

Mumbai slum project (UMEED)
Annual Report (2009-10)

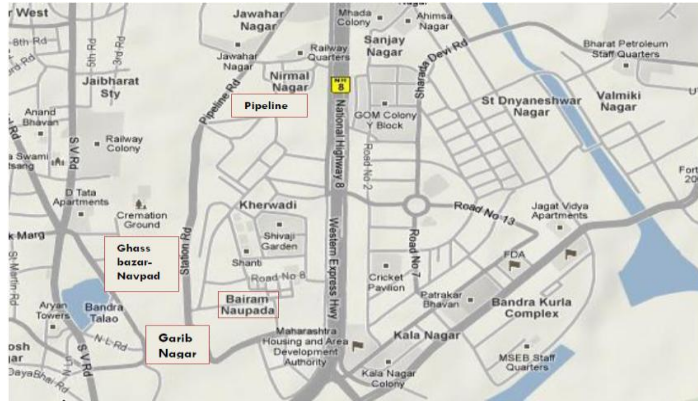


Plan India



Introduction:

The project is being implemented in the Garib Nagar slum cluster covering areas of Beharampada, the Ghas Bazar Pipeline and Pampapur areas which are situated in the western suburb of Bandra in Mumbai. All the communities are different in terms of size. However, they have all other common characteristics of a typical Mumbai slums i.e. congested lanes, non recognized habitats and low scoring on all Human Development Indices like child protection, health, education, etc.



Plan India's Program Approach and Practice

The slum project began in May 2009 with a Rapid Assessment Study and child consultations in the Garib Nagar slum cluster. This helped Plan develop an action plan.

This was followed by the process to identify NGO partners who could potentially be invited to implement the project. 4 NGO partners were selected. These include Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA), Committed Community Development Trust, Aseema and Kherwadi Social Welfare Association (KSWA).

These NGO partners have considerable experience in specific program theme areas. YUVA has been working in the area of Child Protection and Participation, CCDT on Health, Aseema on Education and KSWA on Vocational training.

Thereafter, the partner NGOs visited the project area to develop basic understanding of the area and the people, as the NGOs had not initiated any projects in the Garib Nagar slum cluster before this project.

Plan India's Program Approach and Practice

In June, Plan commissioned a baseline survey based on Plan India's organizational values. The survey was conducted by an external consulting agency called GfK Mode. It was executed as per the indicators mentioned in the Country Program Framework of Plan India and the commitments made in the proposal submitted to the donor

On the basis of the baseline information, Rapid Assessment Study and Children Consultations, NGO partners' prepared short term (Sept to December 2009) startup plans. The purpose of this startup plan is to phase into the Garib Nagar Slum cluster and develop rapport and gain confidence of communities and children living there.

The process of assessing the needs of the community began in the month of August 2009 and in October, a Comprehensive Child Rights Based Participatory Vulnerability Situation Analysis in the

program areas was completed as per the PALS process and the first draft report was shared with Plan and NGO partners. The study was conducted by an external consultancy agency called IMRB. Based on the child rights situation analysis report and the baseline survey, the process of developing a long-term strategic plan was undertaken.

Program Strategy Development with NGO partners

A 3 day intensive program strategy development workshop was organised in December 2009. In the workshop, the participants reviewed documents on the project developed by Plan India and external consultants. They also reviewed the Mumbai Human Development Report 2009. The review exercise enabled the participants to analyse root causes of various key issues and identify those, which can be addressed in the area of Health, Education, Child Protection and Participation and Vocational Training during the project period.

The process also helped all of us in planning project activities for next 6 months. The objectives were useful in designing the activity plan for the next 6 months (January 2010-June 2010)

Project Implementation Progress

The Plan of Action (POA) for the period of January was directed more towards initiating agreed key activities as per the approved plans.

A brief report on the work is as follows:

Health & Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES)

Partner organisation: CCDT

Objectives:

- To ensure child survival and safe motherhood practices in the community.
- To reduce the extent of malnourishment and Anaemia among girls, women and children below five years.
- To prevent and reduce impact of communicable diseases like Malaria, TB and HIV among the communities
- To improve understanding on sexual and reproductive health amongst women and adolescents.
- To facilitate the process of making sanitation and clean drinking water facilities available and accessible in the community with active participation from stakeholders in the community

The issue:

A situational analysis shows that the average duration of stay of families here is 13-15 years and the average family size is 6. In Garib Nagar, it was observed that a leakage in water pipe was used as a source to collect water, bathe and clean oneself. This poses grave health risks as consuming contaminated water can cause chronic illnesses. Surface and ground water contamination is a source of causing health hazards. It is likely to cause diseases like cholera, typhoid; skin diseases etc. 93% of the respondents do not own toilets. Most of the drains were open/ uncovered. Given

the dense housing patterns in the slums and poor maintenance of drains, water logging during the monsoons emerges as a major challenge.

