

Headline: Child labour biggest hindrance to RTE act enforcement

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'Child labour biggest hindrance to RTE Act enforcement'

LUDHIANA: The management at Satya Bharti Schools, being run by Bharti Enterprises as a CSR activity to provide free education to poor children, feel that students often drop out with a plea that they have to work to earn a living. The teachers at times even go to the houses of these students to convince their parents.

It was observed that a number of children were working as child labourers in the fields or at other jobs in village Rauni. The teachers sensitised the students to create awareness among the parents, and also took out a rally in the village, carrying posters to encourage parents to send their wards to school. There was a significant increase in the number of students at the school after this, a press release by Satya Bharti Schools said.

The teachers had to personally visit houses of many students who had dropped from the school and had started working in brick kilns and fields in Sangrur, Amritsar and other areas.

The Right to Education Act entitles free and compulsory education to all children between the age-group of 6-14 years. But in India, many children, especially from the weaker sections of the society, do not go to schools, and more often than not, extreme poverty drives them to work for a living. Such incidents not only add up to the child workforce, it also deprives innocent kids of their childhood, closes all avenues for a better future and eventually builds a nation of uneducated youths.

Satya Bharti is running 90 schools in rural areas of Punjab to provide free education to students apart from skill development courses. **ENS**