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Mala News

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An action programme for the elimination of child labour in India

Greetings!



Aarti cooks for the family

Most of the children in our schools have to work in their out-of-school hours. The boys do physical work mainly on the family carpet loom or in the fields and the girls have household chores. None are allowed to rest when they return from school. This headline

does not sound unusual for rural India, until you realise that Aarti is about seven years old and one of our pre-school girls. Below is a short (2min) link to a film of Aarti cooking a meal for her brothers.

[Aarti cooking a meal](#)

Since her mother died when she was four, Aarti and her sister have taken it in turns to cook rotis, pulse, rice and vegetables for the family of seven: four brothers, the eldest of which is 12, two sisters and father. Although all the meals are simple and repetitive, they are all freshly cooked hot meals.

The picture below shows Aarti with her father outside their house with some of her siblings and neighbours. Aarti's sister, Guddi, who shares the cooking, is in class four of our Turkahan Primary School.



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