

Contents

Preface		
S.No.	Article	Page No.
1.	Childhood Dreams in the Dumps —Radhakrishna Rao	4
2.	Losing Childhood To A Big, Bad World	11
3.	15 M Children Forced To Toil In India —Jaidev Sharma	15
4.	We and Our Children	22
5.	Children Under Threat From Environmental Chemicals	27
6.	Gray Hair On Young Heads Failing Eyes —Priya Yadav	30
7.	Our Children's Future —Bernard Lown, M.D.	33
8.	Betraying Our Children —Bharat Dogra	39
9.	Learning Revisited —Jeremy Seabrook	44
10.	Pingalwara Diary	51

Preface

The child is a powerful sensitive tape that can register and record or pickup the feeblest vibration. He or She is living computer that projects in future all the recorded programmes that we feed in.

As an American poet, Walt Whitman, wrote: "There was a child went forth every day, and the first object he looked upon, that object he became and that object became a part of him for the day or a certain, part of the day or for many years or stretching cycles of years. The early lilacs became part of the child... And the old drunkard staggering home from the outhouse of the tavern whence he had lately risen."

That child never leaves and even when he grows up and becomes a man, that child is still there. What kind of children are we moulding today? What kind of tomorrow's men? The world stands at the cross roads in child health. Our children today are suffering from so many problems like malnutrition, harmful effect of pesticides, gender discrimination and child labour.

This booklet contain the articles selected by **Bhagat Puran Singh Ji** (*Founder of Pingalwara*) and **Bibi ji Dr. Inderjit Kaur** [*President, All India Pingalwara Charitable Society (Regd.)*]. The data contained in certain articles is published as such so as to spread awareness about child labour and their health problems.

In absence of adequate employment and income,

children are forced to supplement income of parents by working in matchbox industry, bangle factories and another factories. In these factories as mentioned in article Loosing “*Childhood to a big, Bad World*”, “Children are brutally beaten, humiliated and forced to do the kind of work which adults can never do”. The rooms where children work are dusty, dingy and without proper lighting. The children have to sit in the rooms for long hours in couched positions which retard their physical and mental growth. Vulnerability of children increases in degraded and poor environment, neglected and mal-nourished children suffer the most. Lead is more toxic to children whose diets are deficient in calories, iron and calcium.

The article “We our children” mentioned that indiscriminate use of pesticides and unhealthy environment is contributing the children for gray hair at an early stage. Deaths due to cancer in children are increasing. Another factor behind the deteriorating health of children is shrinking of tropical forests and pollution.

Such books are printed by All India Pingalwara Charitable Society (Regd.) and distributed free of cost. Kindly donate generously for this work.

Ms. Ritu Sharma
D/o Late Sh. N.K. Singh and Late Smt. Promila
C/o Dr. Inderjit Kaur
(Mukh Sewadar) Pingalwara

Childhood Dreams In The Dumps

Radhakrishna Rao

In the long list of dubious distinctions India is famous for, child labour comes on the top. The wholesale and unchecked exploitation of children of less than 14 years is a punishable crime under the Indian law. But a selfish and immoral political leadership, corrupt bureaucracy, rampant poverty, growing unemployment and a society bereft of values have all conspired to turn India into the “*largest concentration of child labour in the world.*” According to one study, every third household in India has a working child and every fourth child in the age group of 5-15 is employed. An estimate by the International Labour Organization (ILO) puts the numbers of child workers in India at 44 million. But an unofficial survey estimates the number of working children at around 100 million. While 21 per cent of the child workers are urban based, the rest are rural based.

There is hardly any product in India that has no child labour behind it. Lock, carpet, bangle, brick, matchbox cracker, wood carving or any other product you name has the invisible stamp of the toil put in by children caught in the web of poverty and an exploitative

social system. Indeed, child labour in India comes cheap and easy. *“It is extremely difficult to control and monitor the existence of child labour”*, says Vijay Kanhare of the Occupation Health and Safety Centre in Bombay, “because the legislation which sought to ban it from many industries has succeeded only in pushing it out of the organized sector into the vast unorganized sector where super-exploitation is the rule”.

While a substantial portion of the child workers is bonded, others are exposed to health hazards, besides being maltreated and abused by their employers. Recently, following the efforts by a number of voluntary organizations in India, hundreds of child workers held as slave by the owners of carpet weaving units in the Varanasi-Mirjapur belt were freed from bondage. About a million children are working in the India’s carpet weaving sector. They are invariably made to slog for 12-16 hours a day without proper food and clothing. At times, they are beaten up mercilessly and branded with red hot iron rods for minor faults at work.

MATCHBOX INDUSTRY: While a campaign against the use of child labour in India’s carpet weaving has been stepped up by an assortment of human rights and anti-slavery organizations in India and abroad,

the plight of more than 50,000 child workers in the flourishing matchbox and cracker production units concentrated in and around Sivakasi township in the perpetually drought prone Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu receives no more than cursory attention in the print media. In an area devoid of agricultural activities, employment in match factories and firework units provides the mainstay of livelihood for a large segment of the people. Investigations’ reveal that sivakasi’s child labour network is well organized.

Most children travel from village’s up to 45 km away to reach the workpot in Sivaksi town and surroundings industrial areas. The child worker’s day starts at the crack of dawn. By about 4 a.m. rickety factory buses arrive to take them to their place of work. In most cases, more than 200 young child workers are crammed into a single bus. The bus takes them back to their homes by 8 in the night. Virtually every household in the area sends a child to work in the factories.

Here, in Sivakasi, the children work in dark sooty sheds, rolling explosives into crackers or arranging match sticks in neat rows in collapsible wooden panels. The working day is 10 hours long and seven days a week for a paltry remuneration of Rs 120. The pressure is always on them to produce

more. *“I hate this job but you see I cannot fight fate”*, says a young girl worker working in one of the match production units in Sivakasi. She says that all her childhood dreams remained buried in the grim reality of relentless toil and she has totally forgotten how the world looks during days. Many child workers have been killed in accidents involving explosions in the firework units of Sivakasi. Of the 500 lives lost in accidents over the last two decades, a substantial number were child workers.

BANGLE FACTORIES: About 25 per cent of the one million workers employed in bangle factories concentrated in Uttar Pradesh are children below 15 years. Here, children work in all stages of bangle making and glass blowing. They carry molten glass on iron rods from the furnace to the adult workers and back to the pieces so that molten material does not get cold before it reaches the workers who turns it into beautiful and colourful bangles. Invariably, children in bangle-making units are exposed to a high degree of blast furnace temperature.

