

Medical camp for poor

Good health for all



Medical camp Report

Summary:

Kolkata City Mission started working among slum communities in the northern part of Kolkata in 2007. Their mission was to respond primarily to the educational and nutritional needs that existed in these impoverished areas; but they soon realized that there was a greater need for medical care to be addressed. In response to this need, Kolkata City Mission decided to organize a medical camp. In

2011 they hosted their first medical camp for the poor and suffering in the slum communities in which they had been working. When the communities were approached with the offer of a free medical camp hosted by Kolkata City Mission, they were welcoming and responded positively, realizing their great need for this kind of intervention. The camps resulted in people experiencing relief from their diseases and ongoing pains, with continued follow-up and medical support. All donations to this fund will go toward the medical camps to be hosted in October 2017.

Challenges:

People living in the slums in Kolkata are struggling just to survive day to day, so health and medical needs are often neglected. Health related issues no longer take precedence when a family is struggling to afford a proper meal. Visiting a doctor or obtaining medical supplies and medication are next to impossible for people living in this kind of extreme poverty. It takes more than a day's wage for someone in poverty just to get a consultation with a doctor, and buying medicine or scheduling follow-up procedures is yet another expenditure.

Though the medical camps and doctor visits are a blessing to the communities, it is hard for the people to pay for the medical tests that are prescribed by the doctor. Every medical test is an expensive affair for the poor. When the supplied medicine runs out, the people cannot afford to purchase more from the local pharmacy. This makes it very difficult for the doctors to continue the treatment or provide effective follow-up. Strong funding and support is needed to supply appropriate medical care.

Solutions:

The medical camps were a huge success. But afterward, people began waiting an entire year to address medical issues so they could receive free care at the next upcoming medical camp. Thus,

an arrangement for frequent doctor visits to the slums was set in place to reduce the suffering of the sick and address medical needs before they became severe or untreatable. These monthly visits are impossible to continue without your support.

Kolkata City Mission is also conducting a health awareness program to teach these communities healthy practices, with the hope that many diseases can be controlled and prevented earlier. Educating communities about good health, as well as giving proper medical treatment on time, will have a long-term impact on health issues within these slum communities.

With the gracious giving of many donors from all over the globe, Kolkata City Mission has conducted medical camps every year since 2011 in several slum communities: Bagmari, Birsa Mundapally (Mundapara), Marine Village, Pramodnagar and Bardhan Para (Durganagar).

Kolkata City Mission has also catered to the medical needs of rural, impoverished communities, about two hundred kilometers from the city of Kolkata.

Long term impact:

There have been many severe diseases and illnesses that have been treated (including malaria, influenza, and typhoid) because of these medical camps. They have also treated viral and chronic skin diseases, removed tumors, and conducted other minor surgeries.

These medical camps have resulted in many people gaining access to treatment and care who otherwise could not have afforded it. Continued financial support also goes to help increase capacity for frequent follow-ups throughout the year and access to free or low cost medicines and testing.

People in impoverished communities can continue to live healthier lives through the continuous efforts of the medical camps hosted by Kolkata City Mission. We need your continued support in order to make this possible!