



REPORT ON THE STATE LEVEL CONSULTATION AT PATNA

SUBJECT: One Day State level consultation on Introducing Humara Bachpan Campaign at Patna

Date: 22/11/2013, Venue: Hotel Royal King, Boring Road

Introduction:

Networking is the key strategy of Humara Bachpan Campaign (HBC). On 22nd November 2013, Humara Bachpan organized its first eastern Region Consultation at Bihar where civil society organizations came together to discuss about the living conditions of young children growing up in urban poverty in Bihar. The main objective of the one day consultation was to introduce Humara Bachpan campaign and share about its focused areas of work to organizations in Bihar. More than 25 organizations from cities like Patna, Bhagalpur, Gaya and Muzaffarpur participated in the consultation.

The discussion centred on how two major urban development policies of the government of India i.e., Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) and Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) can be children friendly as well as how the civil society organizations associate themselves with Humara Bachpan Campaign.

Session Minutes :

Preeti Prada, National Campaign Coordinator of Humara Bachpan introduced the campaign and its objective to the participants. This was followed a round of self-introduction. After which City's Step Child the campaign's film was showcased at the consultation. The film was not only appreciated but also forefront several issues that children growing up in urban poverty face.

Facilitated by Mr. Ghanshyam and Mr. Ananta Prasad in an open discussion where the civil society members discussed about issues that they witnessed in their own communities with regard to living conditions of young children. The house felt that unemployment forced displacement are the major causes of growth of slums in urban areas. The slums give a dismal picture of segregation, isolation and discrimination.

Some of the major points that came out from the discussion based on the film were:

- The dreams and aspirations of children are never given due importance by the government and the family of the child as well.



- The absence of basic amenities in the slums is a major hindrance to the dreams and aspirations of children living in slums. The various schemes and policies of urban development of the government ignore the child friendly infrastructures.
- The acute problems faced by the children go unnoticed by the policy makers and civil society while drafting policies and schemes.
- Analysis of the deep rooted causes of the living conditions of children in slums is necessary to address dismal situation of children.
- Involvement of CBOs and NGOs in mobilizing the community and raising awareness is important.

The discussion was followed by presentations by

- **Mr. Dharendra Chauhan, Vikalp Foundation:**
Vikalp Foundation works on the issues of children in slums of Bihar and does advocacy work with the policy makers for children.
- **Rajesh Kumar, Baal Sakha :**
Baal Sakha works on ensuring child friendly environment to children and work on health, rehabilitation, educational and nutrition of children. Besides the also facilitate social awareness on child trafficking, child labour, drug dead diction and other such issues pertaining to children.
- **Mr. Kapileswar from Prayas Grameen Vikash Samittee :** Prayas Grameen Vikash Samittee works on children issues in rural Bihar focussing on marginalisation and inequality.

Soon after the presentations Preeti and Ananta shared the Policy Briefs initiated by Humara Bachpan campaign which is a policy watch on young children living in Urban Poverty focusing on the eight major component of i.e. Water, Sanitation, Air, Power, Soil, Transport, Housing and Public Space.

The post lunch session started with the presentation on Humara Bachpan campaign and its focus, strategies, activities, outcomes and achievements, ongoing research and studies, future plans and the specific focus on the sponsored central government schemes of JNNURM and RAY.

The following campaign approach was explained to the participants to make them understand the campaign in a better way:

- Identification of children forums, network with organisations working for children or working on issues for children growing up in an urban space as well as, like minded individuals who are in favour of a safe and healthy environment for children in slums.
- Building or strengthening networks at the city, regional, national and international levels to push the issue and create the demand at public forum.
- Documenting and sharing knowledge within the network, learn from both successes and failures.



- Supporting collaboration among demonstration project teams, children forums, community-based organizations, government officials and others who have the power to enable change in the life of urban children living in slums.
- Encouraging, mentoring and positive relationship building among different stakeholders under networking strategy.

The HBC team members shared with the Civil Society Organisations about the membership drive to advocate together as networking partners to make cities of Bihar more children friendly.

Mr. Vinod Ranjan from SAMVAD was chosen as the representative from Bihar Civil society Organisations to coordinate with the Humara Bachpan campaign. A committee will be formed to carry forward the mission of networking and collaborating with the campaign. Several queries about the sustainability of the campaign and the role of the campaign as support system to the CBOs were also addressed by the campaign team members. All the participants agreed to make HBC a platform for raising the voice of the children living in slums. The following suggestions were made by the CSOs:

- HBC will provide technical support to the CSOs in carrying forward the goal of child friendly urban cities
- HBC should act as a value based campaign giving significance to freedom, equality and democracy
- CSOs should emphasize and work on amending the 74 Constitutional amendments to make it more child friendly and advocate for policy changes.
- CSOs should advocate on the provision of resettlement of the slum dwellers staying in unauthorised areas under JnNURM and RAY.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Mr. Vinod Ranjan on behalf of the civil society organisations thanked the campaign for its initiatives. The HBC team also promised to extend support and cooperation in terms of Capacity building trainings, Communication materials and other technical help. The programme ended with vote of thanks given by Sradha Sahoo, Eastern region coordinator, HBC.