



# ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

## PROBLEMS FACED BY SLUM CHILDREN IN COMPLETING THEIR EDUCATION: CONTRIBUTION OF NGOS IN CREATING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THESE CHILDREN

Education

**KEY WORDS:** Non Governmental Organizations, Slum Children, Universalization of Elementary Education, Education and Right to Education, problem

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### ABSTRACT

A country's progress can only be measured through the level of education of its individuals. Every child comes to school belongs to a different socio economic background in India; especially those are living in a slum. Most of these children come from a very low economic background where they work for the food. Education seems to be a never achieving goal for these children. Non Governmental Organization are the only way to educate these children as these organization works on the grass root level. This study examines the problems faced by slum children in completing their education. It also studies the kind of program which NGOs run to educate these children. Two NGOs namely Chetnalaya and Prayas were selected from North West Delhi as sample. 20 students, 4 teachers and 4 coordinators were selected for data collection. Interviews and focused group discussion were used for the data collection process. Finding of the study reveals that NGOs working in the field of education of children are a great help to improve the national literacy. These NGOs interact directly with the families of the children and convince them to send their children to study at NGO centre. Flexible timing, facilities provided to children and regular communication with the family make the task of teaching children possible in these areas. This paper examines the problems which slum children face in completing their education and various programmes run by NGOs in this field which help slum children in this regard.

### INTRODUCTION

A country's progress can only be measured through the level of education of its individuals. Every child comes to school belongs to a different socio economic background in India; especially those are living in a slum. Education is very important for an individual's success in life. Education has a vital role in the personal and the social development of a human being. Education generally works as the foundation of society which brings economic wealth, social prosperity and political stability. In agreement with the Constitutional pledge to ensure free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 years, provision of universal elementary education has been working as a salient feature of national policy since independence. Universalisation of elementary education (UEE) in its totality is still an indefinable goal and much ground is yet to be covered. "Education for all" declares that everyone has a right to education. Its aim is to give everyone a chance to learn and benefit from basic education – not as an accident of circumstance, or as a privilege, but as a RIGHT. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 as well as Article 21-A, inserted in the Constitution of India through the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, became operational on 1st April 2010. Its implementation will directly benefit close to 10 million children who do not go to schools at present. The Non-Formal Education (NFE) scheme was initiated in 1979 for the children of 6-14 years of age, who remain outside the formal education system due to various reasons. NFE cater learning needs of working children and children in difficult circumstances. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been playing a major role in education of marginalized groups in developing countries since 1980s. They came out as alternative providers of education against the backdrop of the State's failure to provide relevant and quality education for economically and culturally disadvantaged groups. Non-Governmental organizations also work for economically and socially deprived, physically and mentally challenged; deals with all communities, urban and rural from every caste and creed and provide right to all. These are the nongovernmental educational organizations that have brought a vast sign of relief in the country. They provide quality education for slum children and other social services in India for the enhancement of nation in all respects. There are many slum education NGOs that are not only give education for slum children but also provide home to orphans. Chetanalaya is a nonprofit organization in Delhi and Haryana. Initiated in 1970 as humanitarian response to the plight of people in the resettlement colonies and slum clusters of Delhi as well as the backward villages of Haryana, Chetanalaya reaches to over a million people through multi pronged interventions. Jahangirpuri being the first and the oldest intervention area of Chetanalaya is inhabited by a community of poor rag-pickers for whom rag-picking is their only

source of livelihood. To ensure betterment of their lives and that of their children Chetanalaya has constantly been working for their upliftment. The Project aims at different target groups within the rag-picking community. Prayas is one of India's largest non-profit organizations. Its goal is to protect the rights of marginalized children, women and young people. PRAYAS (NGO) having a non political, non religious and non commercial character and is mainly engaged in imparting completely free education to the children from the families belonging to Economically Weaker Section and backward class of the society.

Education is essential to economic development, especially for poor people in developing countries. Although many more children enroll in school today than a decade ago, enrollment does not guarantee mastery of even the most basic skills. "Education for All" is still an uncompleted task, since approximately 17% of children aged 5 to 14 are still out of the school in 2004/05 (Government of India, 2006). Here our study focuses on slum children in Delhi who don't even get chance to enroll in school. As All India Survey of Out-of-School Children shows 15.21% children living in slums are out of school in Delhi. The Constitution Act, 2009 has made free and compulsory education for all children of the age 6-14 a fundamental right. The Government has a significant responsibility for the provision of elementary education to achieve the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE). NGO partnerships can be besides fruitful in moving towards this goal. The NGO experiences reveal that there is a strong latent demand for education even among the poorest communities, and that poverty as a causal factor for low educational participation can be overcome with a responsive education system. In a large developing country like India, there are numerous gaps left by the Government in the development process. Many NGOs try to fill these gaps in modern India. Certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide basic education for urban disadvantaged children, including children living in slums, child laborers etc. in various innovative ways (Chakravarty, 2002).

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the problems faced by Slum Children in completing their education
- To know the contribution of NGOs working in the area of slum in north west Delhi
- To study the problem that NGOs face in implementing their educational programs for Slum Children.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The researcher used secondary data from journals, books, website and documents to study the problems and areas of this study.