

Calcutta Plan of Action for Children

The National Core Group and West Bengal State Resource Group for Education of Deprived Urban Children (WBSRGEDUC)
INDIA

Short description of the programme

In 1993, the Government of West Bengal formulated a State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC), committing itself to goals of reducing infant and maternal mortality, increasing AIDS awareness, reducing malnutrition among children, ensuring universal access to safe water, universal enrolment, retention, minimum levels of learning, reduction of disparities and universalization of effective access to primary education, increasing adult literacy to 80% women's empowerment, protecting urban slum children and those in especially difficult circumstances and advocacy for children.

On the basis of the SPAC, the Calcutta Plan of Action for Children was drafted for Calcutta Municipal area. The Plan is built on two basic innovative components:

- a) Reaching out to the unreached and the under-served with the objective of fulfilling the basic needs of each city dweller.
- b) Focussing on women and children in order to ensure effective involvement.

Relying on these principles, the Plan has adopted a two-pronged approach as follows:

1. City-wide programmes (such as, Universal Primary Education, Polio Free Calcutta, Universal Immunisation Programme, etc.) are implemented with an aim to reach **all urban poor** through setting up city level systems.
2. Ward-level approaches are adopted (starting from the most disadvantaged wards) in order to elicit community participation, women's involvement, decentralized planning and monitoring, service mapping, reaching out to the poorest and most marginal groups.

The Calcutta Plan of Action for Children is a district level sub-unit of the West Bengal State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC). Following the pattern of the SPAC, the Calcutta Plan is a comprehensive implementation, monitoring and reference document for achieving child survival, development, protection and participation goals in the Calcutta Municipal Corporation area by the year 2000. It set medium-term goals, objectives and strategies for the period 1995-2000.

PARAMETERS

- **CHILD HEALTH**
Immunisation status, Incidence of blindness, Diarrhoea incidence rate, Deaths due to respiratory diseases, Incidence of measles, Pregnant mothers receiving antenatal care, Deliveries by TBAs, Effective couple protection rate, IMR, CMR, MMR
- **MOTHER HEALTH**

Antenatal coverage rate; TT immunisation rate; Maternal Mortality Rate; Age-specific Mortality (15 to 44 years); Age at marriage; Prevalence of PEM in girls

- **AIDS**
Percentage of children and women detected HIV positive and percent with full-blown AIDS; Percentage of population detected HIV positive and percentage with full-blown AIDS; Proportion of senior schools/colleges oriented on AIDS; Proportion of out of school youth, health workers and women's groups oriented about AIDS and its prevention; Percentage of hospitals with blood safety procedures in use; Contraceptive prevalence rate
- **NUTRITION**
Weight for age status of children; Percentage of children below six months exclusively breast-fed; Percentage of children 6-12 months receiving supplementary feeding; Nutritional survey/anthropometric survey along with Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Survey ; Percentage of children who receive more than four complementary feeds at the nine month measles contact, etc.
- **WATER SUPPLY**
Percentage of population with access to safe water; Percentage of slum population receiving a minimum supply of 70-100 lpcd of safe water
- **SANITATION**
No. existing household service latrines converted into sanitary latrines; No. of community sanitary latrines made available where individual latrines are not feasible; Coverage of sanitary latrines in institutional set-ups such as primary/secondary schools, anganwadi centres, etc.; Percentage of households served by door-to-door garbage collection system
- **EDUCATION**
Increase in enrolment rate (5-10 age group) with disparity reduction; Number and percentage of five-plus age children enrolled in Class I, especially girls; Number and percentage of disadvantaged children enrolled in primary schools; Number and percentage of children (3-5 age group) enrolled in pre-school projects; Number of classrooms and schools made available against projected demand (location-wise and year-wise); Number and percentage of Primary schools equipped with teaching/learning materials; Number and percentage of schools equipped with sports or arts facilities; Number and percentage of schools with drinking water or sanitation facilities; Number and percentage of teachers given in-service training, etc.
- **CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION** Number of street and destitute children receiving basic services; Number of street and destitute children receiving education
- **CHILD LABOUR**
Number of child workers being removed from hazardous occupations, prostitution

and begging; Number of child workers receiving education; Number of child workers gaining access to basic services; Number of child workers working according to child labour norms

- **DISABLED CHILDREN**

Number of disabled children receiving rehabilitation services through institutional or non-institutional care; Number of disabled children attaining primary education