The situational analysis also throws light on maternal & child health; it is a well known fact that the health of the mother during pregnancy is directly related to the health condition of the child at birth. 91% of the mothers have had at least 3 antenatal care visits during the birth of their last child. In Garib Nagar, the proportion was lowest (87%) in comparison to the other two locations.



Awareness session on personal and environmental hygiene

The percentage of children suffering from Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) stands at a whopping 50% plus, whereas only 63% children receive all the 8 vaccines before 12 months of age. Severe malnutrition seems to be rampant within this community and is at a very high level, with more than 50% of the children less than one year being reported as severely malnourished.

It is quite alarming that only about 50% of young people from these communities have heard of HIV/AIDS in a state that is now recognized as one of the highest HIV prevalence state in the country. Further compounding the problem is the fact that only 10% of the young people, who are aware of HIV/AIDS know about availability of VCTC services

Interventions:

The intervention plan of CCDT aims at involving all the stakeholders like children and youth, especially girls and women in realizing their right to a healthy life. The intervention strategies have taken into consideration the significance of active involvement of all the stakeholders i.e. community and other Government and non government institutions.

The project focuses on the health of children and women by following the CCCD approach. It also aims at improving the Water and Sanitation situation in the Garib Nagar community. The programme follows an inclusive approach at every level. It focuses on generating awareness and building capacities of the stakeholders through various participatory programmes like campaigns, rallies, exhibitions, network meeting etc. Some of the important activities that CCDT conducted included:

- Health sessions in the community with children, ANC/PNC mothers.
- Awareness Session on Personal & Environmental Hygiene with children between ages 5-15.
- Observed International days like World AIDS Day, International Women's Day, World Health Day and World No Tobacco Day.
- The field level staff has undergone training on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS.

- Visited the divisional office of the solid waste management of Bandra East regarding the garbage problem of Garib Nagar.

- An assistant project officer along with social workers met with a medical social worker of Bhabha Hospital at Bandra East. They explained him about the project and requested him to assist patients coming from our project areas. The authorities responded positively. They also suggested that the health camps can be organised in the area in collaboration with the Preventive Social Medicine Department (PSM) of any big Municipal Corporation hospital.



- A project team visited the Information Education and Communication Unit of Health department of BMC that makes and circulates Information Education & Communication (IEC) materials. The team brought educational materials on diseases. A rapport is established with the officer of the unit and he has assured for all the cooperation.
- The staff members have found out about three major hospitals near Bandra. They are KEM, Wadia Hospital for Children, and Tata Memorial Hospital. Some important information related to the procedures to be followed in order to get free services for poor patients has been gathered by the staff members.
- CCDT has also introduced the project to government run Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) centres in Garib Nagar. They also reached out to various other organisations like AVEHI, Population Service International, Palvi Kendra, Dilasa, Family Planning Association of India & Alcoholic Anonyms groups for networking in future.
- CCDT designed the intervention plan for the water and sanitation problems in the project area.

Child protection and Participation

Partner organisation: YUVA

Objectives:

- To enable child friendly social environments
- To enable child friendly physical environments
- To facilitate participation of children

The issue:

A study reveals that nearly 40 percent of children (equal proportion of boys and girls) reported physical abuse in the past 3 months, 90 percent by their mothers and a significant number (35%)

by their fathers also. Very few cases were reported on child sexual abuse (out of the sample size of 310, only 2 cases were reported), and it requires further investigations.

Despite this being a semi-urban community, less than 40% reported to have voted in last elections. There is not much difference between percentage of boys and girls among the voters.

The lesser degree of engagement of voters is also reflected by a very low percentage possessing voter IDs. It is quite a concern that a low percentage of mothers (only 49%) had any idea about child rights and only 12 percent could list out all the four rights of a child.

Interventions:



YUVA aims for children in the project area to grow up and develop in a safe and enabling environment that ensures their right to protection, which is respected and realized, and that they can grow and develop free from abuse, discrimination and exclusion. It also focuses on ensuring that the children get a platform where they are able to express their opinion, organize themselves as citizens and advocate for their own rights (needs).

Campaign on Child Labour

The project involves various participatory activities like awareness sessions, trainings, camps, games and other fun activities. The project involves advocacy components, thereby involving larger government systems.

The last phase helped YUVA understand the community and continue with the rapport building process in the community. Members of the communities are getting familiar with YUVA's presence.

YUVA interventions included following activities:

- Process of group formation with children is consistently being followed. Games and activities like cricket, badminton, skipping, drawing etc. were conducted.
- A Picnic on the outskirts of Mumbai was organized. This event helped YUVA to bring in more enthusiasm amongst children.
- Sessions on the issue of Gender discrimination and importance of educating the girl child through documentaries.



