



Look! What's happening here?

STREET PROJECT



- ◆ Children in Begging
- ◆ Child Protection
- ◆ Police Training
- ◆ Capacity Building
- ◆ Night Outs
- ◆ Health Cooperative
- ◆ Marbling Workshop
- ◆ Radio Training
- ◆ Theatre Workshop
- ◆ Cultural Evening
- ◆ Big Bal Sabha
- ◆ Sports Day
- ◆ DCRC Meeting
- ◆ Exposure Visits



Smiling Childhood



☉ CHILDREN IN BEGGING: IN NEED CARE AND PROTECTION....

Butterflies, the Convener of Delhi Child Rights Club, representing 13 NGOs across Delhi being part of the Working Group on Child Begging under Shahri Adhikar Manch (SAM) called a follow-up meeting at IGSSS on 23rd July 2009 to share the findings of the previous initiatives of the working group. Mr. Gerry Pinto, Advisor, Butterflies made a presentation on the issue of child begging and shared the findings of the FGDs conducted with 115 children in begging at 13 different locations across Delhi by Butterflies, Salaam Balak Trust and Bal Sahyog.

Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare was invited as a Chief Guest to give her reaction and statements regarding the issue. She highlighted that departmentally government is very clear that there are no child beggars, there are only *children in need of care and protection* and should be dealt under the Juvenile Justice Act. She also informed about various initiatives underway to deal with the issue like reviewing the legislation, developing protocols to prevent innocents from being picked up during raids, improving the beggars' home to make it a rehabilitative home, setting up of homeless resource centres, establishing open homes etc.

Ms. Mukherjee had asked the working group on child begging to prepare and give her a plan of action to deal with the issue in a holistic way.



☉ CHILD PROTECTION- CASES DEALT

Example of Community Support

On 6th July 2009 Sanwar Ali, 15 years and his younger sister Helmina, 10 years were found abandoned at Nizamudin Railway Station (NZRS). A child, Naseem who is enrolled in our education programme at NZRS informed Mr. Suraj, Child Rights Advocate, NZRS about the children. Naseem reported that meanwhile he has provided shelter to these children in his home. Mr. Suraj met the children and asked them about their parents. The children spoke something in Bengali so the mother of another child in our contact helped us with translation. The children stated that they belong to district Barpeta in Assam and they have come to Delhi with their parents. However, they lost contact with their parents few days back and reached NZRS. They expressed that they wanted to return home. In this regard, DD entry was made at Hazarat Nizamudin Police Station and the case was referred to Butterflies Childline for restoration.

The girl was taken for MLC at AIIMS and was placed in Nirmal Chhaya (a government institution for girls). The boy was brought to Butterflies Resilience Centre from where he was produced before Child Welfare Committee on 9th July 2009.

With the limited information available we requested SSP office in Barpeta district of Assam to trace the parents of the children. As a result, the parents approached Childline and claimed the custody of the children. The children identified their parents and then they were restored on 14th July 2009 with CWC order.

Police beating children relentlessly at NZRS

The incidence of police beating children at Nizamudin Railway Station (NZRS) has increased in the recent past. This month 4 children reported such incidents. Few children even had severe injuries.

In this regard, Mr. Zaved Coordinator- Street Project; Ms. Ravinder Kaur Pasricha, Programme Officer- Street Project and Mr. Suraj, Child Rights Advocate, NZRS visited RPF Police Station, NZRS on 30th July 2009 along with the children who were beaten-up by police in the recent past at the railway station. The SHO was not available at that time so a written complaint was given about the children's grievances. The officer in-charge accepted that police do beat children but then he started justifying by saying that police have to take such harsh actions because children don't listen to them and sit at railway lines, trouble the passengers etc. However, he accepted the complaint and requested us to counsel children and to ask them to cooperate with police because even they don't feel happy when they have to take such actions against children.

