



CFD

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Vision

A society that is just, peaceful and humane, and develops in a sustainable and equitable manner

Mission

Centre for Development strives to work with the oppressed, exploited and deprived communities, inculcate values of equality, justice and fraternity and empower them through mobilization, education and advocacy networking.

Background

Centre for Development (CfD) was established in 1996, to address the issue of child labour in the poorer areas of Ahmedabad city. It took sustained efforts of CfD to get these children back to school. This process deepened its understanding - there were no easy solutions to child labour; it is intricately linked to urban poverty, displacement and violence.

For years, the poor in Gujarat have been reeling under the impact of recurring communal violence, unemployment and impoverishment, and the continuous eviction and displacement of slum dwellers in urban areas.

For CfD, it has been a long journey that began with formal education for urban poor children culminating in the engagement with rights issues of vulnerable groups. The ambit of our work thus expanded to work with women, youth, and other critical stakeholders on issues like human rights, violence against women, peace and communal harmony through the formation of two community-based organizations.

Goal

CfD's goal is to work with vulnerable and marginalised groups of the community in urban and rural Gujarat and empower them holistically.

The strategies adopted are:

1. Initiate Education Centres for children to teach/coach and protect them.
2. Enable women and youth to secure sustainable livelihood options.
3. Organize the women to counter gender-based violence socially and legally.
4. Meaningful mutual engagements of youth from different religions for a common good and lasting peace and harmony.
5. Community-led advocacy for basic human amenities and entitlements for welfare and development - focused on food security, shelter, and the right to education.

These holistic efforts are aimed at providing a safe and conducive environment for the groups to challenge and work around their vulnerabilities, thereby empowering themselves and creating their own identity in the society.

Areas of Operation

CfD operates in 10 slum areas of Ahmedabad city and 221 villages of Ahmedabad, Jamnagar, Patan, Mehsana, Bharuch and Junagadh Districts.

Special Focus on the most vulnerable

CfD ensures that the special priority is being given to the most vulnerable sections of the communities. CfD ensures participation of deserted women, victims of violence, widows, orphan, destitute children, senior citizen and disabled in all its programmes. Adolescent girls, who are at risk in urban areas, are also at high priority for CfD. CfD provides life skill education, programmes for personal growth and various kinds of personal and vocational counselling for them. Total 580 girls were provided life skill education from urban areas of Ahmedabad City.

PROGRAMS :

1. The Kadam Education Program

CfD conceived and initiated 8 Education Centres (ECs) in the urban settlements as an interim strategy to provide a crucial service of education. These are transient arrangements for labouring children to get educated till such time that the advocacy efforts by the community leaders results in the establishment of a school in these colonies.



Ecs are characterised by a joyful learning pedagogy but follow the mainstream curriculum. They have prevented the children from becoming child labour and have triggered off demands from the community for Aanganwadis and public schools in the area.

2890 children have gone through the ECs since 1996 and over 4200 children have been enrolled in local schools.

Along with providing education CfD felt that it is also very important to involve the community to monitor and participate in increase the quality of education. Right to Education Act (RTE), is used by CfD to enhance participation and quality of education. In 80 villages model School Management Committees (SMCs), were formed and activated in collaboration with Sarva Siksha



Abhiyan (SSA). Adopted concept of BaLA in 80 Anganwadis and developed them as child-friendly space by provide inputs to Anganwadi workers.

Sponsorship for education and health are being provided to 228 orphan children under One-to-One Child Support Project. 10 children has been supported for their 10th and 12th board exams.

117 children including their family provided health files.



2. Peace, Justice and Reconciliation

CfD has learned and proved that peace and reconciliation are possible. It effectively countered the politics of hatred at the micro-level with a message of peace and respect for diversity. All its efforts for peace building have upheld the basic premise that there can be no peace without justice.

By maintaining a mix of children from all religion in the ECs, CfD has been able to break the longstanding segregation along communal lines. Concerted efforts are made to bring these communities together through peace education modules that extend from the ECs to the youth and the broader community. The main principle is constant mutual engagement and a pursuit of common interests.