- Poster exhibition on gender equality was organized where children expressed their views on the posters they saw.
- An awareness session on domestic violence was organized for children
- Educational tours, parents meeting, campaign on child labour, etc. were organized which helped to inform about the role YUVA plays for child development.
- A major activity was the campaign on Anti Child Labour Day, wherein a demonstration was held at Bandra station in which more than 100 children participated.
- Women's group meeting for understanding their problems and mobilising them was organised.

ECCD & Education

Partner organisation: ASEEMA

Objectives:

- To enable all children, especially girls, in the project area to have access to ECCD services and primary and secondary education
- To reduce dropout rates of children in the project area, especially girls
- To create an environment that promotes quality education at the ECCD, primary and secondary level for children, especially girls, in the project area

The Issue:

A good all round education is a critical stepping stone in assuring a better quality of life as envisioned in the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by India in 1992. It transformed the basic needs of survival, protection, development and participation into rights of every child. Even as the Millennium Development Goals reinforce quality in education, India is struggling to ensure minimum standards of education. Children continue to be deprived of access to basic civic services which are imperative to their survival besides their quality of life. The Mumbai 2009 Human Development Report pointed out critical lacunae which literally stopped children in Mumbai from accessing education. The observations in the report were overcrowded classrooms, low student teacher ratio, vacant or unsafe school buildings, no parent or community involvement or participation, enrolment but high dropout rates and poor learning outcomes.

Besides this, the Baseline study and survey report throws light on the plight of education in the project area. Only 17% of children were found to be enrolled in anganwadis (child-care centres) according to the Baseline report. Besides the inadequate number of anganwadis, the quality of service needs significant improvement, as it is understood as a program designed only for provision of meals. Often due to the services being unavailable, children are left on their own or in the care of older siblings, which in a way is an unsafe situation.

When we look at the situation of primary and secondary education in the project area, 64% of children are enrolled in MCGM (municipal schools in Mumbai) schools in the project area. Learning outcomes are very poor. Only 68% children in Standard II and 82% children in Standard V cleared their examinations. Absenteeism is very high (70% children reported missing school for 10 days on an average). There is a high dropout rate (14 %). Through third party consultations, children spoke of violence committed by teachers in schools. In spite of the families spending up to Rs. 500 per month on tuitions, 39% of children are finding it hard to keep up with studies.

Interventions:

Aseema aims that the children in the project area, especially girls, realize their right to ECCD and 10 years of quality education. The educational interventions involve partnering with all stakeholders (Children, parents, community and other government and non government institutes). Strategic ties are to be made with government schools and it will help addressing educational needs of all children in the area, especially children in difficult circumstances, dropouts with special focus on girls. Aseema's focus is on strengthening the existing systems of education.

Aseema worked hard to finalise the agreement with KMS. Although it received permission to begin working in the school, the actual agreement is still pending. Aseema completed the training of 16 teachers in May 2010. 7-14 teachers have begun to work with the MCGM teachers in the classroom with the children. Minor repairs were done to ensure safety. The school is gradually being transformed into a clean, colourful and stimulating learning environment.

ASEEMA met with few Anganwadi workers. Along with two teachers and a social worker, they are working on improving the component of education in the ICDS centres.

To give advocacy work a boost, ASEEMA has identified various government schemes available to assist children with their education, which we are in the process of compiling. For this they had meetings with various officials from the Ministry of Women and Child development, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education For All, a government plan to improve the quality of education), Pratham (another NGO) and The State Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation to search for details of schemes which would be helpful to children. It was more difficult and has taken longer than expected because of the huge number of plans and programmes found and locating the plans relevant to the project took time.

Household Economic Security (HES):

Partner Organisation: Kherwadi Social Welfare Organisation (KSWA)

Objectives:

- To provide need based skill enhancement opportunities to youth, especially girls and women from the vulnerable sections in the project area.
- To enhance entrepreneurial skills, leadership qualities and access to the financial institutions
- To increase access of the target community towards the facilities of Government Schemes

The Issue:



Sensitisation camp on vocational training

A situational analysis shows that 30 % of the population here is illiterate. 48 % of the adults are employed as tailors. The majority of the population are labourers employed on a monthly basis or are small traders.

The area is severely struck with poverty. Currently, not many efforts are being made in these communities for the vocational training of young people with an objective of livelihoods promotion.

According to the baseline survey, only 5 % of the youth has received any kind of vocational training and only 2% have got employment after receiving the training. About 40 percent of the households live below the poverty line. The income of the ones who are above poverty line is not sufficient for any kind of savings, as about 80 % reported that they are not saving any money. Among the remaining population, half have bank accounts and half resort to other channels like keeping money in their homes. The Baseline also reveals that only 2 % households reported of being members of any SHGs or other societies. On rare occasions they save money through these SHGs. It is likely that these are members of any society outside the community.

