



The project 'STRIPE (Street Intervention for the Protection and Education)' is a joint initiative of CHETNA and Toybox and is being implemented in the districts of Delhi - West Delhi and North West Delhi. This project is a three-year-long project, started in December 2021 with the target to work in 10 communities of West Delhi. Through interventions in the areas of education and protection, the project aims to support 560 street-connected children (ages 8-15 years) in West and North West Delhi in improving their well-being through education and nutrition, increasing the level of protection, and realizing their potential by learning long-term life skills and leadership skills.

Currently, we are working in 10 vulnerable communities of West and North West Delhi with 628 (M-320, F-308) children. During the surveys, the Chetna team has identified many children who never attended school due to various reasons e.g., financial crisis, frequent seasonal migration from city to village and vice versa, lack of awareness, lack of interest in education, and ill-treatment by teachers in schools. In the last two years, the Covid pandemic has had a severe impact on the employment and education sector. The labour population were forced to leave the cities and moved to their native states. This massive migration due to Covid has a terrible impact on the education of labour class children. During the survey, it was identified that the children who were enrolled in schools earlier were dismissed from the school because they didn't have proper resources like android phones, and laptops to continue their classes through the online mode of education. Many children were forced to work to support their families and education. During the door-to-door survey, it was found

that 31% of children are engaged in various types of work like rag picking, colouring the straps of slippers, working on the corn cart, making decorations items, begging at traffic lights etc. before joining the project and the rest of the children stay at home to take care of their younger siblings, do household chores or help with the housework with their

The project provides non-formal and alternative education through the establishment of the Education Recreation Center, Education Contact Club, and Protection contact club, the aim of establishing these centres is to provide education with the proper infrastructure and adequate facilities. The key activities undertaken to achieve the outcomes and goal of the project are home visits, outreach, leadership training for children, training on laws related to children with parents, life skill workshops, provision of one-time hot cook meals, thematic exposure visits, health camps, interface between children and police

PROJECT AT A GLANCE (JAN TO JUNE 2022)

- Directly working in 10 slum settlements (located near railway tracks or vulnerable roadside slums) in West and North West Delhi.
- Cumulatively 628 (M-320, F-308)children benefitted through the project.
- 187 (M-87, F-100)children enrolled in a government school.
- 89children supported with their Aadhar card.
- 567 Stakeholders (parents, community members, government officials, schools etc) reach out.

Dear friends,

we are happy to share that the project STRIPE has been successfully launched with support from Toybox Charity. We present to you this first biannual edition announcing the progress of the initiative, and seek your support for the protection and education of streetconnected children in West and North West Delhi.

Editorial team

Pooja Singh, Manisha, Sanjay Gupta, Tulsi, Nisha etc.

SELF-DEFENCE TRAINING PROGRAMME ING ST

During Delhi Police Week, in association with the Special Police Unit for Women and Children, we organized a 10-day self-defence training camp in which more than 200 girls learned various techniques of self-defence. Each session of one and a half hours included knowledge of basic skills as well as skills of basic attack and defence techniques. Supervised by team members of the Special Police Unit for Women and Children (Delhi Police), the girls were taught techniques like punch attacks, fist attacks, fingertips attacks, elbow attacks, palm attacks, blocks, etc. at the basic level. The objective of organizing this training was to make sure that the girls become

self-dependent and confident enough for their ownsafety. Chetna is working through different projects in the most vulnerable slum areas of different cities where the crimes like eve teasing, stealing, and murder are considered very normal, the children every day heard stories of such crimes, and in such scenarios providing self-defence training, will boost the confidence of girls that they can tackle the situation in a trained manner. On the last day of the session, the children were awarded certificates by the Delhi Police for their participation in the valuable workshop.

14-year-old Shabeena shared her experience of attending a self-defence workshop, she



stated "Whenever I roam around with my friend circle the group of boys often pass abusive comments. e.g., How much will it cost to spend one night? But we were unable to respond because it suddenly came as a shock for all of us. There are plenty of incidents with us like that. But after attending the selfdefence training, I have this confidence in myself that from now onwards if any

such incident happens again, I will be able to revert back to them with much more bravery."

