

Child labour

Role-play activity cards

www.soschildrensvillages.ca

Chair of the meeting

Your role is to remain objective and make sure the meeting is carried out in an orderly manner. Start by asking everyone to introduce themselves. Then encourage a discussion to reach a conclusion together, where everyone is happy. Make sure everyone gets the chance to speak for the same amount of time, and delegate the word to make sure nobody interrupts anyone.

Rose, 11 years old

You have seen your mother Pinky struggle since the death of your father. You think you don't learn much at school anyway, since the classes are very big and you find it hard to concentrate, and would like to get a job instead to help support the family. The factory boss has now offered you a job, and you are trying to convince your mother to let you take it.

Pinky

You lost your husband in 2001, and are now left to provide for your three children on your own. Your parents have helped to support you for a few months, but they have now run out of savings. You have taken up a job as a domestic help to help sustain your family, but with you being away all day, there is nobody to make sure your children go to school, and your children have already started skipping classes. Your two daughters, aged 11 and 13, say they would like to help you make money by taking up jobs in a nearby textile factory.

Arina, 13 years old

You don't really want to start working, but are afraid that if you don't you and your sister might be taken in to care as your mother can't provide for you. You quite like going to school, and would like to be a vet one day.

The factory boss

You knew Pinky's husband, and now want to do your best to help the family. You have therefore offered jobs to Pinky's two daughters. You can unfortunately only pay a few pence a day, but at least it's better than nothing. You have seen that the children don't go to school anyway, and they seem quite keen to work for you. You also really need new employees for your factory!

The SOS worker

You work at the nearby children's village in Bawana. At the children's village, you have a Family Strengthening Programme to help single women in need. You would like to enroll Pinky on this programme. You can offer Pinky a small loan, so that she can buy a stitching machine. This would enable her to do stitching work from her home so that she can supervise her children and make sure they go to school. It will also make her more money than working as a home help. You can also perhaps arrange places for the children at the SOS school in the children's village.