



Development of Slums (AVTM)

Project Goal: To enhance the quality of life and obtain satisfaction standard of living through Health, Education Livelihood services for Slum Dwellers .

Project Overview:

To uplift the health status, education and socio- economic condition of the slums, ABC with support from AVTM has taken an initiative to develop the slum areas, which are situated nearby to Howrah city at Tikiapara Banjara Baste and the Belgachia Bhagar Baste since 2009.

Project Objectives:

- To provide supplementary education to the school going and dropout children.
- To provide nutritious food to the malnourished children.
- To provide free medical advice from General Physician.
- To provide free medical services.
- To provide immunization concept to the mothers.
- To provide vocational training to the adult women.
- To provide livelihood support to the slum dwellers for income generating activities.



Education Programme:

In most countries, school education has become almost a basic need for getting a job or being accepted by society. In many cases like, slum people, marginalized labour, low income groups and farming communities, however 'book learning' still is much less important than the skills children learn through helping their families with daily work.

In some slum areas; therefore it may be a mistake to think, "Every child needs a school". For the child who is differentially vulnerable, school may be a frustrating and unrewarding experience. The child may be happier and learn more skills for meeting life's needs by helping father in their work, or mother in the house keeping, than by going to school.



Major Activities:

- Addressing the felt need of the community in education of children the project personnel have enrolled a significant number of children in their education centre functioning in two slums. A total number of 380 children are enrolled and learn in regular basis. Of which 173 students including 81 girls and 92 boys are studied in Tikiapara Centre and the rest 207 students including 97 girls and 110 boys studied in Belgachia Bhagar Bastee Centre.



- Our centre is not the optimum place of education for the children of any community, as that has no authentication or approval from our state government. It is only be a care centre for education help or to promote the children in the affiliated school form where they get their higher education with authenticated certificate. Keeping in mind the issue our project personnel have built a very good networking with government schools to the adjacent areas and admitted our 44 students during the period following the coming session commenced on January 2014.



- The project personnel, teachers and other stakeholders and the children of both centres celebrated the auspicious days like Rabindranath Tagore's birthday on 8th May, Independence Day on 15th August and Republic Day on 26th January with great joy and gaiety.



- According to Hindu mythology Goddess Saraswati is the presiding deity of knowledge, music and all other arts. Most of the educational and cultural institution and in many homes the puja is organized in a grandiose manner. On 4th February 2014, we celebrated Saraswati Puja in our both centres. From early morning the children are busy in getting themselves ready by wearing saree, pajama Panjabi, arranging puja materials to pray homage to the goddess Saraswati. The students of the centre observed the day with great joy and enthused.
- Raksha Bandhan is celebrated with great joy where girl child tie a knot in their brothers' hand to symbolize the sister's love and prayers for the brother's well being and the brothers lifelong vow to protect her. The children and the staff members enjoyed the day by tying rakhi (thread as a symbol of love) to strengthen the bondage between each other.

Total number of students attending the coaching = 380

Tikiapara Banjhara Baste			Belgachia Bhagar Baste		
Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
81	92	173	97	110	207

Class wise distribution of the students in the centre

Sl.No.	Name of the centre	Pre Primary	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Class VII	Total
01	Tikiapara Banjhara Baste	48	39	32	20	18	13	03	00	173
02.	Belgachia Bhagar Baste	57	54	39	26	17	11	02	01	207
Total		105	93	71	46	35	24	05	01	380



● Exposure Visit To Alipore Zoo In Kolkata

Exposure visit is an imperative part of the project in which the team gets an opportunity to observe and learn that exploring and thought provocation activities from unique one. Zoo is a place of charisma for children where different animals and birds are kept. It is unquestionably source of uncomplicated learning to the rear section of people comes from baste (slum) areas. Considering these aspects the unit 'Development of Slums' has taken a new initiative for learners of Banjara Baste at Tikiapara and consecutively at Bhagar baste (literally meaning Big damp garbage). On 7th January 2014 a team of 70 members of which 62 Primary and Upper Primary students at the age group of 6-12 years joins this trip with their teachers. First, the learners saw various types of birds of which a few of them are new in the zoo. Then went ahead to see the peacocks and so on. They fully enjoyed five hours by discovering a dreamland and playing racket, taking lunch together in the zoo satisfied them otherwise. They came back with full bags of joy and excitement in their dimness existence.



- All work and no play make Jack a dull boy is an old axiom. Sports and games play an important role in the development of human being qualities. It is just eco-friendly hub for fulfillment of basics needs like fresh water and food habits. On 17 January 2014 we organized Annual Sports for the children of Banjara Baste, Tikiapara and Bhagar Baste, Belgachia. The programme began with flag hoisting and uttered national song. Students firstly took part in the race competition and one after the others like Long jump, Musical chair, Cap wearing, Ball passing, Skipping and Pot bursting with a great eagerness to get position in those events. A staged was adorned with flowers and leaves. Parents were more curious to see the abilities of their wards. The Prizes distributed among the competitors, who stood first, second and third position respectively in each event.