A Survey carried out by UNICEF in the villages around Vellore in Tamil Nadu shows that thousands of children in the age group 6-14, mostly girls, are employed in the beedimaking industry under

the factory and homeworkers system. It points out that communicable diseases like tuberculosis, are major handicaps child workers suffer from because they breathe in leaf dust and tobacco for several years on end.

MORTGAGED CHILDREN: What's more shocking, nearly 2,000 child workers have been mortgaged to beedi contractors by their impoverished parents. It is quite normal for the parents in this part of the country to borrow amounts up to Rs. 2,000 from middlemen in the industry by pledging their children. These hapless children sit in cramped, ill-ventilated rooms from dawn to dusk and roll dry leaves into beedies and stuff them with tobacco. Several thousand other children go to school during the daytime but engage themselves in beedi rolling before and after school hours.

Around 50,000 child workers are also employed in the highly hazardous gem and diamond polishing enterprise, located mainly in the city of Surat in Gujarat. Further 300,000 children toil in the brocade saree industry centred round Banaras.

Besides, around 10,000 young boys toil in the metal industry of Aligarh, making brassware and locks. In addition, thousands of child workers are employed

in the shoe-making units of Agra, the brick kilns of Bengal and stone-crushing and lime-making units in the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh.

Added to this, an unspecified number of child workers are employed in hotels, restaurants and eateries spread across the length and breadth of the country. Not to be left out are domestic workers, a majority of whom are children below 15 years. These mindboggling figures—just indicative and not realistic—make a mockery of Article 35 (E) of the Indian Constitution, which says that the tender age of children ought not to be abused and argues against being given work that is not suited to their age and strength.

SURVEYS & PROJECTS: Studies by the ILO point out that millions of children work under extremely difficult and exploitative conditions in various branches of industry. They are often beaten up and treated in a cruel manner by employers for not completing the quota of work assigned to them or committing minor mistakes at work. Many of these children suffer from speech problems because they are not permitted to talk while they are working and work keeps them tied down for most part of the day. Leave, bonus and sickness benefits are unknown to them. The ILO study also

observes that many Indian child workers suffer from respiratory illness, skin disease and tuberculosis due to the continuous exposure to chemicals, fumes and dust. While no medical treatment is made available to these child workers by their rich employers, the poverty stricken families can hardly afford to take care of them. Indeed, the ILO study has established that a large number of children are at risk mainly because of the early age at which they start working.

The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) that was launched on an experimental basis in Sivakasi to wean away children of school-going age from the match and fireworks units ran into rough weather and instead of solving the problem of child labour it has helped rake up unsavoury controversies. Like other well-meaning pieces of legislation and schemes aimed at ending social evils like child labour, this project too has remained a paper tiger.

(The Tribune, January 28, 1993)

Losing Childhood To A Big, Bad World

It is not just glass that goes into the making of the beautiful bangles of Firozabad—what also goes in is the labour of children, working under highly stressful and hazardous conditions.

Nearly 25 per cent of the work force in the bangle factories constitute of children who work alongside adults in front of furnaces where the glass bangles are baked at temperatures ranging between 1,500 and 1,800 degrees centigrade. And surprisingly such cases are not unique to factories.

Seven-year-old Ashraf suffered continuous humiliation and torture while working at an IAS officer's house before he was saved by some anti-child-labour activists. Millions of such children are continuously exploited and over-worked in India where the number of child labourers has reached the 100 million figure, according to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Though the organization admits that collection of data is very difficult due to absence of solid statistics, the figure is based on the number of children aged between six and 14 who are not attending school

regularly.

The latest UNICEF report on the state of the world's children reveals that marginal child labour in the country has increased from 2.4 million in 1981 to 10.5 million in 1991, in other words an increase of 338 per cent in ten years.

The combined total of full time child workers, marginal child workers and "*nowhere children*" (who appear in neither the official labour statistics nor the education statistics) amounts to over 97 million children or almost 40 per cent of children in the 5-14 age group, says UNICEF representative in India, Jon Rohde. Admitting that there are no exact figures, he refers to the situation as "*very severe*".

"Children are brutally beaten, humiliated and forced to do the kind of work adults can never do" says Rohde. India, which ratified the convention on the rights of the child in 1992, has the largest number of child labourers in any country in the world. "In this country, there are about 20 million children working in hazardous industries and 15 million who are bonded. For them, the rights to play, recreation, education and health simply do not apply" he says.

According to estimates, there are about 44 to 100 million children forced to labour in hazardous

units in the country. While levying a ban on the “*all India evil*” the Supreme Court had last week directed the creation of a *Corpus* fund with a contribution for each child from the employer and asked the government to ensure the compulsory education of the child.

The UNICEF report also stresses that the first step towards eliminating child labour would be to ensure free and compulsory education for every child and stringent anti-child labour laws and their vigorous enforcement.

The report has called on Governments to allocate 20 percent of their budgets to education and basic social services and exhorted donor governments to do the same with their official development assistance. “*It would cost an estimated six billion dollars a year, on top of what is already spent, to put every child in school by the year 2000.*” Though it may seem to be an enormous sum, it is less than one per cent of what the world spends every year on weapons, the report says.

About myths surrounding child labour, the report says it is wrong to believe that child labour is found only in the developing world. Citing evidence from the USA and the UK, it points that there are child workers in all countries-rich and poor.

It also challenges the myth that child labour will never be eliminated until poverty is taken care of. “*The end of hazardous child labour does not have to and must not wait for the end of poverty. World poverty cannot be eliminated by the end of the decade but hazardous child labor and the grave violation of the rights of children involved can be,*” the report says, adding that there must be a mobilization of public opinion against the evil.

Though every country in the world has ratified the convention on the rights of the child, which recognizes the child’s rights to be protected from economic exploitation the words must be backed with action.

“It is time morality prevailed and as we step into the next millennium, hazardous child labour must be consigned to history,” says report.

(The Indian Express, December 17, 1996)

15 M Children Forced To Toil in India

Jaidev Sharma

The Factories Act, 1948 and the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, clearly stipulate that no child below 14 would be required or allowed to work in any factory or various occupations and processes including transport of passengers, goods or mail by railway and building and construction industry. Yet throughout the last four decades such children in countless numbers have continued to work in factories and other prohibited areas of employment like carpet-weaving, matchbox industry, agriculture, hotels, restaurants and '*dhabas*', tanneries etc.

