



Kadam | The **STEP** Programme



Bridging the Gap for Out-of-School Children A Case Study from Mansarovar Park

Background

Located on the eastern fringes of the national capital, Mansarovar Park is a small suburb in the Shahdara region. A vast slum dominates its sprawling landscape as one approaches the elevated metro station in the area.

About 1,500 people – a substantial majority of whom are children – inhabit this slum at the Mansarovar Park metro station. Most of the slum residents are migrants from Uttar Pradesh who are either unemployed or work as daily wage laborers, who cannot afford even basic necessities of life.

Humana People to People India (HPPI) has been working with this community since 2010, when it started operating the Homeless Resource Centre under Delhi Government's Mission Convergence initiative, and in the same year was engaged by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board to manage the night shelter in the area.

After a year of working with the community, a survey was conducted which highlighted an immediate need for educational intervention for the overwhelming majority of children living in the

area. With this objective, HPPI launched its Non-formal Education (NFE) programme in 2011.

While at night the shelter accommodated the homeless from the surrounding areas, in the morning, HPPI-trained teachers and volunteers started conducting remedial and bridge classes for children living in the surrounding slums.

The programme received special impetus in April 2014 when HPPI signed an agreement with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA), Delhi, to support the initiative.

Following the agreement, the voluntary initiative was recognized as Special Training Centres for Out-of-school children (OOSC) at the night shelter. The NFE Programme became a part of the much more comprehensive mainstreaming programme of HPPI: **KADAM - The Step up Programme**.

Since the launch of HPPI's education intervention at the centre in 2011, over 100 children residing in Mansarovar Park slums have been mainstreamed in nearby schools.

After attending HPPI's KADAM centre for a year, 8-year-old Sana was recently mainstreamed into a formal Government school as a 4th grade student. "My dream of getting good education is now turning into a reality. One year at the centre has taught me a lot and now I can go to a proper school just like everyone else. I'll grow up to be a doctor. It's a very noble profession"



Migration and Basic Education

- With nearly 1.8 million slum dwellers, Delhi is second only to the Greater Mumbai area in terms of the slum population amongst the Million Plus Cities in the country
- Nearly 80 % children of school-going age living at worksites in Delhi and other cities across India do not have access to education
- Migrant children who accompany parents to work further face the risk of injury, illness and exploitation
- Lack of formal residency rights, lack of identity documents, and inadequate housing are but some of the roadblocks faced by migrant children in achieving formal education
- Migrant children need a customised curriculum and pedagogical approach to suit their socio-economic profile
- Educational interventions need to effectively address the health, hygiene and nutrition needs of migrant children and children from slums

“There are several challenges in teaching children in this setting. Yet, there is no better feeling than watching our students wear a school uniform every morning and head to their schools”

Yogita, HPPI Teacher



About KADAM – The Step up Programme

KADAM - *The Step up Programme* is designed to provide a holistic learning and mainstreaming framework for Out of School Children (OOSC) by gradually building their competencies and social skills in a structured manner, and enrolling them in formal schools.

The multifaceted approach of the programme starts with mobilising identified OOSC in a particular area and nurturing the development of foundation skills (educational, social and personal skills) during the course of the programme, till they are comfortably placed in a

formal school, in age-appropriate grades.

The Programme is an action initiative formulated with the following objectives:

- To provide accelerated learning through an engaging process with suitable teaching learning materials
- To plug the learning deficit up to grade 5
- To build quality life foundations and catapult children into the mainstream education at an age-appropriate level

The Learning Model

KADAM - *The Step up Programme* is a year long programme, blending formal learning and skill based experiences suitable for a varied age group and learning levels within the same classroom.

- It is a blend of cognitive development through subject based competencies and social development through skill building
- To address both the domains, the programme has been designed as an amalgamation of 10 Steps and Theme Learning
- One academic year comprises of 2 steps, and includes NCERT-defined learning competencies
- Each centre comprises 30 students and one teacher in a Multi Grade Multi Level learning setup, employing engaging methods and TLMs



- A system of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) is in-built in the programme for competency assessment of the students
- The programme promotes goal setting and self-navigation by the students, with the teacher acting a guide through the course of the programme

Starting from the homeless shelter in Mansarovar Park, Delhi, the programme has received wide acceptance in the surrounding NCR and today operates in 100 centres across Haryana, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh.

The way ahead

HPPI envisions collaboration with the Government of Delhi and other private partners in achieving the goal of making quality education accessible to all the children of the state. To fulfill this vision, HPPI seeks to expand KADAM – *The Step up Programme* across all the districts of the state. HPPI already has an extended presence in Delhi, implementing various development projects in 7 districts of the State.

Over the next 3 years timeline, HPPI's KADAM – *The Step up Programme* aims to enroll and mainstream 30,000 OOSC into formal Government Schools, primarily in the districts of NCR and in the city-state of Delhi. The primary areas planned to be covered are urban slums and similar pockets in rural areas which have a high concentration of OOSC. Based on initial surveys and the demographic profile of the proposed project regions, the OOSC are primarily estimated to belong to low-income families that are socio-economically marginalized.



About HPPI

Humana People to People India (HPPI) is a development organisation registered as a not-for-profit company under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 since 21st May 1998. It is a non-political, non-religious body that works as part of civil society, to strengthen the capacities for cooperation within underprivileged groups.

Actively working with the members of the local community, the organization's focus is to address issues on education, child health, financial inclusion, women empowerment, sustainable livelihoods and mitigating climate change. To counter these core developmental issues, all projects are woven around five major lines of interventions, which consist of Education, Livelihood and Community Development, Health including HIV/AIDS, Environment and Microfinance.



Humana People to People India

111/9-Z, Kishangarh, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

Telephone & Fax: 011-47462222

E-mail: info@humana-india.org Website: www.humana-india.org