

BACKGROUND

A baseline was conducted by Association of Global Humanists and Ethics (AGHE آگہی), to identify the labour children, their condition and the nature of work they do in Gilgit City. Results of the survey showed that there were fifty eight children, working in different motor workshops, small hotels, shops and open market places. Their ages fall between 7 to 15 years. All of them were male children. The children were at high risk due to extremely cold weather, poor hygienic condition of work places and unsuitable clothing. The working duration of the children and their earning/income was appalling. They worked between 10 to 12 hours per day with a short lunch break of fifteen minutes. They were paid, only 15 to 20 US \$ per month (50 - 66 US cents per day), without any provision or facility like life or medical insurance etc. During interview, some of the children stated that they were being forced by their parents or elders to do labour.

Keeping in view the horrible results of the survey, the executive body of Association of Global Humanists and Ethics decided to establish a child friendly centre on emergency basis. So, after survey, proposed Child Friendly Centre CFC was established in Gilgit city in a rented building. The Centre is providing a wide range of educational and leisure opportunities for the labour children.

A Child is busy in painting while at the Centre

The Children are watching Cartoons.

Two Children are enjoying an in door game.



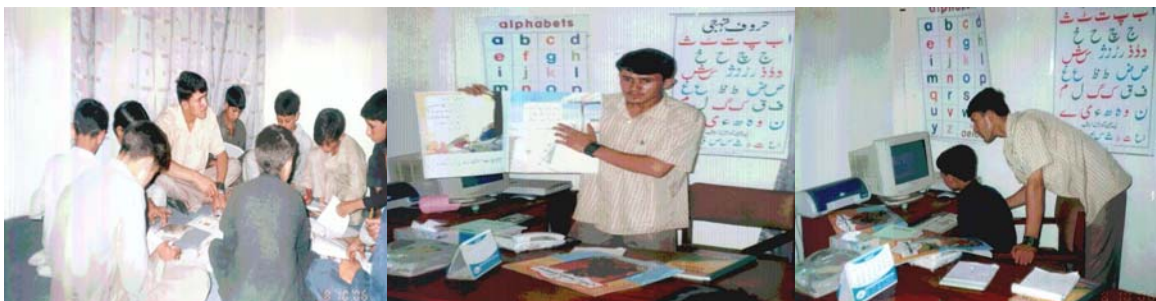
SOME IMPORTANT FEATURES OF CFC GILGIT

CFC Gilgit offers part-time non-formal educational and recreational activities for 10 children aged 10 to 14 years. There is one trained teacher and two volunteers working in the Center as part time employees of AGHE. Following are some prominent features of the Child Friendly Centre Gilgit:

Educational Activities

The Centre supports parents and carers and provides learning activities for the young children who have dropped out from formal education system due to certain reasons. The Centre provides advisory services to families and to other education providers. Fifteen children were identified by the Centre who were habitual to remain absent from school and therefore, were required additional support for special educational needs. The Centre is intending to develop creative skills of the children and working at the expected level for their stage of development. Children experienced a wide range of opportunities in painting, printing, collage and model making. The centre is well equipped with the teaching aids which make the learning process easier for the children. Multi grade teaching approach is adopted by the teacher as the students range from class one to three. Some other teaching strategies like, cooperative learning, peer coaching self directed learning, vertical and horizontal approaches are used by the teachers while teaching at the Child Friendly Centre Gilgit. In the beginning, four basic skills of Urdu and English languages are focused. The Centre also aims at promoting a holistic approach to education which includes social skills, the development of democratic values and attitudes with respect for others' cultures, values and beliefs.

Educational Activities: Multi grade teaching approach is used while teaching and learning process at CFC. The Centre Co-ordinator Rana M. Tahir is telling a story to the children in picture 2, while in picture 3 a child is learning English alphabets with the help of a software program.



Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Recreational Activities

The Child Friendly Centre Gilgit is committed to providing programs that offer children opportunities to socialize, learn and play together in a caring environment. While in the Centre, children are allowed to participate in recreational activities and games. Indoor games are chosen by the children themselves. In addition children are provided opportunities to watch their favorite cartoons and movies and to listen songs by their own choice. Children's participation in arts, crafts, and recreational activities provide them an opportunity to socialize with peers and to increase their awareness about team work, and how to resolve conflicts peacefully and respect others' opinions.



Recreational Activities: Children are busy in some indoor recreational activities at the Child Friendly Centre Gilgit

Skills-Based Health and Sanitation Facilities

Attention is given to skills-based health, HIV/AIDS and environmental education and enabling access to sanitation facilities as the Centre is providing tooth brushes, towels, washing soap to each children. Some children also take bath while in the centre. The Center's staff especially focuses on skills-based health as the health experts reported that cases of pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and skin infections are being observed among the labour child workers due to polluted water, inadequate medical care and poor hygienic conditions of their work places.



Sanitation Facilities at the Centre: The children wash their hands and mouths and brush their teeth daily at the centre.

Others

Some other important features of the centre are:

- The Centre is providing light refreshment to the children as an incentive for coming and joining the centre.
- The Centre is also working as “Child Rights Information” Centre and have planned some activities to train young people in a number of areas such as human rights, developing self-confidence, creativity, culture and freedom of speech and opinion, dealing with adults, etc
- The Centre arranges field trips for the children.

Future Plans

- In the near future, the Centre will offer Rs. twenty to the Children who will join the multi grade classes of the center for one hour extra than the routine timings of the Center.
- The Centre has also plan to organize a variety of workshops on topics such as children’s rights, drama, music, and art, combined with issues like gender equality, religious and non-discrimination, non-violent communication and conflict resolution etc.
- Apart from other facilities the Centre will undertake research projects to explore the needs of children and young people as well as a counseling office for children and young people. It plans to start a youth friendly services soon, and conduct training to develop their skills in communication, conflict resolution, human rights, and citizenship.
- To increase the understanding of the detrimental effects of child labour among parents, religious leaders and other significant adults through advocacy, sensitization, mobilization and training, the Association has planned start media campaign against child labour, advocacy visits to key

leaders in the Gilgit community, stakeholders' sensitisation workshop, community outreach activities for awareness creations and to develop, print and distribute IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials on eradicating child labour.

- The refined model of Child Friendly Centre will be replicated in other five districts of the Northern Areas of Pakistan.



Filed Trip: Children of CFC Gilgit visited Karakorum International University on 14th August 2006 to celebrate "*Jassana Azadi Mella*" on especial occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan. The University organized special fun activities for the children. The children were so excited while at the University that they wished to be University's student in future.

The Children feel to be protected because the centre brings them light of hope and they are showing keen interest to learn reading, writing and counting. So the Centre is working as a place for communication, information, education, recreation, social activities, and development of creativity and new skills among the children.

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