The youth engages in the pursuit of knowledge through 10 Knowledge Building Centres (KBCs) which are the hub of mutual engagement and awareness building. The KBCs provide excellent reading material at the local hang-outs of the youth, organize discussions, documentary film viewing, lectures by eminent persons on contemporary issues, joint campaigns for civic amenities and efforts to access government schemes – all contributing to their knowledge and intellectual development to the formation of a new generation of youth that is re-discovering the essence of secular living and respect for diversity. Under VV (Vikas ma Vanchito - marginalized in development) project CfD attempting to strengthening voices, sensitizing voices and connecting voices of all stakeholders necessary for the holistic development of society. This project is visualized for the excluded groups living in minority irrespective of caste and creed. Various capacity building training and study circle helped building perspective community representatives.



3. Kruti - livelihoods and vocational training

A “livelihood” is defined as one’s “means of support or subsistence” or the activities that economically support a person and his/her family. We are focused on providing opportunities for the working poor (in various occupations) to increase their income-generating capacity.



CfD has successfully trained over 2300 youth from deprived communities in urban and rural areas in the following trades: (i) Cloth File Making (ii) mobile-TV-DVD repairing (iii) Office Assistant with basic computer literacy (iv) Driving (LMV) (v) Sewing and stitching garments (vi) Electrical and electronics appliance repairing (vii) Hand embroidery (viii) Tractor repairing (ix) Airconditioner and refrigerator repairing (x) Motor rewinding and armature repairing with the support of Functional Vocational Training and Research

Society, BOSCH India Foundation (CSR fund), Save the Children (Bal Raksha Bharat) and Ockenden International.

A new model was adopted to link all trainees with livelihood options. This time we have not started own lab or workshop, but we hired professional workshops and manufacturing units and placed our trainees. Trainees were called to a common centre for two days a month for theory class. The theory was taught by a professional technical person from the same place where they were placed. This way they got practical and theoretical knowledge easily and systematically. In the year 2014-2015 from 162 trainees, 109 have got jobs or started their own venture.

4. Community – led Advocacy



CfD adopts a community-based approach to bring change in the life of the displaced communities by enabling them to demand their citizenship rights. Advocacy efforts are steered by two CBOs supported by CfD viz. the Ahmedabad Shaheri Yuva Manch (ASYUM platform of urban youth) and Ekta Nari Sangathan (ENS - Women's Unity Organization). ASYUM engages in inter-community dialogue and in collective action on issues pertaining

to rights and entitlements while ENS has developed as a strong women's organization that takes leadership on demands like basic amenities, dignified rehabilitation and violence against women.

Collective community and other organization's efforts through Awas Adhikari Zumbesh, to highlight the abysmal conditions of the colonies have received significant media attention. The municipal authorities have taken note and have taken steps such as establishing a fair price shop for food grains, more water taps in the colony and a mobile health services van which comes periodically to these colonies.

The lasting impact of CfD's effort has been in terms of building of local capacities and strong people's institutions. The priority issue taken up for advocacy by both these CBOs is the establishment of ICDS Aanganwadis and schools in the vicinity of these colonies, and also in the rehabilitation sites that the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) are building for these displaced families. One school and two Anganwadi centres in Ganesh Nagar, Piplaj (transit colony of IDPs) have been started by AMC.



5. Child Rights and Child Protection



CfD has embarked on a unique program of engaging with the state authorities to improve the implementation of child-centric welfare program like the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and to enhance the quality of education in rural schools. CfD has brought together the community leaders, women's collectives and children's groups to improve the functioning of the ICDS centres which has had significant improvement in

the ICDS services and school functioning in 80 villages and 10 urban pockets of Ahmedabad.

This is a pioneering program for raising awareness on child rights and child protection. The rural communities actively participated in high visibility campaigns for the elimination of child labour and protection of children from violence and abuse. Child Protection Committees (CPCs) have been formed in villages and urban areas, which are vigilant about child abuse and child labour.

The Children's Groups (CGs) organized by CfD have regular interactions with Education Committees and the local elected leaders, wherein the children present the problems they face in day to day life.

Linkages with DCPU (District Child Protection Unit) under CLPRA and Childline has developed strongly to address the issues of child abuse and labour. Common events were organized to build awareness on child rights and protection mechanism.



Workshop and training on life skill to adolescent girls were organized.

6. Research and study projects

CfD presence is Ahmedabad city and its knowledge about the area and their issues (social and political) made it part of some important socio-economic and development research and study projects conducted by TERI (New Delhi), Centre for Environment and Planning Technology (CEPT), SoulAce (New Delhi) and Human Development and Research Centre (Ahmedabad).





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