

E-newsletter, June 2009

# STREET PROJECT

**JUNE 2009 AT A GLANCE**



*Playing to win....*



## NIGHT OUTREACH

Continuing its efforts to reach out to the most vulnerable children, Butterflies carried out fortnightly night outreach called Night Out on 12<sup>th</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The night out teams covered old Delhi and south Delhi contact areas and interacted with children, parents, employers, police and the communities around. The children were motivated to attend education classes and were informed of night shelters and about Childline. In few areas many children were involved in substance use, i.e. sniffing glue/ solution. We conducted experiments using thermacol, candles, fluids etc. which helped children to understand the effect of the substances on the human body. Besides, various emergency cases were also dealt by the night out teams.

### *Breaking the shackles!*



26<sup>th</sup> June 2009, a night out team helped a 14 years old boy who was handcuffed by police in a police station. The police personnel on duty informed that the child was stealing a bicycle from the railway station therefore he is being kept like this. The police official was asked to relieve the child from the chains. The police official was initially reluctant to do so but he was told by the Butterflies staff that keeping a child like this is a serious offence. Hearing this, the police official opened up the lock and released the child from the shackles.

The child reported that he was trying to steal the bicycle because he didn't have money to buy food. He said that a man promised him to give money in lieu of the bicycle. He shared that he is originally from Bihar and came to Delhi 2-3 days ago with someone. However, he was lost at old Delhi railway station and then came to Nizamudin railway station. The child informed that he was beaten by the police officials and wanted to go home.

After a long tussle, the police officers relented and brought food for the child, made the DD entry and took the child for the medical check up. At 1:15 AM the child was dropped at our resilience centre.

Police believed him to be a thief... but, was he really a thief? Or a child in need of care and protection...



## CASES DEALT IN THE FIELD

### *Easy suspects of Police*

This month we have dealt with 4 cases in which the children were suspects of police. While dealing with these cases we realized that street and working children are easy suspects of police and this makes them vulnerable to police harassment. However, with timely intervention the children were saved from injustice and guided to join our education programme.

## CULTURAL EVENING

This month we organized cultural evening at India Gate on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Around 120 children attended the cultural evening. Three contact points performed in the comedy round of the theatre competition and boys from the catering school won hands down, with a play on the hilarious after effects of eating unclean food. We had a visitor from Comic Relief, Ms. Himaya, who gave away some of the winning prizes later on.



*Theatre performances by children during cultural evening at India Gate*

## TRAINING WORKSHOP IN HANDLING VIDEO CAMERA

Four children from Fatehpuri night shelter participated in a follow up training organized by Butterflies on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009 for children in handling video camera. The key task before the children during these two days was learning the editing process, selecting scenes that they would like to keep and also deliberating on the future story that they would like to make. The next step is learning addition of voice over so that the film is completed.



## CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING



On request of UNODC our children performed an act called '*Doctor Hathodey Wala*' outside PVR cinema at Vasant Vihar and Connaught Place on 26<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009 respectively to mark the occasion of *International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*, which is 26<sup>th</sup> June. The play focused on ill effects of substance and delivered the message 'Say No to Drugs'. The shows created a good public gathering, which included few street and working children.

*Children's Theatre Show in front of PVR Priya, Vasant Vihar Cinema*

## RADIO TRAINING WORKSHOP



Butterflies organized a half day radio training workshop at ISI on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The focus during this workshop was on using the recording instruments and interviews. The session stressed on preparations before an interview, what all to keep in mind, etc. and also had a guest session taken by a radio artist, Mr. Gopal. He stressed on the importance of research before any interview, importance of education for being a good recordist, and gave the children tips for self – confidence/ practice. He also gave feedback to children on voice modulation etc.

*Guest session during the radio workshop*



## HEALTH COOPERATIVE WORKSHOPS

This month we conducted health cooperative workshops at Okhla Mandi and NZRS on 'Adolescent growth and development'. The discussion focused on physical growth and development with onset of puberty with special emphasis on need to avoid bad habits such as smoking, sexual acts etc. and also touched on the issue of child marriage w.r.t both girls and boys in Okhla Mandi. Besides, the educators at Chandani Chonk, Jama Masjid and Nizamudin Dargah conducted health cooperative workshops on 'Personal Hygiene'.

