

SARD, Oxfam India and MCD join hands to work towards developing and demonstrating an inclusive education and health services model in selected slums of Delhi

- ~ 600 children in 20 MCD schools will have direct benefit of increased learning (reading-writing) levels (from base line) through remedial centres in each school~
- ~ 5000 children will benefit in education through interactive education modules and in health through hygiene camp for prevention, treatment and referral support ~
- ~ Health camps/ Mela will be organised in close coordination with MCD/ NRHM at Zonal level to raise awareness about health for 2500 urban poor families in the selected zone ~

New Delhi, July 26th 2010, Monday: Oxfam India in association with Society for All Round Development (SARD) today announced its partnership with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to work together for developing and demonstrating an inclusive education and health services model in selected slums of Delhi. The partnership was announced by the Hon'ble Mayor, Delhi - Mr. Prithvi Raj Sawhney, at an event held at the India International Centre Annexe. Mr. Sudhir Bhatnagar, CEO, SARD, Ms. Nisha Agrawal, CEO, Oxfam India and Dr. (Mrs) Premlata Kataria, Director (Education), MCD also addressed the audience at the ceremony.

Appreciating the efforts of Oxfam India and SARD, Mr. Prithvi Raj Sawhney, Hon'ble Mayor, Delhi said, "I am thankful to Oxfam India and SARD that they invited me for the program. SARD in collaboration with Education department of MCD is doing good work and now Oxfam India is also supporting SARD and MCD to start a new programme in 20 schools to demonstrate inclusive education and health services model in selected slums of Delhi".

"These days children need technical skills and innovative techniques to keep the pace with competitive environment and this new program will help teachers and students to improve the quality of education", added the Mayor.

Expressing her support to MCD, Ms. Nisha Agrawal, CEO, Oxfam India said, "India is aspiring for a model of inclusive growth and development in the coming years. But growth can only be inclusive if it provides equal opportunities to all, and especially to the poor and marginalized groups, to participate in it. But the lagging groups cannot participate if they do not have access to quality education and healthcare.

Proposed action plan for inclusive growth in education and health:

- Trained teacher will help 1800 children for improved learning through creative teaching
- The School development plans will be made by children, parents and school staff collectively and as per the RTE Act (minimum 75% parents with 50% women representation)
- Tools for identification of learning ability, issues related to infrastructure, teacher student ratio, class room processes, teaching methodology including inclusive education at large would be available through a creative process which then would be used for a wider audience.
- 2 health camps/ Mela will be organised in close coordination with MCD/ NRHM at Zonal level to raise awareness about health for 2500 urban poor families in the selected zone.
- 15000 children will get direct support through health and hygiene camp for prevention, treatment and referral support
- 30 service providers (ANM/ Asha and local service providers) will be capacitated on the issues related to RCH, correct case-management and appropriate referral approaches in close coordination with IPP-VIII project of MCD/ NRHM

Oxfam India, she said, is very pleased with its partnership with the MCD and SARD to be able to provide a model for access to quality education and healthcare in the MCD schools. "We hope that this model will be successful and that MCD will look into the possibility of replicating it in all MCD schools so that all children of Delhi in the future can participate in and contribute to India's successful development," she added.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sudhir Bhatnagar, CEO, SARD, "The initiative will utilize a participatory approach, not only through formation and strengthening of children's and community groups, but also through establishment of strong community-school and health linkages. Long-term sustainability will be maintained through capacity building of the teachers, administrators, School Management Committee (SMC) and the local CBOs who not only oversee the implementation of the plans, but also form a crucial link to monitor the quality. The project is also aiming to develop Children forum in each school and also seek community ownership through different health intervention in the community".

The project aims at holistic growth of select 25,000 to 30,000 most marginalized communities in Delhi and the NCR. Oxfam India and SARD would together develop a model of convergence to learn, scale up and be replicated by other agencies in future. The programme would conduct a base line survey to identify 20 most needy schools where the initiatives would be implemented first.

About Oxfam India:

Oxfam India is a newly created Indian non-governmental organization integrating the 60-year-old India operations of 6 separate International Oxfam affiliates working in the country. It came into being on 1 September, 2008 with an Indian staff and an Indian board.

It is a member of Oxfam International, which is a global confederation of 14 Oxfams (Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Netherlands, Quebec, Spain, and the US). Three new Oxfams are currently forming including India, Japan and Italy.

The Oxfams are rights-based organizations that fight poverty and injustice by linking grassroots programming (through partner NGOs) to local, national and global advocacy and policy-making. All of Oxfam's work is framed by our commitment to five broad rights-based aims: the right to a sustainable livelihood, the right to basic social services, the right to life and security, the right to be heard and the right to equality: gender and diversity.

Oxfam India's vision is to create a more equal, just, and sustainable world. The overarching vision of Oxfam India is "right to life with dignity for all". Oxfam India will fulfill its vision by empowering the poor and marginalized to demand their rights, engaging the non poor to become active and supportive citizens, advocating for an effective and accountable state and making markets work for poor and marginalized people.

About SARD:

SARD is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower the deprived section of society, especially women through the promotion of education, healthcare, skill development and sustainable economic activities.

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