In order to create awareness about the safety of the girls, special focus is regularly given to sports & physical activities to teach basic selfdefence techniques to train them and to tackle reallife situations and protect themselves from anti-social elements.

Ms Antim, one of the trainers of self-defence workshops said "We often organize these workshops in schools, but I realize that it is equally, if not more, important for these girls to take the training. This was a unique experience for us. We wish them a safe and empowered future.

CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS GET THEIR AADHAR CARD, SUPER EXCITED TO GO TO SCHOOL

80 per cent of children living on the streets don't have any form of identification and that the biggest barrier terms of accessing their rights and services. Schools refuse admission to these children. Health services too are denied to them because they don't have identity proof. These children's families migrate to cities in search of work and employment, but due to low earnings on daily wages, these families either live in slums on unauthorized land or live in temporary shelters along railway tracks etc. These families do not have any fixed address proof of the city as they keep changing their shelter, due to which they have to face many problems in getting the Aadhar card of their children. When children go to school for admission, they are asked to show their Aadhar card but children do not have an Aadhar card and even if some children have an Aadhar card then their native place address is mentioned on them. Due to this, they are not able to get admission to the school.CHETNA NGO is currently working in about 10 vulnerable slums in West Delhi and North West Delhi for the empowerment and welfare of street



working children. When the **CHETNA** team member took the children to the school to get the children enrolled in the school, the teacher told them that it is very important for the children to have an Aadhaar card with Delhi address, if the child does not have the Aadhaar card of Delhi, then there is a problem in opening the bank account and completing rest of the formalities of the admission.

We got all the information about making the Aadhar card for the children as well as prepared the documents of the children and took them to the MLA (Member of legislative assembly) office and shared that children live on rent on a temporary basis or their families put up a

temporary shelter made of tarpaulin aur tin and in this situation, they don't have any proper address proof so we need the help of MLA so that the documents of the children can be made. In the MLA's office, we were told that their family should have the electricity bill of Delhi toensure the specific areas where these families live. But it was extremely difficult for the parents of the children to have the electricity bill because the landlord of the rooms where they liveflatly refused to give the electricity bill for the documentation work to the children. In such a situation, team member took the electricity bill after talking to the landlord and got it signed by him and went to the MLA office

children and parents were taken to the post office and got the children's Aadhar cards made. Even in the post office, initially, they were not ready to make Aadhar card for these children and used to say that come with the birth certificate of the children, then only Aadhar card will be made, but from where do these children show their birth certificate, even to get the birth certificate, the children would have needed a document which they even do not have. On the persuasion of team members and support from parents and children, more than 89 children got their aadhar card. Now, these children are very happy to go to school.

According to 13-year-old

Jyoti, "I wanted to go to school but I don't have an Aadhar card and due to lack of knowledge and information, my family could not get me enrolled into the school. I used to study in the village but my family come to Delhi for the operation of my father. Chetna team member helped me in school enrollment admission, now I go to school every day" Aadhaar is the best mechanism to link the children from vulnerable and street situations to the existing government schemes and provide them. This provision will ensure children come under a protective mechanism of services and are no longer victims of violence in any form.

INNOVATIVE INCLUSIONS IN REMEDIAL CLASSES

To promote extracurricular activities as well as studies among children, we have declared every Saturday as "No Bag" day and now every Saturday children do various activities like Art & Crafts, Sports, Drawing, Dance, G.K, quizzes etc. Through such activities, children also don't feel monotonous in their everyday schedule because for the rest of the 5 days they only study subjects which are Math, English, General knowledge, Science and Hindi etc. Children retain better at education club when they are involved in games activities.

EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTER: - BRIDGING THE GAP

To cater to various aspects of childhood and provide an encouraging learning environment where children from the community can come together and get support, guidance and mentoring, we opened an ERC centre. It is a platform and shared space to foster learning. The project team decorated the entire centre with some excellent and colourful learning material which creates the curiosity of learning in children. The centre provides regular supportive classes, nutrition, and recreational and playing opportunities to children who come from vulnerable communities. The pedagogy and teaching techniques used by ERC facilitators are innovative and incorporate hands-on learning. Various tools and techniques have been devised by using the "local knowledge body" so that children are able to relate to and understand concepts. Emphasis is placed on child learning and exploring the subject knowledge through storytelling, flashcards, teaching-learning material etc. so that the children enjoy the process of learning, relate with the acquired knowledge and move forward with the quest to "explore the unexplored horizon of knowledge". In a day more than 80 children come in batches for non-formal education and remedial classes.

