

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018



# ABOUT MLPC

MLPC works towards economic, social and legal empowerment of mineworkers by promoting responsible and sustainable mining with a people-centric approach. The organization is a strong voice of advocacy for occupational health and safety from the grassroots of Rajasthan. It has a strong presence in Rajasthan's five districts and plans to expand its work in Madhya Pradesh. MLPC believes in empowering mine workers to claim their rights using different community organizations and development initiatives like Self-help groups (SHGs) and cooperative unions.

To empower the communities of mineworkers in Rajasthan to have a minimum standard quality of life, there are different programmes run by MLPC.

- Advocating ethical trading in the natural stone industry by collaborating with other organizations, government departments
- Increasing access to all federal and state government schemes and provisions by conducting OHS and Rights & Entitlements awareness campaigns
- Improving health and education for mine/stoneworkers children's' and adolescents by enrolling Crèche and Non-formal education children into the mainstream education system.
- Creating mechanisms of assuring labour rights, welfare and occupational health and safety by creating a gender-balanced local representation of mine worker welfare board and researching with mine workers through surveys.

- Improving access to occupational medicine for all mineworkers by roundtable consultation on the subject with doctors and government officials and providing policy recommendation to relevant authorities in a public forum.
- Filling the gap of literature and research about the hazards faced by mineworkers by conducting meta-data studies on projects funded by royalty and cess from the natural stone industry
- Helping to find an alternative livelihood for Pneumoconiosis affected mineworkers and their families.



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH



MLPC has been a pioneer in bringing the attention of policymakers and academicians towards the mineworkers' occupational health diseases. In this year, with the help of local health authorities, we have assisted mineworkers in detecting silicosis. It community awareness about Silicosis, mobilization of the community for testing, and training programmes for doctors and mine workers.

- MLPC designed 5 community (mineworkers) assistance centres (CAC) and Creche for the children in Jodhpur, Bundi, Bhilwara, Nagaur and Udaipur. Through the CAC centres, NFE, Creche, advertisement, wall paintings and campaigning, MLPC has been able to spread awareness on occupational diseases, its effects, government policies/schemes/compensation and relief programs, and welfare benefits for the victims and their families through the Community Assistance Centres, NFE, Creche, advertisement, wall paintings and campaigning, The project maintained medical database 7,086 mineworkers who attended the health checkups either at MMU, health camps or at pneumoconiosis board. A total of 1,759 Female mineworkers attended health camps and Pneumoconiosis board during the project period.

- By going for health check-ups collectively, the mineworkers can demand just and fair treatment for their application. Most of the mineworkers attend these camps on their own or in self-organised groups. Because the district coordinator from MLPC fixes a date to accompany the target beneficiary group these health check-ups, many choose to attend at their convenience. Furthermore, the project organises transport and other services based on schedule and plan and often can not accommodate surprise entries. The coordinators also follow up on these medical check-ups to understand the diagnosis and then assist those in need with relief and compensation documentation. This process is also extended to post-mortem diagnosis and claim.
- A total of 5,261 patient records have been collected through assisting these mine workers to health check-ups.
- A total of 1,311 mineworkers (1,058 Male and 252 Female) were facilitated through 42 medical camps for medical examination at special health care centres in 5 districts over a 9 month period.
- In addition to the health camps, 34 MLPC organised pneumoconiosis Board visit were over 514 mineworkers (471 Male and 58 Female) attended for medical examination.
- MLPC has also organized a training programme on occupation health disease and social security schemes for women mine workers.
- Doctors of government hospitals are not adequately trained in diagnosing and treating occupational health disease such as Silicosis. Taking this need into consideration, MLPC conducted a training workshop for doctors in association with AIIMS, Jodhpur titled Occupational Health and Safety in India. Total of 20 doctors participated in a training programme.

# ACCESS TO SOCIAL SECURITY

MLPC has indulged in the awareness of welfare schemes for the mineworkers and their widows. It helped hundreds of mine workers to avail their entitlements.

