



REGIONAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER – SOUTH ASIA
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AVOID FOOD WASTE TO FEED MILLION HUNGRY PEOPLE

United Nations Environment Programme and Food and Agricultural Organization unveiled a campaign dubbed “THINK-EAT-SAVE-REDUCE YOUR FOOD “to change practices that result in the loss of 1.3 billion tons of food each year. The programme is aimed at consumers, food retailers, hotel and restaurant industries that is based on 3 recommended actions Think-Eat-Save.

In a world of 7 billion people set to grow to 9 billion by 2050 wasting food makes no sense economically, environmentally and ethically. Director- General of FAO pointed out that in industrial nations about 300 billion tones of food are wasted each year because producers, retailers and consumers discard food that a still fit for consumption. This is more food than produced in Saharan Africa and enough to feed the estimated 830 million people who now grow hungry world wide.

The programme estimates that overall cost of wasted food is about dollars 1 trillion per year. To avoid the food waste, the recommended actions are planed meals, making shopping list for essential items, avoiding impulsive buying and note to fall prey to marketing tricks that lead you to buy more food than your need. Another method is buy vegetable & fruits that otherwise be thrown out after a day. Hotels and restaurants can limit menu choices and introduce flexible potion to avoid waste .

Source: UNEP and FAO

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL (MDG) FOR REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN INDIA

Indian Government has introduced a range of welfare schemes to achieve the MDG of 28 per per 1000 births by 2015. As on 2011 National Infant mortality stood at 44 with rural areas fairing worse. In India only 3 bigger states, Maharashtra , Kerala and Delhi have been able to achieve the MDG as far as IMR is concerned. India loses 4200 children under the age of five everyday. To encourage states to further bring down neonatal death, Government of India has recently approved to release incentives grant in aid for the reduction of IMR. During 2012-13 Rs. 1500 cores incentives will be given to the states that have made impressive reduction IMR between 2009 and 2011. This grant is payable to the states based on data available in the Sample Registration System Survey of 2009 and 2012. India accounts for nearly a fifth of the world's child death which is nearly 16 lakh every year. The reasons are many – Prevalence of child marriage, anemia among young women and lack of focus on adolescent sanitation are some of them. To achieve the MDG target, India in recent years have made appreciable achievement in bringing down deaths by 1000 live births, death within 28 days of birth (neonatal) but need more attention to achieve target by 2015.

Under five mortality rate in India has declined sharply. Last two decades it has fallen down drastically (48.7%) between 1990 and 2010 compared to the global average of 35%. In term of numbers this decline is 59 per 1000 live births. To sustain high rate of annual decline in child birth each state in India will have to identify a specific goal to meet the target for enhanced coverage of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene to prevent pneumonia and diarrhea. It is also required to bring health and child services under universal health coverage with a focus on special requirements of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Health care should include special new born care, skilled delivery, immunization and management of diarrhea.

Despite making huge achievements, India is unlikely to reach the international target to reducing infant mortality rate set by the UN in 2000.

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ILO REPORT ON CHILD DOMESTIC WORK

ILO has emphasized a need for universal coverage of at least a minimum level of security to help 2.15 million working children. Half that number is trapped in the worst form of child labour – work akin to slavery, debt, bondage, child prostitution and hazardous occupation. Most of them done are domestic workers

The world over around 15 million children work as paid or unpaid domestic workers of which at least 10.5 million are below legal age. Children work under conditions like hazardous or tantamount to slavery where physical, mental and sexual abuse is rampant. 71.3 % of children employed are between age of 5 and 17 in domestic work and are mostly girls. Only 10% of domestic workers are covered by general labour legislations, while a fourth are completely excluded from national labour legislations.

On World Day against Child Labour ILO released a report titled “Ending child labour in domestic work”.

In its recommendations in this report ILO calls for :-

1. Increased regulation through inspections, more labour laws that deal with legal working age, working conditions and punitive actions.
2. Inclusion of domestic workers in labour law to create decent work opportunities and professionalization of the growing domestic workers.
3. More for measures to improve education, teaching training and curriculum reform.
4. Stepping up research efforts particularly in public institutions to improve methodologies to capture and monitor the number of child domestic workers and their working conditions with a focus on those at the bottom rung.
5. Emphasize the need for work towards collecting data on child labour to help policy decision as this sector generally suffers from statistical invisibility.

Source: Report of ILO entitled “Ending Child Labour and Domestic Work”



PEACE INDEX IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

As per the Global Peace Index (GPI) measured peace in 162 countries, Bhutan is the first rank of most peaceful countries in South Asia followed by Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, India, Pakistan & Afghanistan.

This year finding, underline a six year trend showing deterioration of 5% in global peace which is mainly due to rise of homicides followed by Violent Crimes, Internal Conflict and War. The migration of population to urban area in developing countries is the key factor in the rise of homicide world over and increase in violent crimes. Another observation made in the report is that countries which suffers from recession, deterioration in peace is more than rest of the world.

Source: Annual report of GPI(Global Peace India) 2013.

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