



HUMARA BACHPAN

Children Manifesto

7.8 million Children between the ages of 0 - 6 years grow up in urban poverty in India. These children are deprived of basic necessities of life such as safe drinking water, proper sanitation facilities, adequate living area, and playgrounds for recreation facility and proper and well ventilated early childhood centres. All these factors deter their growth and development.

We the child leaders of Humara Bachpan, are representing the voices of all children of Surat and **demand** that your political party should extend support and make provision for making all cities in Gujarat '**Child-friendly Cities**' by including the following sector specific recommendations in your political agenda (Party Manifesto) in the forthcoming elections.

What can make our cities in Gujarat "Child friendly"?

Child friendly housing and residential facilities:

- 17% of the population of India lives in dwelling that is unfit for human habitation. A crowded living environment and insecure housing can harm a child's well being. "Creation of safe, all weather housing with security of tenure" is the perquisite under the Charter of Demand
- The housing projects and slum redevelopment and rehabilitation projects should ensure meaningful child participation mechanism embedded at all stages from need identification to sustainability and maintenance
- Construction of child specific community infrastructure such as parks, recreational spaces, children study rooms, Anganwadi centres and care centres for the children of working parents should be a mandate in every slum rehabilitation project under extra allotted land of permissible built area for neighbourhood development under the 'Prime Minister Aswas Yojana – Housing for all' (PMAY) yojana

Water and Sanitation:

- A city level monitoring committee to be formed to conduct an evaluation on the availability and functionality of separate toilets for boys and girls in every school under Swachha Vidyalaya Mission. The shortfalls of the findings to be met immediately
- The community and public toilet blocks are to be made child friendly (smaller pans and low height water taps)
- Open drains and storm water system with open channels for the discharge of rainwater in the urban localities are to be covered to avoid accidents (Specially children)
- The current domestic water deficit is to be immediately met identifying the undersupplied areas
- Small scale recycling of water and waste in different localities should be set up and encouraged
- Periodic survey of good environment condition and drinking water provision could be done by assessing the incidence of vector borne and water borne diseases in the households

Early Childhood Care and Services

- Following the population norms for opening early childhood care and education (ECCE) centres under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the ECCE centres are to be established in all urban slum pockets
- It should be ensured that, ECCE centres run in its own building, are accessible and child friendly by means of infrastructures and basic amenities (Provision of safe drinking water, child friendly toilets)
- The ECCE centres should be properly equipped with facilities and services for health care and early childhood brain development activities (availability of teaching and game materials)
- All the centres to have trained and motivated functionaries in place
- The frequency and quality of training for these functionaries with a special focus on early childhood brain development exercises should be improved and proper implementation of skills to be ensured
- Rigorous community monitoring mechanism to be encouraged by establishing a neighbourhood level monitoring committee. This committee should make mandate of children participation & opinion sharing about the functioning of the ECC centres

Open Space for Play and Recreation

- Lack of appropriate space confines children to small congested houses with little prospects of physical activity. Therefore, there should be “increased provision for community play (recreational) centres and playgrounds for children”
- Mandated play space should be available in all neighbourhoods with play facilities for children of all age, interests and abilities. Children should have access to safe public spaces and playgrounds, with toilets, water and sufficient lighting in the neighbourhood
- The existing parks and recreational spaces should have child friendly components in place. There should be separate play provisions for young children (0-8 years of age) in parks and public spaces
- Emphasis should be given to make the public utilities attractive and incorporated with various game provisions for small children

Mobility & Transportation:

- The urban governance should provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, with special attention to the needs of children
- Slum roads should be made wider for easy access of fire brigade and ambulance services
- Zebra crossing are to be built and repaint (where faded) at every traffic intersections to make the city roads pedestrian-friendly. Moreover, pedestrians signal lights with pedestrian crossing lines are to be installed/realigned at all traffic intersections
- Number of city buses and BRTCs buses are to be increased to connect all part of the city and the buses should be designed child friendly in all manners
- There should be a unique helpline number to address any traffic emergency as well as to lodge complaints against the traffic issues by the citizen including children
- More emphasis to be given on design of the public transit for pedestrians, cyclist and strollers
- The encroached pavements and footpaths should be made clear with immediate action for safe mobility of children and pedestrians
- Traffic police should be child friendly and respond to the grievances of children in a prompt manner
- Traffic police commission should ensure meaningful child participation in the traffic designing and planning

Child Friendly Urban Governance

- During the annual infrastructure development planning and budget meeting of the Municipal Corporation, children participation must be ensured. (Following the UN HABITAT Agenda)
- Child friendly components should be included in city master plans. Dedicated children’s budget to be included to ensure sufficient resource commitment
- Infrastructure related citizen complaints redressal mechanism should be in place to attain the complaints promptly
- The make the city governance child friendly, the civic authorities are to be made sensible to prioritize issues related to children
- To make the city child protection system smart and child friendly, child friendly policing will be an encouraging step towards

We the children of Surat, urge upon the political parties to consider our demands and include them in your election manifesto.

About Humara Bachpan

Humara Bachpan Campaign is a national campaign on safe and healthy environment for young children living in urban poverty. It aims at inclusion of child friendly components in the urban renewal policies of the Government of India such as Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY) - Housing for All, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and The Smart Cities Mission. It is an international award - winning campaign. Since its inception in 2012, Humara Bachpan has been reaching out to 1, 35,000 children, 67567 women and 25829 youth across 548 slums in 15 cities of 11 states. Humara Bachpan is present in the cities of Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Jabalpur, Ranchi, Pune, Mumbai, Surat, Jaipur, Varanasi, Bangalore, Puri, Cuttack and Sambalpur.