



Dated: 01/05/2025

On the Occasion of International Labour Day May 1st

Dear Principals, Teachers, Students,
and Esteemed Administrators,

Today, on the 1st of May, the world pauses to honour a group of individuals whose relentless efforts form the backbone of our societies – the labour force. International Labour Day is not just a commemoration of their historical struggles for rights, dignity, and fair working conditions; it is also a call to action for all of us – especially those privileged with the gift of education – to respect, support, and uplift them.

A Brief Reflection on History:

Labour Day traces its origins to the 19th century labour movement, particularly the Haymarket Affair in Chicago in 1886, where workers courageously demanded reasonable working hours and humane treatment. Since then, the day has symbolized the resilience, sacrifices, and tireless contributions of workers across all sectors, reminding us that every comfort we enjoy today rests on the shoulders of countless hardworking individuals.

A Reality We Must Acknowledge:

Even today, it is heartbreaking to witness young children – the age of our students – working in hotels, garages, workshops, and fields, shouldering the responsibility of being breadwinners for their families. These children, born into hardship, are deprived of the basic joys of learning and childhood. The labour class continues to survive against adversity, often invisible to our privileged eyes, yet vital to our daily lives.

Our Shared Responsibility:

As members of the educational community – as students, educators, and administrators – it is imperative that we recognize, appreciate, and act for the welfare of this vital segment of society. Let us instill in our young learners a deep sense of gratitude, respect, and responsibility towards the labour class.

What We Must Do:

Educate with Empathy: Schools should integrate lessons of empathy, social justice, and human dignity in their curriculum.

Community Outreach: Schools can initiate programs to support the children of labourers, offering scholarships, mentorship, and literacy drives.

Respect in Action: Encourage students to treat every worker – be it a janitor, a driver, a cleaner, or a helper – with respect, kindness, and appreciation.

Celebrate Labour: Organize activities, exhibitions, and special assemblies to honour and recognize the contributions of workers in and around the school community.

Advocate and Empower: Support policies and initiatives that aim to eradicate child labour, provide education to all children, and ensure safe, dignified working conditions for every labourer.

Let us remember that the true measure of our education is not in the marks we achieve but in the compassion we show. Our aim must be to nurture not only intelligent minds but also kind hearts — hearts that stand for justice, equality, and humanity.

On this Labour Day, let us pledge to be more aware, more respectful, and more committed to building a world where no child is forced to choose labour over learning, and where every worker is honoured, valued, and empowered.

Together, we can sow the seeds of a more equitable future — one school, one classroom, one student at a time.

In solidarity and hope,



(RAFIA JAVED)

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