- Inauguration of Children's Park at Belgachia Bhagar Baste - On the eve of India's 67th Independence Day, Asha Bhavan Centre dedicated a Children's Park for the unfortunate children of Bhagar Baste, Belgachia, Howrah. The founder cum Secretary of Asha Bhavan Centre Smt. Sukeshi Barui cut the ribbon and opens the park for the children. It has been privileged to be associated with AVTM, France. The unit Development of Slums project of Asha Bhavan Centre has been rendering yeoman services for under privileged children and their parents. It is the gathering places for families and social groups with the children.
A day long programme was notable in the Inauguration and dedication of the children park, planting trees and Cultural events like dances, sings, nice speech of dignitaries come from government departments, linking voluntary sectors, community key influencers etc. and leads to educational and livelihood support to twenty-one poor slum dwellers.



Project Impacts:

- At the onset of project we found that most of the children are used to play cards with monetary linkages, which is illegal according to Indian penal court but the scenario is gradually change. The children are now interested to attend education class.
- Initially the students were not like to attend the class in time but now they maintain punctuality.
- The teachers were irritated in their class activities in previous but now they gain disciplined habit.
- The constant awareness and individual counselling changes the interest of parents by admits their children in education centre rather earning for their livelihood support.
- The parents realized the bad effect of inconsistency in education class and put less importance to their frequent out station.
- Students drop out rate was also diminishing in that period.



Health Programme:

Through General Physician we provided medical advice and medicine to the slum dwellers for their common treatment of illness like (water and vector borne diseases, STIs, skin diseases and cough and cold diseases).



- Immunizations, a critical component of global efforts to reduce childhood illness and infant death. They are among the most successful and cost effective of all public health interventions, with the strong potential to reduce the burden of morbidity and mortality, particularly for children under 5 years of age. So, during that period 50 children are being immunized.
- Though we have limited scope to serve the patients in our centre based programme. So we always try to provide more and more services to the slum dwellers by providing them referral services through community Intervention programme.

No. of patient attended the clinic

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	Male	Female	Total
01	Tikiapara Banjhara Baste	369	1054	1423
02	Belgachia Bhagar Baste	1076	2161	3237
Total		1445	3215	4660



Sl.No.	Name of the referral cases	Name of the centre		Total
		Tikiapara Banjhara Baste	Belgachia Bhagar Baste	
01	Medicine of Out Patient Department	10	19	29
02	ENT	05	37	42
03	Eye	09	29	38
04	Pediatric	15	33	48
05	STI	01	12	13
06	Guyenne	07	22	29
07	ISD	05	10	15
08	Immunization	04	46	50
09	Orthopedic	09	17	26
10	Delivery	02	17	19
11	Hospital and others	25	54	79
12	DOTS	00	09	09
13	SOPD	01	02	03
14	Dental	01	02	03
15	Neuro	-	01	01
TOTAL		94	310	404

Nutrition Programme.

In India due to poverty many people are unable to get balanced diet and nutritious food for proper development of their children. So, through nutrition programme we provided nutritious food to 80 malnourished children from both slums in that period. The table shows the details .



Sl.No.	Category	Tikiapara Banjhara Bastee	Belgachia Bhagar Bastee
01.	A	06	13
02	B	10	22
03.	C	07	17
04.	D	02	03
	Total	25	55



Livelihood Support Programme:

We provided Livelihood support through various types of assistance to 20 poorest of the poor overage girls, women and their families to make them economically independent to be a contributory member of the family and to uphold self-confidence in the society. Through those supports we provided educational kits to 5 learners, musical instruments to 2 learners for earning money with their own talent, tailoring machine to 5 apprentices for livelihoods sustain and we also provide direct financial support to 8 persons for renovating and restoring their shall business.

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	Support provided		
		Students	Girls & women	Unemployed youth
01.	Tikiapara Banjhara Baste	02	03	00
02	Belgachia Bhagar Baste	03	04	08
	Total	05	07	08



- Adolescent girls and women are undergoing Vocational Training for income generation to support their own livelihood. Out of them 6 women are able to work independently. Initially, the production of vocational training unit is pushed sale within their community. Latter on they planned to market it nearby big cloth market at Burrabazar, Kolkata.

Sl.No.	Place	Name of trade	No. of Women
01	Tikiapara Banjhara Baste	Tailoring	14
02.	Belgachia Bhagar Baste	Tailoring	17
Total			31



Other Initiatives:

- Net working and advocacy with other community development partners for smooth running of the programme.
- Electrification of the centre with the help of community Key Influencers (CKI's) is also a special drive during the period for air and light.
- The team identified eight Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the community. Of which two women were referred to Home for Mentally ill women and rest of them asked to communicate with Community Based Rehabilitation Programme and Dominique Lapierre Home for Children with Disabilities for better tomorrow.