HELPING CHILDREN TO SHAPE THEIR FUTURE

Street children are often unable to get enrol in formal education due to a lack of legal identification, permanent address or guardian, lack of support at home, or child labour whilst others who have spent years on the streets are not permitted back in with younger students and struggle to catch up with those their own age.

and got their stamp and the

For many street children who are driven to the streets poverty, attending schooling takes time away from income-generating activities. We are working closely with children, communities parents, and schools to sensitize, counseland encourage them to participate in child's education and support them with obstacles they may face in sending the school.

period the of project doorto-door survey across 23 communities we have found that was found that 51.25% of children never attended school and 48.74 % of children who were earlier enrolled in school but dropped out. We have conducted non-formal education classes and imparted education to the beneficiaries to prepare them for formal school admission.

Apart from this, every Saturday we conduct various extracurricular like drawing, activities sports, yoga, painting, quiz, dance etc. for the children. A total of 187 (M-87, F-100) children from different locations of the project have been enrolled in the mainstream school in the span of two (April and

During the inception May 2022 starting of the riod the of project doornew academic year).

13 years old Aastha shared that "I studied till Class V in my village school in Bihar. After shifting to Delhi, my studies were hampered and I worked as a maid in a house. However, I feel great that I am back in school after a gap of a few years".

More than just interest, for 12-year-old Raju, education is a key to a better future. "Before I started going to school, I used to chop wood to help my family financially. I got injuries many times doing this. Cutting wood is tough work because if we are not careful, we end up getting injuries, said Raju now a class VI student. He shared that he likes to go to school and mix up with other kids of his age"

CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL STREET RIGHT TO PARTICIPA

Street talk: to enhance participation children's and to provide them with a platform to express their needs and views to practitioners and dutybearers, a Street Talk organized on international street children's Day and On International Children's Day (12 April 2022). Street children live in difficult circumstances and seldom get any opportunities speak about their situation, their glory, and their wishes in public. Balaknama- a newspaper for and by street children was visualized in 2002 by Childhood Enhancement



and through Training Action (CHETNA) with an objective to ensure the participation of the most vulnerable children and continues as a successful

endeavour to raise the

concerns of street children. In its latest innovation, we initiated Street Talkan annual event that provides a platform for street-connected children and youth to narrate their journeys of surviving on the streets. Loaded with struggles, emotions, perseverance, and life-turning sometimes, opportunities, these stories enable the public to understand the scuffles of these children. The Street talk was witnessed by over 400 people in a jam-packed auditorium in Delhi. The event observed the presence of various

as the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights, school principals District and Child Protection Units, Childline etc. "From this Talk, I see that a lot of children are deprived of school admission due to a lack of Adhar cards but technically it is not mandatory and any child has the right to seek admission in school without the same. I congratulate the children for their courage and wish them all the best," said Nidhi, a Member of DCPCR. "The stories of children on the streets are very heart-warming and I want all children here to know that the DCPU is there to help them on any issue of care and protection that they need," said District Child Protection Officer. Children spoke roughly for 6-7 minutes each, followed by a round of questionfeedback, answers, suggestions and motivation to children. Some children were asked to exhibit the skills/talents/hobbies that they had talked about in

HOLIKE RANG SHIKSHA KE SANG

As a part of the Holi celebrations, we initiated a campaign "Holi ke Rang Shiksha ke Sang" to provide education material kits to streetconnected children in collaboration with Delhi Police. More than 180 children from STRIPE PROJECT received bags, drawing books, stationery, and a set of crayons. The children also got a chance to express their thoughts and feelings on paper, as they together with CHETNA team members made a drawing with colours and images depicting what Holi means to them. The main goal of this campaign is to provide quality education and celebrate the Holi festival with the children. The campaign successfully implemented in the presence of the police. We succeeded spreading joy on the face of children that the festival of colours is known for. The police personnel also shared their helpline no. 112 or 100 and also assured all the children if they need any help from the Police they don't hesitate.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Delhi: How these street kids overcame the writing on the wall



daily wager father to sustain us. So, I had to start working with my mother as a domestic help. For a long time, I had no idea about the world beyond this. I saw the children of the houses I worked in wearing uniforms

ng bags and getting their lunch boxes packed. It was only when a CHETNA centre opened in my neighbourhood that started my own journey to get educated."

