



CHILDREN . EDUCATION . EQUITY . ESSENTIAL AMENITIES

ENSURING QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

consultations on education, poverty and the urban child

A Katha-IHC-NIUA Initiative

CONCEPT NOTE

THE CHILD AND URBANIZATION

The world is becoming increasingly urban, and with this cities are struggling to provide the resources and services necessary to support this growth. This gap between supply and demand adversely affects society's most vulnerable groups, especially women and children from poor communities. In Delhi alone about half the population currently lives in slums, and of this 47% are children between ages 4-14¹. These are urban children who have the capacity to develop into leaders and active citizens, but who, without proper care and attention may remain living in abject poverty. We believe that through education, children can become leaders of change for sustainable economic and social community resurgence.

LINKAGES BETWEEN EDUCATION AND POVERTY

Currently in Delhi, the majority of children out of school are poor. Over 15% of children from MCD schools drop out by class 5². The number of children not regularly attending schools is even higher, and the gender disparity in favour of boys is greater still. Children in the slum communities drop-out or have poor attendance either because their families send them to work or to care for younger siblings, or because for various reasons, schools are not available or inviting enough. Of these, lack of basic sanitation, hygiene and toilet facilities and physical security are important reasons. Even those attending school may not be getting a quality education, with many children lacking in basic literacy.

CALL TO ACTION

Comprehensive evaluations of poverty are the only way to provide insight into what poverty really means for India's children. This conference series is designed as a series of working meetings to address the multiple but integrated issues of poverty and urbanization and the ways in which they impact children, especially working and street children in Delhi. Through in depth discussions that utilize the combined strength of local knowledge in partnership with expert knowledge, we hope to arrive at concrete implementable and sustainable actions.

Each meeting is preceded by focussed group discussions at the community level with women, youth and children. Their concerns and experiences are brought to the consultation by community members to be discussed by larger society, academia and other experts. Advice and ideas from the consultation will be carried forward into the 50 slum communities for direct action. Impact and results will come back to the next consultative meeting.

Site visits for members of the consultations will start after the first meeting on January 8.

¹ Based on 2009 Katha baseline survey of 74 slums in south and west Delhi

² Based on DISE data of [give number] South Delhi schools, 2006-2010

This series begins with a focus on basic amenities and community issues:

1. safe water, sanitation and the child
2. health care, nutrition and the child
3. economic security, shelter and the child
4. overall quality of life and the child > review of earlier consultations
5. culture, tradition and the child
6. environment and the child

The series will conclude with two sessions to specifically link the above discussion outcomes to child, classroom and career:

7. Entrepreneurship, IT and vocational skills development and their impact on poverty
8. The K-12 to college continuum. Challenges, lacunae, solutions

Each consultation will make unequivocal linkages to education of the child in an urban context.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

- To provide a common platform for interactive and true dialogue between representatives from the following groups: children, adolescents, men and women from Delhi slums, officials from the municipal corporation and state government, urban planners, community pradhans, teachers from MCD and governments schools, non-profit workers, and scholars from academic institutions.
- To focus on the needs the urban child and produce a report with policy recommendations to address the issues this group faces, issues which are not fully addressed by The Right to Education.
- To enhance the lives and quality, sustainable education of children living in slums, in measurable and tangible ways through action research techniques.
- **FINAL OUTPUT EXPECTED:** Better and more equitable quality education for all children, starting with a short term output starting March 31, 2011, as a direct result of the consultations.

THE PARTNERS

KATHA is a “profit for all”[®] social organization that strives to impact social justice through quality education, community based work and publishing

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, IHC was conceived to provide a physical environment which would serve as a catalyst for a synergetic relationship between individuals and institutions working in diverse habitat related areas and therefore, maximize their total effectiveness.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF URBAN AFFAIRS, NIUA, is a premier institute for research, training and information dissemination in urban development and management.

To participate or request a visit to one of our learning communities, do contact
Vandana Paul. hamaragaon@katha.org
or Marielle Amrhein at kalpana@katha.org

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