- MLPC has established the 5 community assistant centres to provide information and consultation services to mineworkers and assist them in submitting applications to the government welfare measures and schemes.
- 5 community (mineworkers) assistance centres (CAC) had been established and operational in all five districts. We also launched one-stop helpline number 9772 222 444 for mine workers to resolve their queries.
- 5,261 mineworkers (3,687 Male and 1,449 Female) participated in 101 CAC group meetings held in 5 districts over 9 months.
- CAC functions as the primary source of information to the mineworkers regarding health camp schedules, mobile medical unit schedules, compensation schemes, medical care, documentation, insurance claims, relief claims and various government welfare schemes.
- Through our awareness campaign, approximately 2,50,000 widows received information on their entitlements to government schemes. 28 separate announcements were made over 3 months on the radio “my FM” channel on OHS awareness and rights, with an average listen base of 800,000 to 850,000.
- 3,226 occupational health and safety awareness and rights announcements were made over a period of 6 months on “Red FM” radio channel. Red FM radio has a base of 500,000 to 600,000 listeners.



- As a result, 5,000 mineworkers have registered with the Rajasthan State Mine Labour Union for identity documentation as mineworker.
- Dr Bharat, an expert in occupational health care and government schemes and policies related to occupational diseases such as silicosis trained the women on those subjects. Similarly, Ms Mathur, an expert on women rights, documentation and gender sensitisation trained on her topics. Mr Tak taught the women on general government schemes and policies. Each day camp involves all three experts coming together for 6 to 8hr training.



# LABOUR RIGHTS AND WELFARE



Children, teenagers and adolescents of the mineworkers' families generally indulge in mining activities due to lack of skills/qualifications for alternative livelihoods or lack of employment. Further, the family's destitution requires the youth to be an earning member; investment in education is rarely seen as a productive exercise. There is also enough literature available on child labour in the mining sector. Most mineworker children accompany their mothers or parents into the mines, where they are exposed to high concentrations of crystalline silica and dust, and general mining hazards. Secondly, because these children do not receive conventional education during the formative years, they are later unable to attend any mainstream schools. Hence, MLPC started a crèche for children of age 3-11 years and Non-formal education for teenagers and adolescents.

Thus MLPC designed the intervention of crèche to operate as a daycare centre for children between the ages of 3 to 11. The creche facilitators ensure a well lit and well-ventilated room for 30 students with free nutritional lunch as motivation to attend. The mineworkers' children are taught a variety of subjects at fundamental levels.





The children also are read moral stories and are given playtime. MLPC has designed the curriculum based on the principle of the world child project of UN, keeping in mind the child's subjective well-being. Only four creches were operational in 4 districts until July. The 5th centre became operational until December 2017.

In NFE centres, facilitators teach a pre-approved (based on the National Adult Literacy Programme of GoI) curriculum varying intensity and speed to match students' abilities. When a student in NFE shows adequate progress and skills, they are then recommended to nearby conventional govt school for further education. The older students of NFE also are periodically sent to vocational training programs conducted by the government or by NGOs on behalf of the government of international donors.

# CRECHE

- The creche facilitators ensure a well lit and well ventilated room for 30 students with free nutritional lunch as motivation to attend. The mineworkers children are taught variety of subjects at basic levels. The children also are read moral stories and are given playtime. MLPC has designed the curriculum based on the principle of the world child project of UN, keeping in mind the subjective well-being of the child. Only four creches were operational in 4 districts until July, the 5th centre became operational until December 2017.
- On average 98 students attend the crèches in 5 districts, and are recipients of nutrition and education and health care provided by the project.
- A total of 885 attendances (414 Male and 461 Female) was recorded in 5 project districts. On average 98 children attended the crèche centres for the 9 months it's been in operation in 3 to 5 project districts.

# NON FORMAL EDUCATION

- A total of 562, on average 35 youths (11 Male and 24 Female) attended 2 NFE centres (Udaipur and Nagaur) which only ran for 8 months of the year, with Nagaur NFE centre operating only for 4 months.
- 282 School committee-meeting participants were recorded during the same period.
- 48 students (22 Male and 26 Female) were enrolled in mainstream schools after coaching and study assistance at (Udaipur and Bhilwara) NFE centres.
- 63 youths (22 Male and 41 Female) attended the life skill training program conducted in Udaipur and Nagaur districts.
- Along with the NFE students, 625 youths have received information and training on their rights and entitlements.



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