

India

Child labour

Full name:

Republic of India

Population:

1.1 billion (UN, 2007)

Capital:

New Delhi

Most-populated city:

Mumbai (Bombay)

Area:

3.1 million sq km (1.2 million sq miles), excluding Indian-administered Kashmir

Major languages:

Hindi, English and at least 16 other official languages

Major religions:

Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism

Life expectancy:

63 years (men), 66 years (women) (UN)

Monetary unit:

1 Indian Rupee = 100 paise

Main exports:

Agricultural products, textile goods, gems and jewellery, software services and technology, engineering goods, chemicals, leather products

GNI per capita:

US \$720 (World Bank, 2006)

Sources:

www.soschildren.org
www.bbc.co.uk/news

India fact sheet

India is the second most populous country in the world. Acceleration in economic growth has made India among the world's ten fastest growing developing countries. Yet, the country's per capita income remains low and 26% of the population live below the income poverty line. About 47% of children under three years of age are malnourished.

There continues to be high incidence of child labour and out-of-school children, girls remaining particularly disadvantaged. Although the caste system has been officially abolished, religious and social barriers still influence everyday life.

SOS Children began working in India in 1963. Today there are 32 communities, seven of which are for Tibetan refugee children. As well as the communities where over 3,000 once-destitute children now have a permanent family home, over 50 SOS welfare, educational and medical facilities also provide assistance for people in the wider community.