## ENSURING CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

The monthly Big Bal Sabha was organized at Fatehpuri night shelter on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in which 34 children participated from all contact areas. Mehfoos from Fatehpuri and Amzad from Kashmere Gate were selected as Convener and Secretary respectively. Various issues were discussed among children for finding possible solutions. The issues addressed in the meeting included police harassment faced by our children, request for frequent small picnics and regular visits of sports teacher. Besides, a session on rights and responsibilities of children was conducted by Mr. K.K. Tripathy, Coordinator- Alliance Building, Butterflies. The children were asked to discuss their responsibilities against their rights. To facilitate the activity open ended question were asked like how can you lead a healthy life, how can you assure that your environment is clean etc. The session was liked very much by the children and the best part was that the children themselves highlighted their responsibilities than adults telling them the same.



*Big Bal Sabha in operation*



*Discussion on Rights and Responsibilities*



## SPORTS DAY

Sports day for the month of June was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009 at India Gate. The postponement was due to the hot weather and it was a half day affair. The children were engaged in games viz. 100m race, 3-legged race, sack race, cricket, football, and a sports quiz. The winners were given prizes in the end in the presence of special guests.



*Children during sack race*



*Prize Distribution*

## ACTIVITY CENTRE AT NZRS

Butterflies has started a new Activity Centre near to platform 7 in the Nizamuddin Railway Station area. This activity centre will focus on the following:

- a. Restoration of children to their families
- b. Counselling
- c. Education including life skills
- d. Activities including sports and exposure visits for dealing with substance use



## EXPOSURE VISITS FOR CHILDREN

### *Theater show 'Chal Door Mere Mun (the journey of butterflies)'*

- ➔ Our children witnessed a play called 'Chal Door Mere Mun (the journey of butterflies)' performed by children. The theater show was organized by Mandal at India Habitat Centre (Stein Auditorium) on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009. It focused on issues of environment, pollution, human greed and delivered a message that honesty pays back and we should never give up if we know that we are right. The children enjoyed watching the act as it was well executed. The concept was also appreciated by our children and they promised to be honest in life.

### *Visit to National Science Museum*

- ➔ Children from Dragah, NZRS and Sadar Bazaar contact points were taken to National Science Museum on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Children from Chandani Chok contact point also went to National Science Museum on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The children were very happy and excited to see the magical games. They enjoyed the 3D show at the Museum. Overall, it was a learning experience for children with lot of fun.

## DISCUSSIONS ON CHILD BEGGING

A meeting was convened by Butterflies on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) to discuss the issue of child begging in Delhi. After discussion, the gathering had decided to conduct few focused group discussions (FGDs) on child begging. In this regard, FGDs were conducted with children involved in begging by Butterflies, Salaam Baalak Trust and Bal Sahyog. In total, 115 children including 90 boys and 25 girls were involved in the FGDs on child begging. This month we analyzed the information collected through FGDs.

The analysis shows that most children in begging are staying with families and are migrants. From the findings, we infer that all children in begging are into it due to their destitution. In this milieu, it is important to design interventions focusing on the rehabilitation of the families. Family support centres for these poor families need to be established in the city and rehabilitation plans should include employment opportunities in the villages. The role of agencies like the police, CWC, NGOs and Social Welfare Department need to be defined while planning the rehabilitation of these children 'in need of care and protection'. Adequate measures must be taken to ensure that such children or poor families are not subject to abuse or harassment by anyone. Instead, it should be a collective effort to provide a better future to these 'distressed people'.



## ADVOCACY EFFORTS

### *Framing of Foster Care Rules*

Mr. Zaved, Coordinator- Street Project and Ms. Ravinder Kaur, Program Officer- Street Project attended meetings with regard to framing of foster care rules under Delhi JJ rules. Our representatives discussed the draft foster care rules developed by Dept. of Women and Child Development (WCD) in the meeting called by QIC & AC on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Further, a meeting on the draft rules was held in the office of the Director, (WCD) on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009. Butterflies recommendations were put forth in the meeting.

### *Training cum Interaction Session on Dealing with Juveniles*

Mr. Zaved, Coordinator- Street Project participated in a Training Cum Interaction Session on Dealing with Juveniles held at the Crime Against Women Cell (CAW) Vasant Vihar on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009. It was meant to educate the policemen, especially the juvenile welfare officers, readers, duty officers and DD writers on the JJ system and setting up of SJPU. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Chhaya Sharma, DCP South District. Presentations on the subject were made by Haq- Centre for Child Rights, Chetna and Ms. Bharti Sharma, former Chairperson of CWC. Butterflies also represented the Childline service. Other participants included persons from PCI and Railway Children.

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