According to official data of the Union Labour Ministry, about 15 million children up to the age of 14 who should have been in school are found in various jobs prohibited by law throughout the country. Agriculture attracts the largest number of children—as many as 47,74,000 constituting 42.75 per cent of the total child labour.

While at the cottage industry level working children get some facilities for rest and recreation, case studies of the plight of child labour in some

big industries employing children on a rather large scale as in the matchbox industry in Sivakasi in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu, the glass industry in Faizabad the carpet industry in Mirzapur and Varanasi-Bhadoi belt (all in UP) and Palamu belt in Bihar, bear out the truth of this crime.

In the rural areas around Sivakasi town, the children are woken up soon after mid-night and made to wait for the factory bus which arrives daily to pick them up for work. Nearly a fifth of these children are estimated to be in the age group of five years or so. After reaching their worksite they are herded into a cramped and dingy room where they work in the frame-filling section of the matchbox industry. Depending on child's ability and age, they manage to earn from a rupee to Rs 5 a day.

The children are occasionally scolded and thrashed by the man supervising their work. Regardless of the time taken to finish the day's work, the child cannot leave the factory premises till the bus arrives to take the group back home. Though the nature of work is not so hard and hazardous but what is painful is they are cooped up in work places for long hours, usually away from their families. They are totally deprived of their childhood, getting no time or opportunity for

play and leisure activities or for emotional sustenance normally derived from family members. Moreover, due to the unhealthy environment of the factories, the mind as well as the body of the child is likely to suffer and his or her ability to lead a normal life after performing the labour for a long period during the tender years of childhood will be greatly impaired.

According to a survey by the Indian Social Institute at Lucknow, there are more than 1,50,000 children who have been forced into bondage with carpet manufacturers in UP and Bihar. The general impression that most child labour in the carpet industry comprises the loom-owners family members and children from the neighbourhood is believed by a recent survey of 10 Varanasi villages by the state government, which found that 53.4 per cent of the children came from outside the district.

The report of a fact-finding committee appointed recently by the Supreme Court to assess the incidence of bonded child labour in the carpet industry in the Mirzapur (UP) and Palamu (Bihar) belts states that a large number of child labourers are working in inhuman condition in these belts. The committee visited a number of villages in these belts for full one week with a bitter experience. Its members say to

locate children working as bonded labour is an uphill task as owners of the looms, when visitors arrive there, either whisk the children away or attack the visitors. The members visited these villages on the pretext of engaging weavers for a new company.

The members report that the children are paid meagre wages but are called upon to perform man-sized jobs for 14 to 20 hours a day. There is one lot which is usually brought from outside, especially Bihar, is practically paid no wages at all. Only an initial amount of Rs. 100 to Rs 300 is paid to their parents at the time of taking away children. The children engaged from the locality are also paid almost nothing. The contractor, the weaver and the keeper have devised ways of adjusting the wages against fines for absence and sometimes for the mistakes committed.

The report further reveals that no social welfare legislation is so widely and openly flouted as the laws against employment and exploitation of children in these belts. The rooms where the children work are dusty, dingy and without proper lighting. The children have to sit in the rooms for long hours in couched positions which retard their physical and mental growth. Often the children go to bed without food and catch many diseases. The "*puncha*" used for processing and

cutting are heavy. The “*puncha*” is usually 2 or 5 kg in weight and an average, a child lifts it 600 times a day. The heavy knife that is used for cutting is so sharp that often the children cut themselves. But they get no treatment.

Though the committee is alarmed at the conditions under which children work, it has in the report, said that children should not be released unless there is a reasonable guarantee that they will be rehabilitated. Because they will soon be reverted back to bondage by unscrupulous middlemen who even release the children and after taking the rehabilitation amount of Rs 250 paid by the government, send them back to bondage.

The element of bondage among children engaged in the carpet industry in Varanasi and Bhadoi, has been borne out recently by Mr V.L. Katagade, a UP Government official who found that 83 per cent of the child labourers of these belts had either themselves taken loans up to Rs 1000 from loom-owners or their parents had done so. The loan is to be recovered from their wages and till it is cleared, they are to get nothing. The maximum daily wages of a child is Rs 5 per day. The children are made to sleep in the same damp room in which they work; hauled up at 5 a.m. and made to

stog till nightfall. Like the carpet industry, the glass industry of Faizabad district in UP is also a hazardous industry with a large concentration of child labour. According to an estimate by experts of Girl Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, more than 50,000 children are employed in the Faizabad area. They work close to kilns where temperature ranges from 800 to 1800 degree Centigrade. Most of them are engaged in carrying molten glass from the furnaces. Exposure to extreme heat becomes almost unbearable during the summer months. In hurried movement in the plants the children have to avoid treading on broken glass scattered on the floor. If they slip and fall or bump against others carrying the molten glass, they are suffer burn injuries without hope for any treatment. It is often argued in official circles that economic condition in India are such that child labour is an unavoidable evil. And it is true that poverty forces parents to send their children to take up jobs which are detrimental to their health, education and well-being due to poor economic conditions and certain social factors. Is it not the moral responsibility of the government to protect these blighted children, to see

that they are treated humanely, if it cannot obviate the need for child labour at all?

At least a line should be drawn on what is permissible and what is not and certain norms should be laid down and strictly enforced. Simultaneously, enforcement of the ban on child labour in certain industries must be accompanied by schemes for alternative income generation for their families to prevent poverty driving them back to such work.

It is also suggested that suitable literacy schemes and vocational training for children can be organized particularly in areas where child labour is widespread. It should be taken as one of the onerous tasks and formidable challenges by the government and the voluntary agencies working at present in this direction, otherwise the prevalence of child labour will nullify almost every provision relating to children in the Constitution. A desire against child labour necessarily means fighting the prime causes of the evil as well.