Sangeeta, 16, now aims to become a chartered accountant, but she could never entertain such an ambition when she wa ourdened with household chores. "I had to work after my older sisters got married and she despaired of being stuck in this cycle," said the teenager. Then I met a CHETNA volunteer and began going for classes. Initially my parents w nd me to school but the volunteers convinced them. At a residential workshop organised by the NGO, I learnt that we hav

PARI'S FINANCIAL SITUATION DOESN'T AMPEN HER SPIRIT OF GOING 1

government officials such

Pari is a 12-year-old girl, her family is native to Begusarai district of Bihar, her father is a farmer and her mother is mentally retarded and one day she left the home and did not come back till today and even after searching a lot she could not be found anywhere. Her family consists of a 17-year-old elder sister and three younger brothers. Her father got re-married and settled in a separate house, and abandoned his children like an orphan. Pari's maternal grandmother started taking care of her grandchildren, Pari used to study in sixth grade in her village, but she left school due to a lack of money for books and stationery.

After some time, her grandmother's maternal health started deteriorating because of old age and couldn't do farming work

with them, then she told her grandchildren, to start searching for work then Pari along with her elder sister moved to Delhi in search of employment and started living in a rented room in a slum with the help of a one of her relative from her village.

Her elder sister works in a footwear factory from 9 am to 9 pm to make a living. They have to pay rent from her salary and send money to the village for the study of their younger brother, due to which both the sisters are struggling financially.

Pari brings water for drinking and for household chores after waking up in the morning, cooks' food for herself and for her elder sister, and packs food for her sister, after her sister goes to work, she does all the household work like



washing clothes, dishes, mopping etc.

After doing all the work of the houseshe does the home-based work of painting the footwear straps on the railway tracks, she works for Rs 50 to 70 rupees throughout the day, then prepares dinner for herself and for her elder

sister in the evening, and after she arrives, both eat together.

their narration.

Pari did not have school admission due to a lack of information and not having the necessary documents for school admission in Delhi. School rejected her admission because she did not have Delhi address proof, identity card and guardian. During the survey in the cold winter of January, the Chetna team member met Pari, at that time Pari was busy painting the straps of the slippers. Chetna team member counselled Pari to study at the centre and gradually Pari also worked very hard in studies along with work and started coming daily to study at the centre. Being a good orator, Pari got the opportunity to perform and give speeches in various programs. Along

with this, the Chetna team along with Pari's sister was also engaged in getting Pari's Aadhar card made so that she could be enrolled in the school as soon as possible. In the absence of her parents, Pari had to face many difficulties in school admission and getting an Aadhar card. Elder sister also being a minor, her signature not being accepted on Pari's school admission or other documents even if she wanted to. After several days of running around the government offices, Pari's Aadhar card was issued.Pari was admitted to the 7th class but due to a paucity of money, she could not buy a school uniform. Chetna organization gifted Pari a new school dress so that she could go to school daily and make her dreams come true.



CHILD-FRIENDLY POLICEINTERFACE

Giving exposure to police station visits to children is one of the most effective activities, street children often come in contact with the police due to spending most of their time on the streets and in such a situation when a child-friendly interface was organized between the authorities. The children confidently shared their point with the authorities and in return, the police assured full cooperation and took the children to visit the entire police station. During this child-friendly interface children shared their concerns related to safety, the children often feel threatened because the other children in their communities are involved in bad habits like drug addiction, stealing, and robbery. Children are living in such areas where they often hear the news of crimes like murder, kidnapping, eve teasing etc. due to which they live in constant fear and insecurities. During this interface, police personnel educated the children about the process of filing a complaint and various helpline numbers like 181,1098,1091 etc. More than 300 children benefited and visited Punjabi Bagh, Keshavpuram etc. police stations of West Delhi



