



IMKAAN WELFARE ORGANIZATION

Proposal for Maternity Home Machar Colony

*No child's life shall be curtailed by the circumstances of his or her birth,
because each one deserves absolute love and infinite opportunity.*

MISSION STATEMENT

Founded on the tenet that every child has the right to live and thrive, the fundamental purpose of Imkaan is to deliver those without means into this world safely and render them to a loving family securely. To provide and ensure quality healthcare, education and secure home environment to all children, is Imkaan's broader initiative.

MACHAR COLONY FACTS

POPULATION: 700,000 +

BIGGEST AGE GROUP: 5 year to 15 years

ETHNICITY: Bengalese, Burmese & Pathan.

OCCUPATION: Fisher folk by trade, and work in either fisheries, shrimp peeling factories, or fish drying industries

ISSUES: Seasonal jobs, lack of proper sanitation facilities, lack of clean water, 80% illiteracy rate and illegal occupation due to which there is a lack of government intervention.

BACKGROUND

Located behind the railway tracks of Mauripur Road, Karachi, Machar Colony is one of the biggest slums in Karachi with a population of more than 700,000 people. This underdeveloped community comprises of Pathans, Bengalese and Burmese and are usually fisherman or work in fisheries in the area.

Imkaan, first set foot in Machar Colony by providing healthcare at zero to low cost to women and children in the area through our project Sehat Ghar. Catering to 2100 families, Sehat Ghar was established in 2014 providing support to the Bengalese and Burmese community. Imkaan has been providing free of cost medicines, holding free health camps related to different diseases, training traditional birth attendants and creating awareness regarding seasonal diseases, hepatitis C, safe birth delivery and planned parenthood.

As this is a marginalized community with no support from the government, we believe more projects of aid are needed to support the community as a whole especially when it concerns women and children. In this regard, Imkaan Welfare Organization is planning to establish a maternity home in Machar Colony under the banner of Sehat Ghar.

MATERNITY HOME IN MACHAR COLONY

The maternity home in Machar Colony will cater to women in the area by providing them with a clean and safe environment where they are able to give birth in a medically conducive environment. With the majority of the women giving birth at home, it has been noticed that in a lot of cases either the mother or the child face issues during and after birth.

Women in the community prefer giving birth at home through traditional birth attendants. Traditional birth attendants or *Dais* though with years of experience are not medically sound to diagnose high risk pregnancies before the woman goes into labor and are then rushed to the nearest hospital. Due to a lack of transportation and no proper road infrastructure, going to the hospital during emergencies becomes a task and causes delay.

The community doesn't understand the need of proper nutrition and its need from the time of conception to delivery. Most women are diagnosed with anaemia while they are pregnant creating a risk for their own lives and that of the child. With an average of 11 children per family and seasonal jobs not each child is able to receive proper nutrition or healthcare and there is a need to create awareness regarding planned parenthood and safe birth control methods.

Through the maternity home Imkaan aims to:

- a. To reduce the incidence of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in the area.
- b. Facilitate communities to access quality skilled maternity care.
- c. To provide post natal and antenatal support to women of Machar Colony.
- d. To provide a clean and favorable environment for delivery.
- e. Create awareness regarding nutritional needs of the mother after delivery and child after birth.
- f. To create awareness regarding family planning and the importance of planned parenthood.
- g. To train traditional birth attendants regarding safe child birth practices.
- h. To support the local community by providing consultation regarding issues plaguing the community

The maternity home will be located in the same locality as our current maternal and child health clinic under Sehat Ghar. With the closest maternity home 45 minutes away from the locality and with a lack of transportation and no proper road infrastructure, women find it difficult to travel for checkups while they are pregnant and also in case of emergencies.

Our maternity home will allow women to consult with lady health workers who can guide them regarding safety measures and nutrition throughout their pregnancy. Monthly ultrasounds will help them track the progress of their child and will allow the diagnosis of high risk pregnancies at an early stage. Consultations with gynaecologist and with the lady health workers will also initiate a process of learning and awareness regarding their own health issues and those of the family.

SINCE INCEPTION

- 500 + births have taken place.
- Awareness regarding planned parenthood
- Women are opting for family planning through various methods
- Immunization of all children born at the maternity home is provided especially for polio.
- The maternity home also serves as an emergency health unit for women who miscarry as it runs 24/7.

We plan to establish a maternity home that is open to the community 24/7 catering to women and their needs while pregnant and when they go into labor.

HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

Our new initiative will help women of the community lead a healthy life with emphasis on child birth post natal and ante natal and child rearing. The maternity home will be a four room, ultrasound facility focusing on providing a medically conducive environment for child birth.

Imkaan is registered as Social Welfare Agency registration no: 1299PCSW(S) under The Social Welfare Agency Ordinance of 1961. Donations to Imkaan Welfare Organization can be made directly to our bank account as indicated below:

Imkaan Welfare Organization
Muslim Commercial Bank, Khayaban-e-Saadi Branch
Current Account No: 0595026121003100, Branch Code: 1451
For more information email us at info@imkaan.org