(The Tribune, September 8, 1992)

We and Our Children

“The world stands at the cross-roads in child health”, says Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, director-General of the World Health Organisation. The U.N. Secretary-General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, observes: *“Children personify the world’s future. In ensuring their welfare we transcend all divisions of the present. We participate in the shaping of the human destiny”.* The first remark gives a caution notice amounting to a warning of an impending catastrophe; the second, a beautiful example of diplomatic politeness, underlines the obvious and expresses a will as if it were an accomplished fact! Well-meaning people transform ideas into ideals. But the ground reality is an unquiet alarm clock. It does not stop ringing the bell until a solution, however tentative, touches it purposefully. When heads of state and government representing 70 countries met in New York on September 29 and 30 to undertake a joint commitment and to make an urgent universal appeal to give every child a better future, they faced some grim facts. The children of the world are innocent, vulnerable and dependent. Their time should be one of joy and peace; of playing, learning and growing. Their future should be shaped

in harmony and cooperation. Their lives should mature as they broaden their perspectives and gain new experiences. But for many children, the reality of childhood is altogether different. They, with the help of UNICEF, now know the challenges they have to meet. For instance, each day countless children all over the world are exposed to dangers that hamper their growth and development. They suffer from the grave effects of the problems of external indebtedness and also from the lack of sustained and sustainable growth in many developing countries—particularly the least developed ones. Each day, 40,000 children die from malnutrition and disease, including Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), from the lack of clean water and inadequate sanitation—and from the effects of harmful drugs. They were told at the summit that, together, their countries had the means and the knowledge to diminish enormously the suffering of children to promote the full development of their human potential and to make them aware of their needs, rights and opportunities.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a new opportunity to make respect for children's rights and welfare universal. It contains a comprehensive set of international legal norms for the

protection and well-being of children. All governments have been urged to promote the earliest possible ratification of the convention. Many have not done so far. (Even our own country has not.) The goals are now clearly set. These are: (a) Reduction of the under-five child mortality rate in all countries to a level of 70 per 1000 live births or by one-third of the current level, whichever is greater; (b) Lessening of the maternal mortality rate by half of the 1990 levels; (c) Reduction of the severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half of the 1990 levels; (d) Universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal; (e) Free access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of the primary school-age children; (f) Bringing down of the adult illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level (The appropriate age group to be determined in each country); with emphasis on female literacy; and (g) Protection of children in "*specially difficult circumstances*", particularly in situations of armed conflict.

UNICEF has pointed out that scientists have found ways to deal with various problems of child health, yet millions of children die of diseases that could be prevented by timely vaccination. Low-birth-

weight children constitute a high proportion of the total number of the child births. In India, it is as high as one-third. Their chances of survival and developing their potential are remote. But the India of today is a unique entity. Living in a political flux and social instability, it seeks to submerge its problems and obligations in memories and platitudes. How good has been its record of performance with regard to child welfare? Between 1960 and 1989 the under-five mortality rate was halved from 282 per 1000 to 145. However, China, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Thailand in the same Asian continent in the same period brought the rate down to 50. About 38 lakh children do not live beyond five years in this country. A total of 25 million infants die every year amidst us. Roughly 50 per cent of our children come from families below the poverty line. They have been rightly described by an eminent Indian writer as “*the nation’s poor relations*” where the basic necessities of life like safe drinking water, protection against killer diseases and clean environment are called “*Facilities*”, it is futile to talk of the education of parents and children. During Rajiv rule two per cent of the central expenditure was allocated for health, three per cent for education and 19 per cent for military purposes. The V. P. Singh government wanted to enhance the

allocation on “*Defence*” substantially. The strength of the foundation of an edifice is its greatest defence: this is what we have learned from our great minds. If the child is considered to be the foundation of the nation, much greater attention must be paid to him as “*human resource material*” by the government and the public. Everyday should be child’s day. Every self-respecting Indian should respectfully do his bit by way of atonement for the sin of neglect committed against the helpless, little beings. This father of the man deserves nothing less.

(The Tribune, December 30, 1990)

* *A child’s brain is a fire to be innited, not a pot to be filled.*
—John Lock

* *I will not allow a child to weep if I could.*
—Gautam Buddha

Children Under Threat From Environmental Chemicals

Children are under threat from environmental chemicals such as pesticides in food, lead in soil and water contaminants which may account for over 30 per cent of diseases in children globally, according to a new report.

The first ever report in the issue, 'Principles for Evaluating Health Risks in Children Associated with Exposure to Chemicals' has been produced by the World Health Organization. It highlights children's susceptibility to harmful chemical exposures at different periods of their growth. The stage of development when children get exposure to chemicals might be just as important as the magnitude of the exposure, it said. The report was prepared by an advisory group, comprising 24 scientific experts, representing 18 countries.

Evidence indicated that children, who comprised over one third of the world's population were among the most vulnerable of the world's population and environmental factors could affect their health quite differently from adults, the report said. Air and

water contaminants, pesticides in food, lead in soil and many other environmental threats may cause or worsen disease and induce developmental problems in a growing child, according to the report.

Vulnerability of children is increased in degraded and poor environments—neglected and malnourished children suffer the most. One in five children in the poorest parts of the world will not live longer than their fifth birthday, mainly because of environment-related diseases. Lead is known to be more toxic to children whose diets are deficient in calories, iron and calcium. It said.

“Children are not just small adults. Children are especially vulnerable and respond differently from adults when exposed to environmental factors and this response may differ according to the different periods of development they are going through. For example, their lungs are not fully developed at birth or even at the age of eight and lung maturation may be altered by air pollutants that induce acute respiratory effects in childhood and may be origin of chronic respiratory disease later in life,” Dr. Terri Damstra, WHO's team leader for the Interregional Research Unit, said. Developmental exposures prenatally and at birth may

result in miscarriage, still birth, low birth weight and birth defects, it said and exposure to environmental chemicals in young children may result in infant mortality, asthma, neurobehavioural and immune impairment while during adolescence, precocious or delayed puberty may be the outcome. Increased risk of certain diseases in adults such as cancer and heart disease can result in part from exposures to certain environmental chemicals during childhood, it said.

(The Statesman, July 29, 1997)

* *Air, earth and water including the deep sea are already being polluted to a degree at which we are being poisoned.* —Arrold Toynbee.

Gray Hair On Young Heads Failing Eyes

Priya Yadav

Young children with tufts of gray hair, water that burns the insides as it goes down the throat, entire villages suffering from various cancers. That's what unfettered and unmonitored use of pesticides has done in a Punjab struggling with unsustainable agriculture.

Giana, for instance is a prime and rather poignant example of what has and can go wrong, crying as it is for urgent state intervention. One just has to see Manjit to understand the crisis. At first glance the 11 year old boy looks like an old man, his gray hair and failing eyesight adding to that disturbing vision. It's only when he comes nearer that his real age shows, startling strangers and visitors.