SENSITIZING PARENTS THROUGH PARENT MEETING & TRAINING

Parents play a vital role in the lives of children. Their importance is essential in all the activities and decisions that children take in their lives. The project specifically targets children and every person, stakeholders and otherfactors which might influence the children whether in a positive or negative manner have also been targeted in this project. The parents of the child have played a vital role in the physical and mental development of the child. Therefore, Chetna team members organize meetings with the parents of our beneficiaries' children. The objective of organizing such meetings with the parents is to raise awareness and educate them about the role of education in the

development of children. In these meetings the Chetna team members inform the parents about the school admission procedure and guide them to arrange the documents which are requiredforschooladmission like Aadhar card, vaccination card, affidavit etc. regularly send children to the remedial classes of Chetna. For the successful implementation of a project, it is important to build a relationship with the parents and also know their feedback regarding the project, problems that they face in their daily lives etc. Considering the advantages of building rapport with parent parent's monthly meeting activity was conducted across 10 locations and reached out to more than 380 parents.

PROVIDING NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO CHILDREN

serious malnutrition case in India with the World Bank' estimating of 60 million children in India, are underweight. Hunger is an obstacle to a child's health, education and survival.We are focusing on providing a hot cook meal to eliminate hunger and attract more children (enrolment) to schools and ensure to keep them in school (reduce dropout rate) by feeding them a filling, nutritious one-time day meal, every day.We run 10 centres in West and North West Delhi toencourage childrento attend school and remedial classes more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities. This wholesome meal is often the only source of nutrition for the whole day for many of the beneficiaries. Thus, to ensure that every child is benefited through this one meal, we provide nutritious meals that suit the local palate as well. For example,



we have lentils and rice, roti and seasonal vegetables curry, Rajma rice, Chole puri, veg pulao etc. More than 500 children benefit from this support in a day which opens the gates of school and education for children, boosts their health with adequate nutrition and supports regular school and ensures completion of education.Children and the community are very happy to receive the Hot Cook Meal as many parents leave home very early in the morning for work and many children do not get

enough food during the day because either the children do not know how to cook and or the food cooked in the morning gets rotten by the day in summer. In such a situation, getting a one-time meal from the organization helps them a lot.13-year-old Sunita (name changed) says that I can't even remember when was the last time I had three meals in a day because my family have food only 2 times due to a lack of resources and money. But since I started coming to the centre, I have my day's meal here and study."

TO LEARN NEW THINGS IN LIFE ONE MUST GAIN EXPOSURE

While interacting with streets-connected these children during the surveys and other project-related work it was discovered that the maximum number of children has migrated from different states or have moved to cities from villages after the Covid pandemic. In this project of STRIPE, the children enrolled in the remedial classes of Chetna centres are involved in multiple activities.

We always promoteinchildren in volving multidimensional activities which will aid these children in the overall development of academics and creativity. Therefore, in the duration from January to June 2022, we have organized 5 exposure visits in this project period and a total of more than 300 children's educational exposure through visits to places like the National Science Center, Bharat Darshan Park, National Railway Museumetc. in such places children learnt



about the visual education in which whatever they have heard or have seen somewhere in books, now they are able to see and explore it. The purpose of organizing this educational exposure visit is to be aware of the diversity of education such visits broaden their perspective towards their goals.During the exposure visit, children were provided with new colourful printed t-shirts along with nutritious Throughout food. the visiting time, we discussed mostly about

the methods and use of effective and participatory teaching techniques and materials for children's overall development. A team of experts demonstrated various scientific experiments before the children. According to children, this type of exposure visit is very important for getting knowledge and implementing same in their daily studies at centres and schools. All the participants were very much satisfied with this educational exposure visit.

