

Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Association for Voluntary Action)

Registered as: Society | **Founded:** 1980

Head Office Location: New Delhi

Region of Impact: Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Karnataka

Annual Budget (2012-13): INR 372 Lakhs (\$620,000)

Adolescent Girls Budget (2012-13): INR 52 Lakhs (\$86,000)

Staff Strength: 91 full time, 5 part-time



Overview

Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) is a movement to prevent the exploitation of children in India. It is registered as a society called Association for Voluntary Action (AVA), and it extensively campaigns for protection of child rights, especially prevention of child labour and trafficking, and provision of education. BBA's interventions are defined by the 5 Ps approach: Prevention and Participation through the Child Friendly Village model, Protection of exploited children through rescue operations, Prosecution of traffickers, and Policy advocacy by strengthening the institutional framework.

Adolescent Girls Program

Child Friendly Village (CFV) is a preventive model that has been implemented since 2001, and advocates for the participation of all community members, particularly children, to uphold child rights. BBA staff establishes and works with local community groups such as children's governance bodies (*bal panchayats*), youth groups and women groups in villages to change regressive gender discriminatory practices and promote the rights of the children. Issues such as child labour and child marriage are addressed by ensuring 100 per cent enrolment of children in schools and creating awareness about their rights. Efforts are made to improve school infrastructure especially addressing problems that may exclude girls from attending schools such as lack of toilet facilities and long travel distances.

Model

- The CFV model is implemented in areas with high populations of exploited and at-risk children. The children are withdrawn from work, and out-of-school children are enrolled in schools, with special focus on enrolling girls.
- BBA then sets up a *Bal Panchayat*, an elected representative group of 10-15 children between 6 to 18 years, who liaise with the local governance body, the Gram Panchayat, to promote rights of the children in the village.
- The staff enables access to schools for the children in each CFV and organizes health camps for expectant mothers and young girls to build their knowledge about sexual health.
- For two years, BBA field staff works closely with the *Bal Panchayat* to build their capacity to advocate for their own rights. After this, BBA phases out its interventions and plays the role of a facilitator, encouraging actions to be taken up by the community. It identifies community leaders in each village and builds their capacity.



Milestones

- 2001: CFV model implemented. Hosts nationwide march for education as a fundamental right
- 2009: Starts a Legal Aid Cell in BBA
- 2013: Razia Sultan, a girl from a CFV, received the first UN Award for Education in honour of Malala

Impact to Date

- CFV model implemented in 356 villages impacting 400,000 people
- Has supported education of 8,917 children in 97 villages with a retention rate of 75 % (2010-13)
- 2 schools, 41 classrooms and 36 toilets constructed to help girls continue their education (2010-13)

Theory of Change

If children that are vulnerable to exploitation are identified, rescued, and rehabilitated, offenders of child rights are prosecuted, and children are provided a conducive environment for their growth by enrolling and retaining them in schools and providing them with a platform to exercise their rights, then a child friendly society shall be created where all children are free from exploitation and shall benefit from a better future.

Growth Plans

The CFV model is currently implemented in 97 villages. Over the next 3 years, BBA plans to scale it to 200 more villages. The CFV program will be implemented with specific focus on child marriage and adolescent health in the next 3-5 years. BBA aims to develop 2 model child marriage free districts in this regard by bringing about changes in knowledge and participation by the community. It will also increase its emphasis on impact assessment by incorporating more robust mechanisms for documentation and data analysis that complement its existing MIS.

BBA wishes to expand the role of its existing Legal Aid Cell on Child Rights to advocate for increased enforcement of the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006, and hence influence policy change.

To support the scale of the organization, BBA will need to hire skilled personnel to fill in some key positions such as CFV Program Manager, and will need to attract additional funding by expanding its donor base.

	2012-13 (a)	2013-14 (e)	2014-15 (e)	2015-16 (e)
Total Org Budget (INR Lakhs)	372	383	597	644
Total Adolescent Girls Budget	52	59	151	166
No. of Adolescent Girls	5,662	6,421	20,000	20,000

Leadership & Management

An engineer by education, Kailash Satyarthi founded BBA to fight child labour in India and has been a passionate children's rights activist ever since. Mr. R.S. Chaurasia, the General Secretary, has over 50 years of experience in social work, labour rights and child labour. The roles and responsibilities are clearly divided amongst the staff, and the skills of the passionate group of individuals at BBA are leveraged in their roles in the organization.

Partnerships

As a nation-wide network of more than 80,000 individuals and 754 organisations that promote child rights, BBA leverages its reach for assistance with rescue and rehabilitation of child victims of exploitation and supports campaigns for favourable national policy to free children from exploitation. In addition, Bal Ashram in Rajasthan is a partner in delivering CFV project in 2 villages.

Funders

BBA has a strong legacy of institutional and corporate funders that have supported the organization and the CFV program since many years. One of BBA's core funders Bread for the World has supported the organization for more than 17 years while Kids Rights has supported BBA for more than 8 years. However, the organization needs to expand its funder base, to fill in the existing funding gaps and to achieve scale.