

Update on Madanpur Khadar

This is an update about life in the area of Madanpur Khadar, as seen through the eyes of the children and families who live there. Madanpur Khadar is made up of various communities and the situation and the activities described are representative of the area as a whole.

Information on the various activities conducted in our area in the last year was gathered through participatory interactions with children and adults. Children also expressed their views through drawings, quotes, and comments.

Pre-school education

The pre-school centres are for the children aged 3-5 years are being prepared for formal schooling through fun learning methods. Pre school sessions were focused on improving the motor skills (coordination of mind and body), hand movement coordination, physical and mental development of the children. These helped about 230 children learn basic skills so that they could enter and adjust into the formal primary schooling without difficulty.



Playful learning in pre-school

Early childhood care and development

When we were told that we could also participate in child development, we couldn't believe it. We thought it was always the mother who was responsible for the development of our young siblings. But last year, we learned that we should also play with our younger siblings aged 3 years old or younger, as this help their mental, physical and social development. To make more families understand the importance of interaction, we had ten communicators in the area which continuously worked with families of about 500 children. The communicators explain to members of the families mainly the mother, father, grand parents and siblings the importance of proper nutrition, stimulating environment, love, affection and good health care for small children.



A library period in a primary school

"I really enjoy playing with my younger sibling and telling him stories. I wish I am a young child too." - Seema, 14 years old

Books for all

We love stories of adventure, fairy tales, magic stories and about super heroes. CASP-Plan has set up a library in our primary school and it has many interesting and colourful books. They also requested our School Principal to schedule a regular library period for students. Now, we have a library period every week during which we read books of our choice, sometimes individually and sometimes in groups. We are now also allowed to take home some books. The library is the best room for about 1,500 children in our school with colourful paintings and pictures.

"The library set up by CASP-Plan in our school has improved the attendance of children in school. They have become more regular and do not like to miss school especially on the day they have the library period." - Shamim Ahmad, a teacher of government primary school

Remedial coaching centres

There are some students who are attending schools but not able to perform well in class. With over 80 children in every class it is difficult for the teachers to attend to each student. Our parents who are not educated themselves are not also able to assist us in our lessons. CASP-Plan has supported remedial coaching classes for 270 students and this has helped the students understand better the subjects and perform better in exams. Students who were thinking of discontinuing their education are now motivated to continue up to higher grades.

Health initiatives

There has been extensive awareness raising with families, on the issues related to family planning, health, hygiene, child immunisation, HIV/AIDS and how to prevent common diseases. Sessions on gender issues and safe motherhoods have been very helpful and were attended by 312 children and 467 mothers.

“Since childhood I have had a hearing problem and I was not able to do well at school. But now I am very happy because I received hearing aid from the CASP-Plan centre. Since two years I have been coming to the centre. There are 32 physically challenged children studying in the centre. A speech therapist, special educator and physiotherapist help us. Eight children received hearing aids, two children received wheel chair and one child received calliper. I am doing well in my studies at school and I am taking part in all the games, drawing competitions and cultural programmes.” -Khushsboo, 11 years old, in 6th class



Children with special needs enjoy learning sessions at the centre.

Promoting children's rights



Children participating in awareness program

Effort is being given on children's participation and to ensure that children have a say in the decision making process. All programs for children are designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated with children's participation. Children developed materials like posters, stickers, community newspapers, pamphlet on different social issues. Through rallies, community meetings, street plays they improve people's awareness on child rights in their communities and schools. Last year, around 980 children participated in these activities.

Enhancing skills through vocational training

Vocational training was conducted to provide opportunities for the youth of our area to become skilled and get employed. Around 150 children came together and decided to take courses like computer, English language, mobile phone repair and beautician. Career guidance was also provided. As a result, many youths are now able to work with good wages and

contribute to the family income.

Priorities for next year

- Provide school teachers with some trainings that include training on how to use positive discipline instead of harsh punishments to discipline and teach children, and on how to stop physical violence on children in school
- Form children's health clubs and promote hygiene and cleanliness in schools
- Vocational skills training program for youths
- Campaigns to improve understanding of parents, teachers and other adults on children's rights
- Training for community volunteers on leadership and skills on communications, child care and reproductive and adolescent health care

This document was reviewed and edited by Plan staff.