning all criminal activities or working in hazardous working areas to earn their livelihood.

When we went to India for a month after 9 yrs I got a chance to talk with one of my family members, my nephew who works for a leftist group. He is young and knows lot of info but he still needs to know lot of stuff about how the things work in the society. He was telling about their group's upcoming projects and he mentioned about the procession they are going to have against misusing the info about the HIV/AIDS like they are using provoking pictures and lot of unnecessary info they are spreading among the people. After we talked good and bad things about it I said, there are lot of volunteer organizations which are trying hard to help out the children, women, to spread the education and help the child laborers get out of their bonded labor and able to get normal education and also vocational education etc.

He heard everything and then he said, 'It has become common for everyone to come up with some organization to help people and when the funds come from far away who organize fund raisers and send them to the people who work as volunteers in India. There are only few organizations who are working with dedication and others are taking advantage of people's situation and after collecting all the funds they disappear with money.' To tell the truth I was shocked to hear something like that. When I told him I belong to one group here and I see total dedication from the young students and I don't think they are misusing money.' He said, 'Maybe! I'm not talking about all the organizations. There are some of them that are doing this.'

Just before Ron left to India he stopped by to say hi when he came to attend an Interview in Malvern I think. That time I got a chance to talk to him about the conversation I had with my nephew. Ron also said the same thing, 'there must be some of the organizations who are not very dedicated. But you know we have very dedicated team in our group.' I know that I have seen them all.

Then we get to hear from Ron after his return from India trip, he did find some of the places which are supposed to work for the welfare of the kids cannot be seen. There are no kids and only thing that can be seen in good condition is the office. I know it must have been a big shock to all of you just like me. But I'm glad you guys are coming up with new projects and try to avoid those kind of things not to happen by finding people who are more interested, motivated to do something for these kids. I hope this is just one set back but other projects that ASHA has undertaken are going on well like Tsunami project. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK GUYS AND GIRLS.

I think ASHA finds people to implement the project. All of you work so hard to come up with the project, have a plan to how to do things which are going to help the Child Laborers whom they enroll in schools and try to give a new kind of life. I hope all the projects are going to work out just fine and to make sure some people need to visit more often or have somebody to supervise the program.

The non – profit organizations are working to help these kids to give them decent life, by sending them to schools, giving training so that they can earn few bucks to help their families and also helping the families to get vocational training so that they don't have to send their kids to work or for begging to help the family to get enough food for one day. These organizations are taking responsibility to give them their childhood back and make them aware of their situation, give them a chance to dream about becoming whatever they want to become in their lives. The organizations give encouragement they need and people like us should come together to help them to help the kids in every corner of the world.

Just think about it for a minute!