



STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION: RAJASTHAN

Cities in Focus: Jaipur and Udaipur

Date: 27th February 2015

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Background:

Urban Poverty and increasing slums is one of the most serious matters of concern in Urban Development at present. Rapid urbanization and large scale migrations from rural areas have led to an increased growth of slum settlements in all cities in India. The state of Rajasthan, which is largely a desert, has grown considerably in terms of its infrastructure. With the state marching towards development, there has been a considerable growth in the urban population. According to Census 2011, 24.89 percent of the total population of Rajasthan is urban with 22.4 percent of the population residing in slum areas. The slum dwellers have been residing in adverse inhuman conditions with lack of proper housing facilities and basic amenities, denying them a life of dignity, security and a healthy environment and rendering them poor and vulnerable. The worst sufferers have always been children.

Humara Bachpan Campaign (HBC), with its goal of improving the living conditions of children living in urban poverty, has been working extensively towards expanding its reach all over India. HBC has been organizing a series of consultation workshop in different states of the country to introduce the campaign. Keeping in view the slum situation in Rajasthan and in order to introduce the campaign in the state, HBC organized a State Level Consultation in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 27th February 2015. HBC in order to have a strategic focus decided upon the cities of Udaipur and Jaipur in Rajasthan. The consultation was held at the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur.

The consultation was attended by 70 organizations from Udaipur and Jaipur as well as RAY state officials and members from CWC. A total of 87 participants attended the consultation.

Objective:

The major objective of this consultation was to introduce the campaign and gain a deeper insight on the slum situation in the state as well as to develop a better understanding on the negative impacts on children residing in those areas.

Methodology:

Prior to the consultation a comprehensive ground work was conducted with an attempt to understand the actual scenario of the slums in Jaipur and Udaipur. Meetings were held with Ray officials of both the cities for more understanding on the slum situations. A total of 254 slums including 20 under RAY in Udaipur and 234 in Jaipur were selected in the process. The RAY cell in Udaipur is in the process of preparing a Detail Project Report (DPR) and Jaipur is working on 3 pilot projects which would lead to relocation of the slums in the project areas in the near future. Therefore, many organizations were approached and concept notes were shared with them explaining how living conditions affect the development of children and the need for a comprehensive planning before actual resettlement takes place.

Workshop Proceedings

Session 1: Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Kiran Sonawane, Western Region Coordinator – HBC, welcomed all the participants and began by giving a brief introduction of Humara Bachpan Campaign. He emphasized on the need for developing a synergy between NGO's and Government to bring about long term and sustainable changes. He discussed the importance of choosing scheme related to housing rehabilitation and significance of children participation in urban planning.



After introduction, the documentary on “City Step's Child” was played to reflect upon the slum situation in India and learn about the aspirations of slum children, the challenges they face and their dreams in the face of adversity.

Session 2: Presentations

Mr. Utsav Choudhury, Northern Region Coordinator - HBC gave a presentation on the poor living conditions of children living in urban poverty. The presentation also furnished facts and figures on issues such as sanitations and housing. He focused on increasing the visibility of the needs and aspiration of children. He discussed in detail the goal, genesis, and reach of HBC. Speaking about the initiation of the campaign, he discussed about how it started in Bhubaneswar, the strategies used, its functioning at the grassroots level, campaign structure and the major stakeholders. He shared the eight major components of HBC which includes housing, water, sanitation, transport, energy, soil, air and open space.



He shared the future plan of HBC and its impact in various cities with children participation. He discussed on how the campaign emphasizes on Child Led Planning and believes in the participation of children in any planning process of any development activity.



Mr. Md Tahrim, State Coordinator - MoUPA provided a brief introduction about housing in Rajasthan. He discussed in detail the various Government policies and the vision to develop society with their partnership. He mentioned that under RAY 3 new projects have been initiated in Jaipur with excellent community support and stressed on the importance of community participation.



One of the participants, a child activist, said that child trafficking is a very serious concern in states of Rajasthan and Bihar. Slums serve as a secret den where the trafficked children are hidden and later traded off. He feels that clearing the slums and providing appropriate rehabilitation can curb child trafficking. Pappu Misari, a community leader shared that slum children are subject to many social evils like violence, verbal abuse and alcoholism in their homes. The male members in the families are unable to earn a livelihood daily which leads to frustration and them engaging in such evil practices. This has an adverse impact on the children which reflects in their behavior and attitudes. He stated that, "If the government will provide



houses and source of income to the families, then the living conditions of those families will definitely improve and the children will be provided with a healthy environment to grow up in”.



Key Discussions and Suggestions

Mr. Ashish Khandelwal, NGO Tabaar strongly felt that the eight components are vastly essential for the development of children. He also felt that including psycho social counseling to both children and parents will enable them understand what good living conditions meant which would help create the need for them to ask for a better living condition.

Ms. Varsha Joshi, IDS Jaipur shared how parks in London are very children friendly and how they actually serve the purpose they are meant for rather than beautifying the city. She shared how the sign boards in London parks are very innovative displaying messages like "adults have to be accompanied by children".

Dr. Neelima Agarwal, Magic Bus shared that parks in India are less child friendly with no facilities for children to play. She stressed that any development plan should include the concept of playground in order to provide a healthy life and for the development of any child.

Mr. Tyagi, GIZ sharing his concern stated that though RAY is an effective scheme for the urban poor with its focus on community participation and livelihood centers yet its implementation is very poor which requires special attention.

Dr. Satya Prakash Mehra, Rajputana Society of Natural History said that the Department of Science, Technology and Environments have a green club and suggested that Humara Bachpan should connect with this club.

Concluding Remarks:

The consultation was very successful with a larger number of participation from government and non-government agencies. The participants felt that Child Led Planning is a very novel concept and stated that support from the Government is an essential requirement. Some participants opined that if all non – governmental agencies came together to support the cause then the outcome of the campaign will be remarkable. Carrying this consultation forward Humara Bachpan will form "Humara Bachpan Clubs" in these cities' slums. The team of Humara Bachpan thanked everyone for their participation and valuable suggestions.

Annexure 1: Agenda

Annexure 2: Participants List

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