In his village, though people have got used to his freak look. After all, there are many children in Giana who have grown 'old' much before their time. "*Our children begin graying after three,*" said Banta Singh, 30 and again with lots of white. "*Youth has passed us by*".

Villagers in this ghost town are still a bit befuddled but experts blame the indiscriminate use

of pesticides that eventually seep into food and contaminate underground water as the root cause triggering this abnormality. *“Water across the state, either due to pollution or excessive use of pesticides, has become so harmful that we have launched a scientific investigation to study if it is leading to changes in the DNA.”* said JS Thakur, an assistant Professor at Chandigarh PGI’s community medicine department.

Rajesh Kumar, who heads the department added, “Indiscriminate use of pesticides, absolute ignorance about the damage caused by faulty pesticides storage, use and disposal of empty pesticide containers are major factors contributing to a cancer here. Very high levels of heavy metals were found in water and vegetables in that region.”

There isn’t yet an exact figure but doctors at the premier institute do agree that an alarmingly high number of cancer cases, queuing up at OPDs, come from the Talwandi Sabo-Mansa belt. An extensive research is on now in PGI to understand the problem and find out if any gene mutation is happening. This has also intrigued experts abroad. *“a team of doctors from England has already taken samples and pictures of at least seven of our students,”* said Ranbir Singh, a teacher in the only government high school in the

village. *“There is a huge problem somewhere.”*

There is when the school bell rings end of classes for the day, a horde of students with gray heads rush out. *“My hair started turning white when I was eight years old,”* said Ramandeep, patting her head as if for an answer. *“Now eighty per cent is white,”* the girl, just 12, added. *“The only person who really gets bothered is my mother who fears that getting a match outside the village would be a problem.”*

(The Times of India, August 27, 2007)

* If you have come just to give me some money, you can go back; but if you think the struggle of life that I am engaged in have something to do with you, then we can work together.

—An aborigine

* The progress that the world has made, was once considered impossible

—L. Bradige

* The earth has the capacity to meet the needs of all, but not their greed.

—Gandhi

Our Children's Future

Bernard Lown, M.D.

People's insatiable appetite for consumption is evident everywhere. In parts of the world, the scrounging is for the barest necessities. In more affluent regions, the quest is for conspicuous accumulation of little needed luxuries. Nowhere is the penchant for possessing more developed than in the capitalist West. It has become the cultural coin of the realm, a virtual new religion worshipping the deity of acquisitions. The very aim of life is to accumulate as symbol of achievement and as a measure of earthly worth. That you must sooner or later leave all of it behind heightens the tragedy of dying. Parting with earthly possessions may be more painful than separating from family and friends.

When inquiring of patients which leisure activity they most enjoy, I am taken aback that for many going shopping is the high point of the week's activities. This consuming passion has reached new heights. About half of the Americans surveyed by the American Express Company say they like shopping as much as or more than, watching television. Some 46 per cent rate shopping the same as or better than going to the movies; 17 per cent say it is at least as good as

romance.

To support this very carefully cultivated habit, shopping malls have been built all over the USA. They are rarely characterized by architectural elegance. Far more frequently they are monuments to gaudy bad taste. In order to lure customers, shopping malls provide cinemas, book stalls, boutiques, video games, coffee retreats, bars, restaurants and above all, eye-catching displays of goods from every corner of the world.

These modern day colosseums have fountains and sculptures to rival Rome's Piazza Navona. The shopping emporia are stocked with abundance. Kilometers of handsomely decorated store windows titillate all sorts of innate cravings, the aim of which is to persuade, cajole and shame one to buy. No one need to be disappointed. For the man and woman who seemingly have everything, there are tantalizing choices: for example, a mink belly-button cleaner, a cordless pat-grooming vacuum, a heat-sensing automatic electric blanket, an orthopaedic pet bed, etc. The odd, the quaint and the useless are all stocked.

We need to ask, what is being consumed? What are the consequences of stimulating unbridled appetites? What is the ultimate cost of such extra

vagance? These questions are especially relevant with the growing awareness that Mother Earth is not all bountiful, nor will she long tolerate mindless despoliation. In the 20th century we have depleted more of the earth's unreplenishable resources than in the preceding one million years when our anthropoid ancestors roamed this planet. We face a mounting global crisis, the delayed aftermath of the industrial revolution. Modern technology unleashes a capacity for unlimited productivity. It constitutes a veritable sorcerer's apprentice, converting finite resources into a Niagara out-pouring of consumable goods. While even gluttony for food confronts biologic limits, no such constraints impose restrictions on articles of consumption.

The distinguished demographer, Paul Ehrlich, asserted that the world could not survive 10 billion Indonesians. He went on to state that "*this is likely to happen*" by the year 2025 a mere 36 years away. Most astonishing about Ehrlich's projection was that the Indonesians will be residing in North America. In fact, he explained that the 300 million Americans will be consuming the equivalent of what 10 billion Indonesians will consume. This projection is not unreasonable. At present the United States, which

constitutes 6 per cent of the world's population, consumes 40 per cent of the global resources or about 35 fold that of Indonesia. Many countries are aiming at and succeeding in catching up with the American miracle. The implication of such "*progress*" for our fragile biosphere is predictable.

I gained first-hand experience of some of the consequences while hiking recently at an elevation of about 2000 meters in the Swiss Alps. The spring air was fresh and unpolluted. The pastoral quiet was interrupted only by the thinking of cow bells. But why did it seem like autumn? Suddenly I was aware that every other tree was denuded of foliage. This was not autumn to be followed by spring. This was a season without renewal. Death had come to the mountains.

The tree cover is the most visible indicator of the earth's physical health—life support systems most basic witness. Tropical forests are now shrinking by 11 million hectares per year. On sloping land, the loss of trees accelerates rainfall runoff and increases soil erosion. According to the World Watch Institute topsoil on croplands is being lost at the rate of 26 billion tons in excess of new soil formation. One result is that larger areas are being converted to inhospitable deserts, which increase in area by six million hectares

per year. These awesome statistics are only a small aspect of the incalculable cost of consumption.

There is still another dimension. What men eat turns to excrement what men consume turns to garbage. Many communities in the United States are at a loss what to do with their mounting waste, much of it unbiodegradable. Catastrophe rarely comes unannounced. There are warnings galore—the ozone holes in Antarctica, the disastrous floods in Bangladesh, the North American drought, the occurrence in this decade of four of the eight hottest summers on record in the United State, etc.

