



HUMARA BACHPAN

**Children's Consultation on Government of India's Urban Development
Policies and Programs**

Date: 16 August, 2015

Venue: Humara Bachpan Office, Bhubaneswar

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 3. Brief Proceedings of the consultation
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- Details of Participants

Background:

The central government recently launched its new urban development policies which include the Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) – Housing for all with two cities from Odisha included in the Smart Cities Initiative. Apart from that AMRUT and PMAY schemes will also be implemented in the state. The objectives of these schemes are to develop the cities and provide a decent life to the citizens. Children, though being rightful citizens of India, are often neglected or their specific needs are never taken into account while drafting policies.

In a bid to encourage children participation and develop recommendations from children's perspective, Humara Bachpan Campaign (HBC) organized a children's consultation on the new urban development policies on 16 August, 2015 at Humara Bachpan office in Bhubaneswar.

A total of 20 children from 18 different slums of the city participated in the consultation. This consultation aimed at, children themselves reviewing the new policies and developing recommendations on including child friendly components in the policies.

Objective:

The major objective of the consultation was to provide basic information to the children on the three different policies and for them to identify the gaps and provide recommendations on the policy guidelines.

Brief Proceeding of the sessions:**Welcome and Introduction:**

The day began with Child leaders K. Swati and Biswajeet Rana welcoming all the child members to the meeting followed by a brief round of introduction and setting of ground rules. The introductions were followed by a presentation on the Urban Policies.

Presentation on Urban Polices

The Knowledge Manager, Ms. Anwikshika Das gave a presentation on Smart City, AMRUT and PMAY where she shared in brief the objectives of the policies. She shared that the purpose of these policies was to redevelop and recreate cities and towns by providing basic services and building amenities in the cities to improve the quality of life of the citizens. After the presentation, she asked the children to discuss and identify the gaps in the policies.



Group Activity and Presentation

The children were divided into three groups and were asked to discuss among themselves on the different policies and provide their recommendations on the same. After the discussions the children identified the gaps in the policies and came up with a series of recommendations which they presented before the group.



“Though there is a meion of parks and recreation centers being developed for children in AMRUT, yet there is no mention of how far these parks would be child-friendly. The parks developed for us should cater to the needs of children belonging to all age groups”, stated 16 years old Rupak from Science park basti.

“It is surprising that there is only a mention of children in AMRUT whereas no other policies emphasized on children”, remarked 14 years old Sradhanjali from OUAT farm gate basti.



“If houses are built then the government should ensure that individual houses are provided with proper ventilation and other facilities. There is a mention of slum dwellers being consulted while designing slum rehabilitation component under PMAY, we want consultations with us as well because often it is the slum leaders or the elders who are included in the process”, asserted 14 years old Jasmin from Science park basti.

Children also stated that toilets should be child friendly, public transport should be made easily accessible to them and are designed taking children into consultation.

Some of the other recommendation by the children has been given in the figure below:

RECCOMENDATIONS

1. **Housing:**

1. There should be space for cross ventilation in the houses.
2. There should be provision for a separate room for the children in the houses.
3. The rooms should be spacious.

4. **Water:**

1. Since there is a mention of regular 24 hours water supply in the policies, the quality of water should be checked by the authorities on a regular basis. The water pipes installed should be of good quality and regular monitoring should be done for maintenance of the pipes.
1. Separate water connection and taps should be provided for bathing and drinking in each household. The taps should be built at a low height so that children can access it.

2. Sanitation:

1. Toilets should be made child friendly by equipping those with smaller pans and having water connections at a lower height.

2. Drainage:

3. The drains should be covered and run underground in public areas.

4. Transport:

5. The policies should also include child friendly components in transport. Buses with low height steps and special provision of seats for children should be made.
6. Cycling and walking pathways should be made in the cities.
7. Special signs to be marked in the school areas and for differently-able children.
8. Route maps of buses with timing should be there at bus stops.

9. Public Spaces/Parks:

1. The park should have separate space for young children with playing facilities.
2. No thorny bushes to be planted in the park.
3. Provision of child friendly toilet and rest room with first-aid kit should be there in the premises of the park.

4. Power:

1. The wiring should be done underground so no accidents happen especially to children.
2. Electricity supply should be provided for 24 hours and during examinations period power cut should be stopped.
3. Solar power system should be there to save electricity.
4. Street light should be there in the slums and cities

Conclusion:

The child leaders will further discuss in their respective groups and brainstorm on the guidelines and come up with more recommendations. The recommendations will be shared by the child leaders on the upcoming State Level Civil Society Consultation to be conducted in Bhubaneswar on 23 August, 2015.

Details of Participants:

Sl No	Name of the Child Leader/ Staff	Name of the Basti
1.	Rupak Kumar Gouda	Science Park basti
2.	Trilochan Dhal	Science Park basti
3.	Jasmin Nissa	Science Park basti
4.	Jasmin Priyadarshini	Mahisakhala basti
5.	Puja Barik	Ganganagar Basti

6.	Biswajeet Rana	OUAT farmgate basti
7.	Bhagyalaxmi Panda	Damana Hata basti
8.	Sradhanjali Panda	OUAT farmgate basti
9.	Prabhasini Baral	Ganganagar basti
10.	K.Swati	Kalpana Telugu basti
11.	K.Vikash	Kalpana Telugu basti
12.	Mamata Nayak	Rickshaw colony
13.	Sobha	Damana hata basti
14.	Jyoti	Mahiasakhala basti
15.	Badal Sahu	BDA Nilamadhab basti
16.	Sritam Kumar Jena	Ganganagar basti
17.	Usharani Patra	Sikharchandi basti
18.	Shankar Gangorai	Mandap basti
19.	Pinky Purty	Adivasi gaon, Saliasahi
20.	Minaketan Sahu	Nilamadhab basti, HBCA
21.	Meghan Sahu	Saliasahi, HBCA
22.	Smritirekha Nanda	HBCA
23.	Tikina Parida	HBCA
24.	Jyotirmayee Das	HBCA
25.	Reenarani Behera	City Coordinator
26.	Nayana Muduli	City coordinator
27.	Sulagna Sivprava	Volunteer Mobilizer
28.	Anwikshika Das	Knowledge Manager
29.	Damayanti Rout	Regional Coordinator (East)
30.	Sradha Sahoo	Knowledge and Resource Coordinator
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