Mr. Zaved specified that under no circumstances one can beat children and Butterflies would take legal action against any policeman who is found beating children. Besides, Mr. Zaved asked for an opportunity to talk to the other police officers in the briefing sessions in the presence of the SHO.

Crisis Intervention

On 1st July 2009, Ms. Yasmeen, Child Rights Advocate, Nizamudin Dargah was informed by a child who used to stay in our night shelter at Dargah that a lady is claiming custody of a two year old girl child whose parents are not traceable. Ms. Yasmeen immediately went to meet that lady where she saw that the small child had some injury marks on her hand and appeared very pale and weak. Our educator told the lady that she cannot keep a child like this and if she wants to take the child in foster care or to adopt the child she should follow the legal procedure for her custody. The lady not was ready to cooperate with our educator. So Ms. Yasmeen asked Mr. Suraj Child Rights Advocate, Nizamudin Dargah for help and when he reached there the lady seemed scared and worried. Our educators took that child to the police station and made a Daily Dairy (DD) entry, which is a legal requirement. The lady who was claiming for her custody suddenly vanished from the scene when the child was taken to the police station for DD entry. The child was handed over to a staff of Butterflies Childline & Resilience Centre who took her to AIIMS for medical check up. At 3.30am the child was placed in Nirmal Chhaya (a government institution for girls) for safe custody.

Father motivated to get son released

Ms. Yasmeen, Child Rights Advocate, Nizamudin Dargah was informed by the children on 14th July 2009 that Mohan (name changed), a 14 year old boy associated with Butterflies has been arrested by police last night on a theft case. Ms. Yasmeen was surprised to hear this as Mohan was one of the regular children coming to our contact point with good academic record. On meeting the father she learnt that he was unwilling to get his son back because he believed that his son got into wrongful activities. But on proper counseling the father understood that his son could have been arrested under suspicion and so he decided to take responsibility of his child. The next day he himself went to the police station and the child was released.

The boy shared that on the day he was arrested he was with his friend walking on the Nizamuddin flyover. Someone had snatched some cash and chain from a motorist near the flyover and police thought that they were the perpetrators. They happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. He mentioned that his friend escaped but he didn't run away so police arrested him. He reported that he was beaten up by police in police station and then was sent to AIIMS for medical check up from where he was directed to an observation home. He stayed there for a week and then his father got him released.

The child is coming to the contact point regularly. He has been given proper counselling and advice so that he could save himself from such troubles in future.

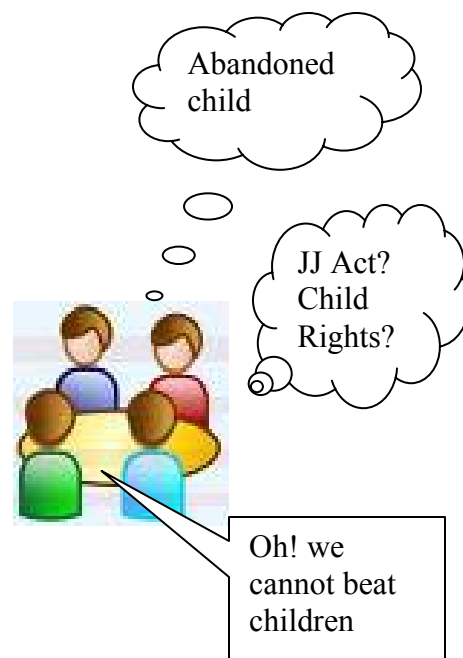


☉ POLICE TRAINING CUM SENSITIZING SESSIONS

The number of police training sessions conducted by Butterflies in the HRD cell of Delhi Police at Vasant Vihar Police station has increased to four per month from two. The sessions were held on 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th July 2009. Presentations and discussions were on Child Rights, Juvenile Justice System, child related Acts and provisions under the Acts and about Childline.