In another study initiated by Plan, it is found that only 48% adults were employed. It is important to state that only 4% of the employed adults have a regular job. Rest of the 96% of the workforce works in the unorganized sector or informal economy. The average per capita income for all these communities is Rs. 973/- per month, Garib Nagar being the lowest at Rs 865/- per month.

Interventions:

KSWA focuses on youth especially girls and women, realizing their right to economic empowerment. The intervention strategies take into consideration the significance of active involvement of all the stakeholders i.e. community and other government and non government institutions. KSWA also focuses on the household economic security by following the CCCD approach. The programme follows all inclusive strategy and focuses on generating awareness and building capacities of the stakeholders through various participatory income generating activities.

During this year, KSWA conducted following activities:

1. Sensitisation camps to make the community aware and motivate to opt for the courses offered by KSWA.
2. Vocational training courses were offered to girls and boys.
3. Entrepreneurial training programmes were conducted for the youth who wanted to start their own enterprise.
4. Business skill development & employment training: These are advanced add-on courses offered to the youth to further upgrade their skills and capacities.
5. Social workers from KSWA met with the officials of Ward office for finding out the different government schemes which are available for the benefit of the community.

The Impact of the programme:

The biggest impact of the programme has been the acceptance of the community members of all the activities that were being conducted by partner organisations. Till date, there has been good response to the activities which was reflected through regular participation of people.

The activities have facilitated the process that allows the people to speak up for themselves. Similarly, children and women actively participated and have spoken about their issues even in the open meetings. CCDT has also identified and appointed a local girl as one of their staff to work in the project area.

The government agencies have also shown interest in our work and thus the next year's plan of action also includes various activities in collaboration with the local government.

The biggest impact has been the smiles on the faces of children who get opportunities to have fun through recreational activities. Just a small round of the community with the field staff and one realizes the positive energy that the project has generated in the children. One is greeted with all the happy faces of children at every nook and corner of the community.

The Challenges

- The project is unique in nature due to the collaborative work of different organisations; however it was also a challenge to establish ourselves as one team rather than groups of professionals belonging to different organisations. The first step towards that is the common name UMEED (HOPE) for the project so that all of us are known & identified as one entity.
- The community has all the political dynamics, and it has been a tight rope walk to remain a non-aligned entity in the community.
- The raising and sometimes unrealistic expectations of the community people is also one of the biggest challenges, we are very careful in establishing our identity only as facilitators or catalysts for the social change in the community.

Sustainability

Any developmentally appropriate initiative can sustain only if the people become aware of their rights for their development and start owning the processes of social change. It is also necessary that all the stakeholders including government are willing to be accountable and accomplish their responsibilities. This understanding serves as a common binding principal for all partners; therefore the conscious efforts are being made to make the activities all inclusive and participatory. The project will aim at making the people aware of their rights & responsibilities. Various awareness generating activities along with training programmes will help the community in knowing their rights and will also encourage them to demand the same from government authorities.

Advocacy initiatives are an integral component of this project. We will try to build various pressure groups of all the stakeholders so that it advocates people's rights to take the matter the appropriate government department. This will also help in increasing government participation in the area.

Neha story from Garib Nagar

Neha (Name changed), lost her mother at the age of five. She grew up in a big family which included her father, step-mother and three brothers.

At 17, Neha fell in love and got married. However she kept her marriage secret. Soon after their marriage, the boy left her, saying his mother had cancer and so he had to go back to his village. He still hasn't returned.

A large fire took place in their community. Homes burnt down and all the community's belongings were destroyed. Neha's marriage certificate was burnt. On finding out that she was pregnant, the entire community went against her, because she could not prove the legitimacy of her child. Her own family tortured her. The only support she received was from her father.

One day, her step-mother's brother-in-law came up to Neha with scissors to kill her. According to him, she brought shame on the family, because she was bearing an illegitimate child. In the scuffle between the two, the brother-in-law hurt himself with the scissor. By mistake her father was arrested in relation to the crime.

Neha managed to collect Rs.10, 000 to bail her father out of jail. After her delivery, she herself was jailed for one and a half year, but she was allowed to keep her newborn baby with her.

While she was in jail, she was violently abused by the prison guards. Because of the continued beating, a doctor has now diagnosed that she fractured her back bone, which has left her back permanently frail.

When she was released from prison, Neha joined Plan's program to promote household security in Garib Nagar and took up a course in jewellery making. At 21, her son is five years old. Neha has just completed the course. Now she is keen to work, and Plan's partner KSWA is currently helping her to find a job so that she can support herself and her son.