

"Knowledge with Fun" Learning centers for out of school slum children



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The Problem :

Delhi is home to about 50000 street and working children and about 1/5th of them, i.e about 10000 reside in slums and low income colonies of North Delhi. Besides lack of education, these children also face a lot of health problems as they work for long hours, without food, without any safety equipment. This becomes especially important as many of them work as rag pickers on garbage dumping sites with bare hands and feet.

These children are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse by strangers, adult street dwellers and at times by the police too. They are also exposed to all kinds of substance abuse indulged in by adults working besides them and get easily engaged in the same. Besides, they work for long hours at abysmally low rates as they do not know about their rights.

Poor economic condition of the family, responsibility for household chores and sibling care, disinterest in studies, failure in previous examinations, and change of residence due to relocation of slums or migration from village to the city have been identified as some of the major reasons for non enrolment, irregular attendance and drop outs of children from schools.

Our Solution:

Child Survival India runs knowledge with fun centers called "Masti Ki Paathshala" (MKP) for poor slum children. The four centers based at slums of Narela, Samaypur, Sanjay Colony and Tikri in North Delhi provide non-formal education to out-of-school children by using interactive and interesting teaching methodology.

Objectives:

- To provide an opportunity for education to children who do not have the means or the time to attend a regular school.
- To mainstream back the children interested to go back to school.
- To prevent school dropouts and improve retention in schools by providing after support tutorial support to children mainstreamed thru the NFE class.
- To prepare & empower the children to face life challenges by stimulating the children's ability to reflect on their life situations, plans, values in life, and attitudes in a way that is enjoyable and non threatening to them.
- To facilitate the development and demonstration of the hidden creative potentials of the children

Specific Activities /Components of each Knowledge & Fun center

- NFE class
- Computer center
- Library cum reading room
- Creativity sessions on art craft, music etc



As many of them are working –children and do odd and sundry jobs such as rag picking, work as help at roadside eateries, or are street vendors , and some others look after their younger siblings, the regular fixed-timed schools are out of reach for them. **CSI's learning centers provide flexibility in class timings to suit the needs of these children** thus alongside the working children, children who have left regular studies due to poverty, disinterest or due to other compelling reasons are also able to come and learn .

While striving to make the teaching experience enjoyable and meaningful, CSI ensures that the classes are customized as per the children's needs. **We do Multi level teaching in a single classroom. It is a challenge for teachers as children of age 6-14 yrs are in the same class and many of them have never been to school while others are school drop outs from various classes.** Teachers make competency based groups in each class and teach them group wise.

CSI believes that the non-formal teaching methodology and conducting other activities with the children such as dance, puppetry, art and craft, multimedia and library provide a holistic educational experience to the slum children. In addition, CSI's teachers and facilitators also conduct life skill education sessions with children and talk to children about common situations/problems faced by

children staying in slums –i.e drug addiction, child sexual abuse , domestic violence etc. The life skills tools strengthen children’s development and empower them to face challenges and combat their daily survival issues in a better way. Children are given affirmation for their courage in sharing their experience and are helped to take concrete actions/steps on how to avoid the incident from happening and what they can do should there a similar incident in their life.

CSI also provides tutorial / remedial classes to the needy children to retain school enrolment and prevent further drop outs. Keeping in mind the importance of IT in today’s world and how it has revolutionized all the aspects of our life including academics, we try **to blend computer classes in the MKP program in such a way that the young folks feel comfortable with using a computer and have their educational experience much more fun filled and interesting**. Besides many school going children also come in the afternoon for paid computer classes at subsidized rate.

We also conduct bimonthly general health check -ups for all children enrolled with us . A General Physician carries out the health check of the children which includes assessments for malnutrition, oral hygiene, vision and a general overall clinical examination.

These health checks are imperative for these children as most of them come from families where parents are working, do not give time to child care and some of the children are also working as rag pickers or street vendors and are thus exposed to occupational hazards.

The health check up provides an opportunity to children to share their health concerns with a medical professional, plus they acquire the necessary health education to improve their health and hygiene status. Doctors are called on visit basis and benefit is provided right at the learning center.

General health checks carried out by Child Survival India reveal many health problems such as skin infections, fever, worm infestations, anemia, respiratory disorders and malnourishment. Following the consultations children are provided with the necessary treatment for these conditions and are also provided with vitamin, mineral supplements and de-worming tablets. During these consultations doctors also teach the children about hygiene and safety with the aim of preventing recurrent problems.

Our Achievements :

In the current year, 258 out of school children have enrolled in non formal education classed at our MKP centers and about 70 school children have come to attend tutorial support classes /remedial classes in the afternoon. We are currently offering computer classes in only two centers and 83 students have so far benefited from them in the current financial year.

The impact of MKP classes can be seen based upon the number of dropout children who were brought back to the mainstream education and in the current year ,as many as 76 children have re-admitted themselves to the mainstream schools after taking MKP classes.

BUDGET FOR 4 CENTERS

S No	Item	Amount in Rs	Amount in USD
	BUDGET FOR ONE CENTER		
1	Room Rent	4000	65
2	Water bill	500	8
3	Reading Material, educational material print and stationery etc	2500	8
4	Bi monthly health check up of children	5000	40
5	Teacher salary	7000	80
6	Electricity	1000	111
7	Ancillary workers salary	700	16
8	Conveyance and communication	1000	11
Total FOR ONE MONTH		21700	347
ANNUAL TOTAL (educational expenses-40 children)		260400	4164
BUDGET FOR 4 CENTERS (160 children)		1041600	16656
PER CHILD COST PER YEAR		6510	104