The participants were also given the opportunity to express their views and probable practical difficulties that can be faced by them while following the procedure to deal with children as prescribed under the JJ Act. The participants were also asked to share their experiences while dealing with children. Some of the cases that the policemen found challenging were:

- a. Children in begging
- b. Children involved in petty crimes like stealing ice creams
- c. Gender discrimination by parents/ neglect of girl child



☉ CAPACITY BUILDING OF STAFF

Our programmatic staff meetings are held every fortnight where the staff members share their problems, issues and plans. We thought of using this platform for capacity building of our staff by conducting thematic sessions. This month on 4th July 2009 Mr. Jestin, Coordinator- Childline & Resilience Centre was invited as a special guest to take a session on Childline and to briefly explain its function. The objective was to connect the educators to Childline so that they know how they can make use of this service when emergencies arise in the field. The session was followed by a discussion in which the participants asked various question and cleared their doubts.

We hope the sessions would help our staff members to address crisis situation efficiently.

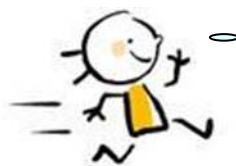
☉ FORTNIGHTLY NIGHT OUTREACH

The night out teams covered old Delhi and south Delhi contact areas on 10th July 2009 and 24th July 2009 respectively. During these night outs we interacted with children, parents, employers, community people police and other stakeholders.

On 10th July 2009 we met Mr. R.K. Sharma, President of Kashmere Gate Resident Welfare Association to discuss about getting a permission to continue Butterflies programme in the premises of the Tikona Park Community Centre, Kashmere Gate. Besides, at Fatehpuri night shelter a session was conducted on Child development Khazana (CDK) and its advance component. This helped children to think about situations when they could take advances from CDK.

On 24th July 2009, we explored new areas in Srinivaspuri for a new point for the mobile learning centre/ Chalta Firta School. Besides, we interacted with homeless families putting up under the flyover near Okhla Mandi (vegetable market).

WORKSHOPS



Health Cooperative Workshops

Health cooperative workshops were carried out at all contact points in the month of July. The topic of the month was Malaria and Dengue. The discussions included signs and symptoms, diagnosis and preventive measures.

Training Workshop in Paper Marbling

Paper marbling is a technique of aqueous surface design where colours float on the viscous solution and is carefully transferred to a sheet. As a result, beautiful patterns are created on the paper. Ms. Gail Mackenzie, Marbling Professional from USA organized the training workshop for our children from 1st July to 10th July 2009 in Butterflies office and taught them the technique of paper marbling. Seven children from Nizamudin Dargah namely Naseema, Ruby, Tania, Irshad, Babloo, Subarna and Babu participated. The children learnt how to prepare the viscous solution for marbling, how to put the colours on the solution, making patterns, transferring the patterns to sheets etc. The children also made cards and bookmarks with the patterned sheets. It was a learning experience for the children and they really enjoyed the workshop. Butterflies would like to promote this initiative and take to other children as well.

Theatre Workshop

A half day workshop was held at Ashram night shelter on 9th July, 2009 in order to prepare children from 3 contact points for the theatre competition during cultural evening. Since the theme right now is comedy, children presented the concepts and performances that they had thought of and received feedback for the same. Children from Nizamuddin Dargah, Andrews Ganj, Kashmere Gate and Nizamuddin Railway station participated in the workshop.

Radio Training Workshop

A Radio Training workshop was organized on 24th July 2009 in Butterflies office. 11 children from Chandani Chonk, Kashmere Gate, Jama Masjid and Nizamuddin Railway Station participated. The children were asked to do a two minute stint in front of the mike (recording set up) and were given feedback. For most of them, this was the first time they saw a studio setup. They also listened to a 15 minute programme (a benchmarking exercise so that they are able to imagine how their own work would be). After this, the children were divided into two teams and asked to make a plan of how each would complete 8 minutes of recorded programme (for a complete 15 minutes programme). One possibility discussed was to think of creating a detective/ mystery segment complete with sound effects. It was thought that such a programme would be a great hit with the children.

