Urgent need to address children’s issues: Satyarthi

Education ‘very important’ to get rid of poverty

By Nazmin D’Souza

KUWAIT: Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, who has championed the cause of children for more than 35 years, said that the protection of children and education are the two top priorities of his organisation for the betterment of children around the world.

At the 8th Kuwait Conference on Child Rights Organised by the Ministry of Social Affairs, in partnership with the Kuwait Children’s Foundation, Satyarthi said that the protection of children is the only way to empower them.

"Children are the future of the world," he said, "and it is the responsibility of everyone to protect children, especially those who are in poverty." He added that the protection of children is not only about their physical safety, but also their education and healthcare.

In his address, Satyarthi also called for a global movement to end child labor, referring to the 87,000 children rescued from child labor in India and other countries.

He also emphasized the importance of education, saying that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and safeguarding the rights of children.

"Education is the most powerful weapon to combat poverty," he said, "and we need to ensure that every child has access to quality education." He added that the efforts of the Satyarthi Foundation are focused on providing education to children in need.

The conference was attended by several dignitaries, including Dr. Abdul Hadi Al-Shehabi, Director-General of the Ministry of Social Affairs, and Sheikha Fatima Bint Hamad Al Thani, Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Women.

Sheikha Fatima emphasized the importance of protecting children and ensuring their rights, saying that the Kuwait Children’s Foundation plays a crucial role in this regard.

"We need to ensure that every child has access to education and protection," she said, "and the Kuwait Children’s Foundation is doing a great job in this regard." She added that the government and all stakeholders need to work together to protect children and ensure their rights.

The conference was also attended by representatives from various organizations and institutions, including the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

UNICEF representative, Ms. Sarah Johnson, said that the organization is committed to protecting children and ensuring their rights.

"We are working with the Kuwait Children’s Foundation to protect children and ensure their rights," she said, "and we are committed to working with all stakeholders to achieve this goal." She added that the organization is working to provide education and protection to children in need.

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