Program for Street & Working Children

Health Care

Medical Camp’s are conducted in three drop in center (DIC) (Red Fort-Mori Gate, Nizamuddin & New Seemapuri) by Dr Rajeev Seth, once every week for past 14 years. Senior pediatricians including Dr RN Srivastava & Dr Uma Agrawal also volunteer their time for these health camps. Since past year, children have shown better health. Health camp frequency has become once every month. Approx 30-40 children are assessed. Dr Seth is available round the clock to handle emergency calls if any.

Health check provides basic weight/Height assessment, check for anemia/nutritional deficiency, acute care/first aid, treatment of common infections such as viral fever, upper respiratory infection, skin infections (pyoderma), diarrhea, pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Sexually transmitted diseases/HIV/AIDS. Besides the children, people from the community also attend the clinic. Medicines are given free of cost.

Immunization: Every child is fully vaccinated free of cost against Diphtheria-Pertussis- Tetanus (DPT), DT, Hepatitis B, MMR, Typhoid vaccinations. Not even a single case of severe adverse reactions following vaccinations. Minor fever, aches are treated with paracetamol.

Nutrition

Program started in July 2012 (almost 3 years).

Street children, mainly rag pickers, child labourers, children engaged in menial tasks, work in eateries etc in Mori gate area of old Delhi. Every day 35-45 children in the PCI drop in center are served hot cooked food. Raw material are bought from local sabzi mandi, local grocery store, all bills/ receipts are kept every month. Cooking gas cylinders are also provided. A total of 1200 meals are served to children per month.

Field program manager Yawer Quiyam, Staff supervision Sandhya Mandal, Cook Sunita Sharma

Budget: Monthly expense of approx INR 2,000 per month. Cook is paid a salary of Rs 3000 per month; major donors are Dr Meera Prakash, Dr Shalini Bansal & Mr. RC Mody.

Vocational & Skill Development

BUDS strongly believes in building vocational and skill development for these groups of vulnerable children. Mr. RC Mody takes personal interest and supervision of children for their higher education. Case of Pintu Jha is a shining example of what we can together achieve! Pintu is about to graduate from Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA) program, IGNOU, New Delhi. BUDS exploring future vocational training options for Krishna & Lokesh, who have graduated from class 12 after Pintu

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Orphan & Vulnerable children program

Children day celebration, DMA Hall, November 14, 2014

BUDS co-organized a very successful Children’s day celebrations on Thursday, November 14, 2015, at Indian Medical Association Hall, Daryaganj, New Delhi from 11 to 4pm, along with IAP Delhi & Indian Child Abuse Neglect & Child Labor (ICANCL) group, Delhi Medical Association (DMA) and our NGO partners PCI, India. This program has become an annual event on children day every year. Children’s Day was an opportunity, to show our pediatric fraternity hearts, to support child welfare and children’s rights to participation, as stated in the UN Child Rights Convention (1989) and endorsed by Government of India (1992).

The event raised the self esteem of more than 200 under-served children, who participated in the event. The orphan and vulnerable children got an opportunity to express themselves through a painting competition and a grand cultural program, full of fun, songs, dances and a play, as per enclosed program. All children were given warm winter cloths and awards. The children were served hot cooked lunch on arrival and refreshments at the end of the event. Please find enclosed few photographs of the function.

The following IAP Delhi members took part in the Children’s day function: Dr Rajeev Seth, Dr Uma Agrawal, Dr RN Srivastava and Dr JS Bhasin. Dr KK Aggarwal, Hony Secretary, IMA was the Guest of Honor and addressed, motivated and blessed the children.

BUDS office bearers have no words to thank our members for their support to the children day celebration: a day of joy, freedom and to engage in fun!