BUILDING A LADDER TO A HEALTHIER SOCIETY: HEALTH CAMPS FOR STREET CHILDREN

Health Camps are one such special initiative of ours to provide healthcare services to meet the immediate healthcare needs of marginalized communities in urban slums through standalone camps. Customized health camps are organized extensively across communities offering comprehensive services curative, preventive, promotive and referral, to the children in selected intervention areas.We have been assisting hundreds of street children with medical health camps and providing them with health and hygiene kits. During the camps, doctors



(MBBS) conduct nutritional status monitoring, routine deworming, and health check-ups in order to diagnose medical cases and provide appropriate and individualized medical management through the provision of vitamin and mineral supplementation

medicines, wound care etc. Children were provided with dry nutrition and basic hygiene kits during the camp. The children described the event as very fruitful saying that they have suffered from illnesses and lacked medical care because they do not have money.Munna, one



of the street children said that "He has had chest pain for almost a year and hopes that this event can help him identify the problem and

give him treatment." Like Munna, about 400 children participated in the health camp and benefited from the treatment.

BADHTE KADAM LEADERS UNITE AT LEADERS' TRAINING TO DISCUSS THEIR ISSUES

The voices of children are often ignored and unheard by society and when it comes to street-connected children as their voices are often subjugated and oppressed. To ensure that children's issues and concerns are addressed and their voices are heard, we conducted Bahdte Kadam Leaders Training every quarter under the leadership and guidance of Badhte Kadam senior leaders. Badhte Kadam is a federation of over 15,000 street and working children in North India, mentored by CHETNA. Functioning since 2002, the federation advocates for the rights of children by building peer support group systems. Each targeted location



of the project consists of two leaders (girl and boy). Various issues were shared by children in the meeting, such as lack of water at their place of living, lack of safety for girls, improper behaviour of the passersby for children begging at traffic signals and improper

disposal of garbage near their place of living, children facing problem to get their aadhar card etc. As some of these leaders were newly appointed, they were initially oriented with the strategies of Badhte Kadam and were given tips for capacity building by the

existing leaders. The team of Badhte Kadam deliberated on these issues and decided to highlight them in public through Balaknama. The meetings provide a platform for the children to indulge in peer learning and develop problem-solving decision-making skills. Their problems are heard carefully and then resolutions are put forward. It has been discussed with all the children to carefully listen to the news and share it with the reporter and maintain the privacy of the children/issue whose news has been shared by the children with the Balaknama reporter. More than 40 children participated in this training.

STRENGTHENING THE INTERVENTION THROUGH ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING MEETINGS

Meeting with different stakeholders and conducting visits strengthen our interventions and address the issues and concerns of street children. During this period, we have conducted meetings with parents; teachers, and reputed authorities from DCPCR, DCPU, CWC, police department, MLA, and Councilor to discuss some pristine issues of children regarding their studies and identity.

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY: CREATING AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE

Ontheoccasion of Menstrual Hygiene Day, we conducted a workshop for the girls to raise awareness of menstrual hygiene management. The session focused on imparting knowledge on breaking the taboos and ending the stigma surrounding menstruation and raising awareness about the challenges regarding access to menstrual products, education about menstruation and period-

friendly sanitation facilities. More than 150 girls benefited from the sessions across the targeted slum areas. All the children who took part in the session are from an age group of (10 - 14). The session was divided into three categories-

- Protection: Educate girls about the protection from deadly diseases caused by unhygienic practices.
- Well-Being: by educating the girls about the health-

friendly sanitation facilities. More than 150 girls benefited from the sessions across the targeted slum areas. All the related precautions which need to be taken care of by them during the menstrual cycle.

• Empowerment: by destigmatizing the patriarchal and conservative ideology towards menstrual health and hygiene.

After the session and demonstration, the girls were very happy to get new information about menstruation and also

about the napkin usage and dispenser, which give them privacy to use the napkins as per their needs, and they don't have to ask anyone for assistance.

This was the first in a series of sessions, which willfocus on gradually including more children, both male and female to ensure a more sustainable and inclusive environment for acknowledging the Right to Menstrual Health.

ENSURING CHILD-LED PARTICIPATION

Child participation is one of the core principles that we follow in our work. Taking into consideration children's wishes and making their voices heard is the best way to establish a respectful connection. It is a great pleasure to share that the children have named "Mera Basta" an alternative name for the project (STRIPE).

'All pictures have been taken with consent from children'.