As world resources shrink, the powerful are not about to tighten their belts and relinquish their styles of life. One “*solution*” already long in evidence is to squelch the needs of the many in order to satiate the profligacy of the few obviously, this is but a perilous and temporary containment. Inequities in distribution of wealth engender tensions, instabilities and conflicts more than 140 wars since World War II.

In the pre-atomic age human inequities, though intolerable to conscience, were in the main survivable, in the nuclear age, global maldistributions of wealth court disaster. The on going worldwide information revolution exposes everyone to the promissory note of

unlimited consumption, thereby instilling impatience and igniting embers of social upheaval. Nuclear proliferation will necessarily become the order of the day. The possession of nuclear weapons enables the weak to inflict unacceptable damage on the strong. In fits of desperation the have-nots will soon challenge the very existence of the haves.

The ticking of numerous time bombs demands critical re-examination of the existing world order. For a new way of thinking to become the cultural norm, it must be accompanied by a new way of feeling—concern for strangers as though they were part of our immediate family, feeling of sympathy for the stunted child and the bereft adult must no longer be deemed expressions of virtue; these are the only prescription for our common survival. A profound link exists between preserving peace and protecting the environment. Both we owe to our children and generations yet unborn. More than a century ago Henry David Thoreau asked, “What is the use of a house if you haven’t got planet to put it on?” An African put it even more poignantly: “This world was not left to us by our parents but was lent to us by our children.”

(The Tribune, 25, Feburay, 1990)

Betraying Our Children

Bharat Dogra

WHEN futurologists talk about the shape of the world during the next fifty years or so, they frequently refer to the population, minerals, food production, pollution and other such factors. What gets much less attention is the strength and weakness of the people who will be inhabiting the earth then and the extent to which these qualities are being shaped right now.

Everyone likes to hear about the brave people who overcome manifold adversities to perform great tasks. Inspiring as these stories are, these are exceptions rather than the rule.

The mere common experience is that hardships and adversities, denials and deprivations, cruelties and injustices that children face will have a significant adverse impact on their ability to live satisfactory and socially useful lives in their adulthood.

If we neglect childhood, then quite apart from the distress that is immediately caused, the foundation of the future society is also weakened and harmed gravely.

With this perspective it is useful to ask in what way the society in the first fifty or so years of the next century will be influenced by the experiences of childhood during the last one or two decades.

It goes without saying that a childhood deprived of even the most basic needs (adequate food, shelter from weather extremes as well as some minimum norms of education and Medicare) will make it more difficult for any adult to realize his or her full potential, individually and socially.

To a large extent due to the deprivation suffered in earlier years, they will not be able to get their fair share of opportunities, in addition probably their bodies will be more susceptible to various illnesses and ailments.

While this was the situation in earlier periods also, a more special feature of the last two decades is that inequalities have grown greatly, so that their poverty and lack of opportunities is likely to leave the growing up children more bitter compared to previous generations.

There are likely to be hundreds of millions of child labourers in the world. While in percentage terms probably there is no reason to believe that their number is more than in earlier generations, it is quite likely that the exposure to hazardous working processes and materials is now more than before. This implies that the damage suffered by their health will be much greater by the time they reach adulthood.

It is widely recognized that the type of family

life and parental care that children get can have very significant impact on their adult lives.

The National Survey of Health and Development in UK assessed children from broken homes in their twenties and thirties and found the levels of under-achievement, poor education, delinquency, anger and bitterness, drinking and smoking and lack of self-confidence to be much higher among them.

It is well known that the percentage of broken families and divorces is on the rise in most countries. In industrial countries divorces are already nearly a third of the marriages contracted.

In fact, nearly 25 per cent of the children in these countries are born out of marriage and a large number of children have to live in families of confused relationship—with single-parents, step-parents or brother/sisters from earlier marriages of their parents.

Abuse of children—including sexual abuse—is on the rise in many countries. The WHO estimates that one in every 10 children is sexually abused. The scars of this can continue till much later in life. The history of more and more violent and troubled adult lives is being traced to childhood abuse suffered by them.

Some experts are now pointing out that even more than any physical abuse suffered by themselves, children suffer because of the exposure to violence

between their parents (in most cases the father beating the mother). It is well known that the prevalence of wife-battering is very high; according to some recent estimates, one-third to one-fourth of the families may be suffering from this.

In addition, a very large number of children have been caught up in civil strife and wars—many of them have been forced to join the battle lines. UNICEF estimated (in 1992) that in the last decade 12 million have lost their homes in violent conflicts. Actually this appears to be substantial underestimate if all violent conflicts are considered.

It is likely that more than ever before, children have been exposed to excessive violence and sex on media, especially T.V. More than in any previous generation, children have suffered from several ill effects of excessive T.V watching. More than in any other previous generation, their play and movements have been restricted by excessive traffic and other safety problems.

Even more sinister is the likely fact that during the last one or two decades, children have been exposed to more suspect food additives, pesticides and other chemicals compared to any previous generation. Many of these chemicals have long-term serious health risks including cancer. Several experts have

opined that cancer is likely to increase substantially due to exposures to harmful products being caused at present. Similarly pollution risks are expected to increase greatly by the next generation due to mistakes made in the last one or two decades or the decisions being taken now.

Children are also being forced to enter some form of schooling at too early an age—in some cases just two years. They are being overburdened by academic workloads by overambitious parents and schools in many places. Many of them are under terrible pressure to make excessive academic accomplishments at an early age. Actually all this can easily prove counter-productive for the education of children but such dangers are being ignored in the craze for careers and economic rewards.

So on the whole it appears that there has been a general failure in our inability to provide a satisfactory childhood—a childhood that could have been expected to create good citizens in the next generation. If there is adequate recognition of these then significant efforts can still be taken to heal the wounds our children have already suffered.

(The Hindustan Times, December 1, 1994)

Learning Revisited

JEREMY SEABROOK

A recent report from Unicef estimates the number of children working worldwide at 211 million. These figures are, of course, arbitrary and unreliable but they do suggest something of the scale of child labour, if not the experience of it. The horror and outrage with which politicians, social critics and general officialdom greet these alarming statistics are wholly predictable and surely feigned. Everyone knows that globalization increases inequality and the vast wealth of the world is distributed in such a way as to lead to more, not less, exclusion of the deprived and disregarded.

