

time for the purpose of verification, evaluation and documentation. The documentation of the inspection findings must be elaborate enough to facilitate every eligible carpet to be traced back to the actual loom unit in which it has been produced. Upon applying for a license to use the Rugmark every licensee (i.e. his manufacturing units) is to be inspected and assessed thoroughly regarding compliance with the Rugmark certification criteria. After granting of the license, inspections will be undertaken on random basis.

Should any inspection disclose information not in conformity with the certification criteria, the license shall either correct such deviations within 30 days or shall be required to cease using the Certification Trade Mark forthwith. A licensee may use the Certification Trade Mark only if Rugmark Foundation finds him to be in total compliance with the requirements of the certification scheme and only by means of a combined label bearing a representation of the Certification Trade Mark with an individual serial number for every carpet produced in compliance with the certification criteria. Together with the serial number, every carpet is to be assigned an internal Rugmark code number for registration in the Rugmark data base.

One of the directors of the Rugmark Foundation, Shamshad Khan is also not happy with the inspection system of Rugmark. " The inspection system is no guarantee of checking child labour in the carpet industry. We can check the abuse of child labour in the looms, but what about those children who are engaged in off- loom activities like cleaning, clipping and embossing of the carpets?" asks Mr. Shamshad Khan.

" Atleast 30 percent of the exporters purchase their product from the open market, so they themselves do not know where actually these carpets are woven," - says a carpet exporter. The Regional co-ordinator is not that much sure, " Where the demand is more and the looms are working overtime, then possibly some children might be working in the looms." When asked about the discrepancy, Mr. Mathew says, " Where there is a high demand people work overtime and sometime the work is carried out in the night. How can the Rugmark Foundation then ascertain whether child labourers were used in the loom.

Role of importers and Exporters :

Importers of Rugmark carpets agree to contribute on percent of the FOB price of the carpet. The amount is transferred to UNICEF to be exclusively used for funding Rugmark Primary schools opened in August 1996 in village Jagpur, Bairibisa and Bhadhohi district for 30 children of carpet weavers and Rugmark Balashraya launched in October 1996 at Gopiganj, Bhadohi, as the rehabilitation