Shelter home for Orphan and vulnerable Children

BUDS professionals have been providing health care, education and rehabilitation support to more than 340 orphan and vulnerable Children at Shelter home, Village Bhango, Mewat, Haryana since 2005. At the moment 20 children
are staying at this shelter home managed by a NGO PCI India, on a land donated specifically for their rehabilitation. PCI India has recently decided to close the shelter home. PCI India has obtained permission from Director General, Women & Child Development, Panchkula, Haryana to transfer these children to Deepalaya Shelter home in Mewat by March 31, 2015. Deepalaya has itself expressed concern that the Government is transferring these children against their will, without any funding or written communication with them. The children have never been consulted by CWC. Children have stated that they shall run away or commit suicide if they are transferred against their will. Some of the children are of the view that PCI India is keen to transfer them out of the shelter home so that they can sell the land at huge profits, which was donated for their rehabilitation. This move to forcibly shift the children shall disrupt their right to education and cause undue emotional and mental hardships.

BUDS approach the Chair of Child Welfare Committee, Ms Mahmudhi, but have been told that CWC has no options, but transfer these children by March end. The children have sent an appeal letter addressed to the Chair of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), District Mewat Haryana and Country director, PCI India to stop this transfer, but to no avail. Children have specially stated in their letter to CWC that their rights to education (RTE) and health care are being violated. Many children are shall be appearing in class 12 board examination in the coming year and their studies shall be disrupted.

BUDS approached its partners Indian Child Abuse Neglect & Child Labour (ICANCL) group against this gross violation of Child Rights and forcible eviction of Orphan and vulnerable Children from Shelter home. Mr. Asheem Srivastav Member Secretary, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, & Mr. VS Oberoi, Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, New Delhi has been approached to stop this transfer. BUDS is strongly against this gross violation of child rights to education and health of these orphan and vulnerable children.
Project Grant submitted to Department of Biotechnology, Government of India

Indo-US R03 Project Title: Enhancing Health Care Access with Cellular Technology

Background & Rational

Despite the impressive economic progress in India, coverage for primary childhood vaccinations is abysmally low in urban “slum” communities. Vaccinations are not available to more than one third, and less than 40% of young children are fully vaccinated. In this proposal, we will evaluate a software platform in mother-infant units in urban-slum communities to improve uptake and coverage of primary childhood vaccinations in India. Our central hypothesis is that a web-based, biometric-linked vaccination record and timely vaccine reminders utilizing available cell-phone connectivity will provide robust and universal access of childhood vaccination records, efficiently connect target populations with vaccines, and cost-effectively increase primary childhood vaccination coverage. In this proposal, we will evaluate such a software platform in mother-infant units in urban-slum communities to improve uptake and coverage of primary childhood vaccinations in India.

Project Summary

Despite the impressive economic progress in India, coverage for primary childhood vaccinations is abysmally low in urban “slum” communities. Vaccinations are not available to more than one third, and less than 40% of young children are fully vaccinated. The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) as other national and international pediatric bodies, recommends a time sensitive schedule for childhood immunizations, boosting immunity with each subsequent cycle, leading to adequate levels of immune protection. However, a major concern is the progressive decline in subsequent immunizations (after the first round), largely attributable to poor follow-up and compliance. Due to inadequate protective immunity, resulting from poor vaccination compliance, outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases are rampant, making childhood mortality in this group among the highest in the world. Major challenges of vaccination programs include maintaining / tracking records, linked to positive identification of individual children, and efficiently connecting target populations with vaccines. Since urban-slums are “nests” inside sprawling cities, and cell-phone costs have decreased dramatically, there has been a rapid proliferation of cell-phone connectivity. Novel cellular technology based approaches for timely immunization reminder, can therefore significantly impact health outcomes in these communities.

Current Status: BUDS has applied for the project with department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. The US review committee has given a very high score to this project and promise to support, but the Indian side has been very slow to review and provide support. In the last 2-3 months, there has been some support and the DBT has asked for more information and BUDS banks details which have been supplied.

Dr Rajeev Seth        Dr Navin Khanna
President           Secretary
Bal Umang Drishya Sanstha (BUDS) is registered as an Indian Not for Profit Trust since 2003 (BUDS Registration no. 11686/4 of 2003.)

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