Now the discussion on child labour comes with some heavy baggage. And deservedly so. No one who has observed children breaking bricks, working with molten glass, labouring among the fumes of dyeing and tanning works, in sex parlours and on the garbage heaps of industrial society can feel anything but anger and pity. But to leap to the conclusion that all gainful occupation is the enemy of childhood is a sentimental over-reaction. Childhood as a work-free zone is one thing. What we put in its place is quite another.

It is true that it is not always economic necessity

which drives children to work. For some, it is an ancient cultural practice that children should learn the art of agriculture, the skills of artisanship and explores their capacity to create. The idea of childhood as a time of gilded functionless also represents violence against children.

Those who advocate the abolition of all child work usually do so in the name of education. These worthy defenders of sanctity of childhood see schools as heavens of peace and safety, where diligent and eager children are instructed in the ways of civilized living and provided with the skills required to assure them of a reasonable livelihood.

If only this were so, few people would quarrel with the noble cause of abolition of child labour. Unfortunately, education, as currently perceived and practiced, is itself one of the most injurious activities to which children could possibly be exposed. The school, rather than a temple of learning, is itself a production unit for the fabrication of human beings who will obediently confirm to the dictates of labour and consumer markets. Educational processing is little different from any other form of industrial activity, whereby value-added young people are transformed into a cash crop to be harvested by the wily entre-

preneurs of globalism. When children become the playthings of a global market, it becomes child's play for exploitative adults to rob of them of their spontaneous creativity and capacity for invention. Children learn that life is a cutthroat competition; that exams are the passport to success and that the worst fate that can befall a child is failure and hence, exclusion from the wonderland of perpetual consumption.

And that is the case only for the more efficient schools. In many government schools, teaching is desultory or non-existent. I recently spoke with a group of children in a Delhi park, 16 year-olds who were sniffing heroin. Why were they not in school? Their teachers had not turned up. This was no new thing. Two or three days a week, *parhai hota nahin*. They were free to avail themselves of the instruction provided by the streets, lessons which, one may be sure are even more damaging than anything that might be acquired in the workshops and factories in which so many of their—possibly—less fortunate brothers and sisters are employed.

If that were the limit of the dangers besetting children who pass through the shadowed valley of the educational system, it might still be possible to claim that education provides them with a safer environment

than work. But particularly at exam time, the pressure on children becomes intense. In February 2005, a Delhi psychiatrist caused controversy by claiming that six students had committed suicide in the preceding two months and that 300 had attempted suicide. Other practitioners denied they had ever come across any such cases but a few days later it was reported that a 17-year-old girl was found hanging from the ceiling of her home. She was said to have been suffering from depression in advance of forthcoming board examinations.

Nor does the intense psychological pressure on students mark the limit of the risks they run in attending the satanic mills of supposed education. A 16 year old girl was raped by a principal and vice-principal of government schools in February 2005. They promised they would help her get good marks in her exam. After raping her, they threatened to kill her if she told the police or her family. On the same day, a class VI student accused his class teacher of committing an act of sodomy upon him. When the child protested, the teacher threatened to fail him in the forthcoming examination. From my own, conversation with friends in India, it has become clear that many young people have their first experience of sex in schools,

usually with other students but not infrequently, with teachers.

In the light of all this, perhaps it is time to reflect a little more soberly upon an educational system which misadjusts children so that they will fit in with the fantastic “*realities*” of contemporary life. There is nothing ignoble in children acquiring a useful social purpose through labour. The instruction received by doing and making, by active involvement in producing something of value is not inferior to the rote-learning and futile aridities of cramming for examinations. These fail to measure a young person’s capacity to think critically and independently and his or her ability to take pride in some practical achievement other than memorizing a mass of data to be produced “*under exam conditions*” one fine afternoon and then to be forgotten every after.

A vital element in the raising of children is surely to provide them with a sense that they have some contribution to the work of society. Let them be taken out of the gilded quarantine of youth (as though this were a temporary exemption from the sickness of adult life) and learn to take delight in the exercise of their own powers and aptitudes. As long as children have sufficient time for play and the opportunity to

attain—not basic literacy and numeracy but an active love of words and numbers—any work they do can only enhance their future skills and their integration into society. There are few sights more pathetic than the so-called highly qualified but incompetent young men and women hawking their much-thumbed bio-data from company to company, desperately seeking a way into a corporate world which has no place for them. Millions of possessors of M.B.A, B.Com., holders of certificates, diplomas and awards, find themselves excluded from the promised lands to which, they have been given to understand, their years of study will entitle them. In this way, education, as currently organised, is also a false prospectus, calculated to provide some occupational therapy for young people and to keep them out of mischief. The bitterness and rage when so many discover they have been duped, also lead to alienation, crime, addiction worse.

An image from a recent visit to Bangladesh. I was passing through rich farmland close to a river in the north of the country. Two boys of about 14 were working in the fields, *lungi* folded up into the waistband, sturdy feet in water, as they went about their work of transplanting and weeding. Their clothes

and faces were splashed with mud. They sang as they worked and when I spoke to them, they turned a dazzling white smile upon me. Their family has sufficient land to provide a comfortable living. They will inherit in due course. They work every day and afterwards, drink tea, do *adda* with their friends. They sleep and eat well. What about your education? I asked. They gestured towards to the sky and the land, as to say this is our education. Their future is mapped out before them; security, useful toil, marriage and continuity of serene possession of ancestral land. What could any conceivable school add to their contentment, rooted securely, as, they are, in their native soil?

The Statesman, 13 March, 2005

PINGALWARA DIARY

(UPTO OCTOBER, 2016)

Services rendered by Pingalwara Institution for the service of the suffering humanity are:-

1. Homes for the Homeless

There are 1764 patients in different branches of Pingalwara now a days:—

(a) Head Office, Mata Mehtab Kaur Ward, Bhai Piara Singh Ward	374 Patients
(e) Manawala Complex	854 Patients
(b) Pandori Warraich Branch, Amritsar	82 Patients
(c) Jalandhar Branch	39 Patients
(d) Sangrur Branch	228 Patients
(f) Chandigarh (Palsora) Branch	94 Patients
(g) Goindwal Branch	93 Patients
	<hr/>
	Total 1764 Patients

2. Treatment facilities

(a) **Dispensary & Laboratory:-** Pingalwara has a dispensary and a laboratory for the treatment of patients. It has an annual expenditure of about Rs.90 lakhs. Medicines are also distributed free of cost to the poor and needy people.

(b) **Medical Care Staff:-** Experienced medical staff like Nurses, Pharmacists and Laboratory

Technicians are available for the care of the Pingalwara residents.