The next task would be to come to the studio and record each team's programme, which could later on be mixed to become the final programme. Following this a small meeting was also held with one of the teams during the sports day where they shared the script of their 'drama'.

Hurry!



EVENTS



Cultural Evening

The cultural evening was held at India Gate on 21st July 2009 in which 125 children were present. The highlight of the event was a play on eve teasing by children from Nizamuddin Dargah which bagged the first prize and a dance performance by girls from Andrews Ganj.



Performances during Cultural Evening



Big Bal Sabha

Big bal sabha was organized at India Gate on 29th July 2009 in which 33 children from different contact points participated. Shamshad from Jama Masjid and Reshma from Dargah were selected as Convener and Secretary respectively. Various issues were like request for sports teacher, police beating at Nizamuddin Railway Station, requirement of football and cricket bat, and space to keep TLM at Sadar Bazaar were discussed amongst the children.

Further, the children were informed about the completion tests to be held in August 2009 and were asked to study hard for the examination as their progress would be assessed and they would be given certificates for good performance.

At the end, importance of 15th August was discussed and some tips were shared with regard to safety during kite flying.

Sports Day

Sports day was held on 31st July 2009 at India Gate. In total 210 children participated and played various sports/games viz. passing the ball, untie the knots, 100m race, 3-legged race, sack race, cricket, football, and sports quiz. Untie the knots was the new game introduced this time in which two teams were formed and captains were selected. Thereafter the captains tied the hands of all the members of the other team and then each captain was asked to untie the knots in order to relieve their team members. The one who would do this faster would be the winner. This game created a lot of interest among the children and fostered greater team spirit. Prizes were given to the winners at the end of the day.



Delhi Child Rights Club (DCRC) meeting

Nazmeen from Jama Masjid and Sheru from Chandani Chok attended DCRC meeting held on 30th July 2009. The children wrote their experiences to be included in the next edition of Delhi Children's Times. Sheru also made a drawing depicting his struggle with police for some space that he requires to live and to earn livelihood.

EXPOSURE VISITS



National History Museum

On 8th July 2009, 20 children from Jama Masjid contact point visited the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH).

Dr. Jaya Srivastava, Research Associate, NHNM welcomed our children and took them to the discovery center where Mr. Vikas Rana, Guide, Division of Educational Services, NHNM gave an introduction to the museum. Thereafter, children were taken to study centre where they were taught to make different kinds of masks. The children really enjoyed this activity and then moved to the auditorium where they were shown a documentary on the life of the elephants in the forests. Besides, children visited 4 galleries viz. Introduction to Natural History, Nature's Network- An Introduction to Ecology, Conservation and Cell- The Basic Unit of Life.

The children were amazed to see the things on display in the museum. Things were so well presented and appeared realistic that children felt presence of life in the objects around them. NMNH also made arrangements for refreshments for the children and accompanying adults. At the end, postures and books were given to the children. The children shared that they have visited many places earlier but this was probably their best tour. They were very happy for the hospitality and guidance provided to them at NHNM.

National Rail Museum

HSBC Bank, which is a corporate partner of Butterflies, organized a visit of children to the National Rail Museum located in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi on 11th July 2009. Thirty nine children from Fatehpuri night shelter and Kashmere Gate contact point were taken for the visit. The HSBC employees along with Butterflies staff explained to the children about the various objects on display and about the evolution of Indian Railways. The children were shown many replicas of trains from the old times to the new generation.



The best moment for the children during the visit was the Train Ride in the museum. The children were given whistles to blow during the ride. So it was really so much fun for the children as well as for the accompanying adults. The HSBC team also organized snacks and lunch for the children and accompanying adults, which were liked by all.

The HSBC team collected a good quantity of educational materials for children associated with Butterflies in various contact points. They were given to Butterflies staff at the end of the visit.