(c) **Blood-Donation Camps:-** A Blood Donation Camp is organized on Bhagat Ji's Death Anniversary every year. The blood is used for Pingalwara residents and road accident victims.

(d) **Ambulances:-** Ambulances with basic Medical aid are available for victims of road accidents on G.T. Road, round the clock and provide facilities for taking Pingalwara patients to the hospital.

(e) **Artificial Limb Centre:-** There is an Artificial Limb Centre at Manawala Complex, dedicated to the memory of Bhagat Ji which provides free of cost Artificial Limbs to Polio-ffected and amputee cases. 8137 needy people have benefitted till October 2016.

(f) **Physiotherapy Centre:-** A Physiotherapy Centre equipped with State-of-to-art equipment is functioning in the Manawala Complex since June 2005. On an average 80 patients are treated everyday.

(g) **Operation Theatres:-** There is a well equipped Operation Theatre in Bhai Piara Singh Ward Amritsar for general surgery and A Micro Surgery Operation Theatre in Manawala Complex where Cochlear Implants and major operations are carried out.

- (h) **Dental, Eye, Ear & Ultrasound Centres:-** These Centres have been set up to provide these services to Pingalwara residents, sewadars and their families.

3. Education

Pingalwara Society is running five Educational Institutions for the poor and needy children.

- (a) **Bhagat Puran Singh Adarsh School, Manawala Complex:-** This school provides free education to 728 students from the poor and deprived sections of the society. They are provided with free books and uniforms. Children being brought up by Pingalwara Society are also studying in this school.
- (b) **Bhagat Puran Singh Adarsh School, Buttar Kalan (Qadian):-** This school is dedicated to the sweet memory of Bhagatji. 452 students are getting free education under the able guidance of well qualified teachers. The school also provides financial help to students who have finished their school studies and are aspiring for higher studies.
- (c) **Bhagat Puran Singh School for Special Education, Manawala Complex:-** This school is providing Special Education to 217 Special children.
- (d) **Bhagat Puran Singh School for the Deaf:-** Bhagat Puran Singh School for Deaf Children is functional at the Manawala Complex since May 2005. The

school is equipped with state-of-the-art training aid and has 152 children on its rolls.

- (e) **Bhagat Puran Singh School for Special Education, Chandigarh (Palsora):-** his school caters to the needs of Special adults of the branch.
- (f) **Vocational Centre:-** This Centre is providing free training in embroidery, stitching, craft work, making washing powder, candle making, ainting, etc. Young girls from the villages of surroundings areas are the main beneficiaries.
- (g) **Computer Training:-** Computers are available in all the schools for academic and vocational training.
- (h) **Hostel facilities:-** There are separate hostels for boys and girls in Manawala Complex. Many girls are pursuing higher studies in different colleges.

4. Rehabilitation

- (a) **Marriages:-** After being educated, boys and girls at Pingalwara are married to suitable partners. 40 girls and 4 boys have been married off till date.

5. Environment Related Activities

- (a) **Tree Plantation:-** Bhagat Puran Singh Ji was deeply concerned about the degradation of the environment. A vigorous campaign of tree plantation is started every year on Bhagat Ji's Death Anniver-

sary. Each year 15,000 to 22,000 trees are planted in various schools, colleges, hospitals, cremation grounds and other public places. These include Amaltas, Kachnar, Behra, Champa, Arjun, Sukhchain, Chandni, Zetropa, Kari-patta were distributed to different institutions.

- (b) **Nursery:-** Pingalwara has its own Nursery where saplings of various plants and trees are prepared. Every year, the aim of nursery is to grow more than 54 different kinds of saplings every year.

6. Social Improvement Related Activities

- (a) **Awareness:-** Pingalwara has played an important role in spreading awareness about the evils in the society. This has been done by printing literature on religious, social and environmental issues at the uran Printing Press Amritsar and is being distributed free of cost. It has an annual expenditure of printing and publicity is about 1 crores 50 lakhs rupees.
- (b) **Puran Printing Press:-** The Printing Press has been updated with an Offset Press.
- (c) **Museum and Documentaries:-** A Museum, and a number of documentaries have been prepared on Pingalwara activities as well as on zero budget natural farming. The C.D.s are freely available from Pingalwara.

A feature film produced by Pingalwara Society Amritsar EH JANAM TUMHARE LEKHE (Punjabi) on Rev. Bhagat Puran Singh Ji, founder Pingalwara and his struggle not only for selfless services of wounded humanity but for Environment Crisis also, will prove a beacon for the generations yet to come after us.

7. Help to the victims of Natural Calamities: Pingalwara makes an effort to provide succour to the victims of natural calamities like floods, earthquakes and famines. Aid was sent for the earth-quake victims in Iran, Tsunami disaster victims, Leh landslide and flood affected areas.

8. Cremation of unclaimed dead-bodies: Pingalwara cremates unclaimed dead bodies with full honour.

9. Dairy Farm

120 cows and buffalos at Manawala Complex provide fresh milk to the Pingalwara residents.

10. Old Age Homes

Old age homes at Sangrur and Manawala Complex of Pingalwara caters to the needs of elderly people.

11. Projects Completed and Under Construction

Since 1997 ambitious projects of Sangrur, Palsora at Chandigarh and Manawala Complex have been completed. In the year 2009 new buildings— Administrative Block, Puran Printing Press, Deaf School, T.B. Ward at Manawala Complex and at Head Office and

a New Administrative Block have also been completed.

In the year 2013, a new modern Bhagat Puran Singh School for Special Education in Manawala Complex of Pingalwara and a new Block for Pingalwara patients in Pandori Warraich Branch is under construction and is fast coming up.

Other Details:

- a) All India Pingalwara Charitable Society is a Registered Society, registered by Registrar of Companies vide letter No. 130 of 1956-1957 as amended vide No. A-28/4540 dated 07-07-1998.
- b) All donations to Pingalwara are exempted under Section 80G of Income Tax-II Amritsar letter No. CIT-II/ASR/ ITO (Tech.) 2011-12/4730 dated 11/12 January, 2012.
- c) PAN Number of the All India Pingalwara Charitable Society is AAATA 2237R
- d) FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) 1976 Registration No. of Pingalwara is 115210002

Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa

Wahe Guru Ji Ki Fateh

Dr. Inderjit Kaur,

President,

All India Pingalwara Charitable Society (Regd.),

Tehsilpura, G.T. Road, Amritsar. (Punjab).

