

REPORT FOR THE MONTH  
OF  
July -December 2011



Submitted by:  
JOINT OPERATION FOR SOCIAL HELP (JOSH)  
[www.josh4india.org](http://www.josh4india.org), [josh4india@gmail.com](mailto:josh4india@gmail.com)

## **Report for the Month of July to June 2011**

During the month of July to December 2011 the following activities were done by JOSH:

### **1. Answer sheet campaign and Supreme Court Judgement:**

As part of the answer sheet campaign of JOSH, which began in 2006 and was run in all the universities and colleges of Delhi, JOSH had approached the Supreme Court in 2010 in the case of Pritam Roop Vs University of Calcutta. JOSH and Smt. Aruna Roy, filed for impleadment in this particular case, after which the Supreme Court agreed to allow the above mentioned to be party to the case.

The Supreme Court started hearing the case earlier this year, for which round the clock work was done by JOSH members to provide for necessary evidences for the case. Eminent advocate Shri. Colin Gonsalves from Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) appeared on behalf of JOSH and Smt. Aruna Roy. After a few hearings, the **Supreme Court on 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2011 passed a landmark judgement which allowed the access to evaluated answer sheets through RTI.**

### **2. Intervention involving urban poor youth:**

This program aims to work with urban poor youth of two resettlements colonies of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri to engage and capacity build them such that they can raise issues of their community.

#### **2. i. Youth Resource Center:**

The youth resource center forms a space for capacity building of young people from the slums and resettlement colonies of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri. There are regular classes held for English speaking for a batch of 90-100 students.



### **2. ii. Group Discussion:**

The activity of group discussion has been adopted as one of the regular activities. It takes place twice year month. During the group discussions students chose a topic of their interest or of current relevance discuss them. This exercise helps them to sharpen their skill of communication, comprehension and analytical reasoning.

### **2. iii. Capacity Building Trainings:**

Capacity building trainings on different thematic issues are undertaken for the students at the youth resource center. The idea is to capacity build them on different thematic and rights based issues. Different capacity building trainings were undertaken for the students of the youth resource center, which included workshops on right to information, right to education, career counseling session theatre workshop and others.

### **2.iv. Students Demand for Quality Education on Children's Day:**

Apart from regular classes and workshops, students of the youth resource center are encouraged and engaged in different advocacy activities.

On the occasion of Children's Day, more than 100 students studying in different government schools in Delhi demonstrated at the crossing of ITO and demanded

for delivery of quality education in their schools. This was organized by JOSH in collaboration with the Delhi Right to Education Forum.

Considering the dismal state of the government schools and the lack of will of the government to take any concrete step towards implementing the Right to Education Act in Delhi, the students celebrated the Children's Day by demanding for clean drinking water facility, cleaner toilets, table and chairs to sit, adequate teachers etc in the schools. They have also collected more than **4,000 signature on postcards addressed to the Chief Minister, Smt. Sheila Dixit**, requesting for formation of School Management Committees (SMC) in government schools, so that there is greater participation of parents and community in making the schools function better.



## 2.v. Rally on Christmas Day:

A rally on the occasion of Christmas was held where more than 100 youth living in the resettlement colonies and slums of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri participated. The youth participating in this rally went around the different blocks of the Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri, protesting against the decision of the Government of Delhi schools to ban entry of citizens' in the school as part of the inspection process ordered by the Central Information Commission.

The youth of the area who are mostly students of the schools of Government of Delhi, rallied around the area wearing santa caps and shouting slogans, distributing pamphlets and talking to people to create awareness on this order. The rally was led by a youth dressed as santa, who distributed sweets to children on the way, while the others followed holding placards and shouting slogans demanding better implementation of RTE.



## **2. vi. Outreach and Awareness Generation:**

Outreach and mobilization of the community form a crucial component of the work of JOSH in the slums and resettlement colonies of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri. The community is reached out by using various creative means, like setting up of information camps, rallies by students and youth of the community on the issue of RTE, and by holding street plays and songs on education and RTE.

All the mentioned activities were been undertaken by the team across the last six months or so, however, the community outreach was intensely held during the month of April, as people were not only made aware of the provisions of the RTE Act, but also mobilized for participating in the Public Hearing, held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. 2011.

Outreach campaigns would include the communication team of JOSH to visit different slums and blocks of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri, where they would perform a short street play, sign and shout out slogan related to RTE Act. After which the team would interact with the gathered community inform them about the different provisions and entitlements under the RTE Act and also informed them about the Public Hearing. Pamphlets and other related material would be distributed.

## **2. vii. Complaints Filing:**

One of the main outcomes of the outreach campaigns was that many aggrieved parents approach members of JOSH to assist them in filing and registering of their complaints against violations of the provisions of the RTE Act and also reported on different irregularities in the education system. The team would assist the parents to file the complaints and send them to the concerned official in the education department. Till the Public Hearing, a total of 809 complaints on different problems of delivery of quality education, were registered from the resettlement and slums of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri.



## **2. viii. Public Hearing on Right to Education Act, 2009:**

A full day Public Hearing on the violations of against the Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 was held on 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 in the resettlement colony of Trilokpuri in East Delhi in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). This was the first hearing of NCPCR in the Delhi and it saw the participation of more than 2000 people, which included members of the community as well as activists and members of different organizations and networks.

Around 30 cases were presented before a five member jury panel chaired by NCPCR chairperson Shantha Sinha. The panel included Farah Naqvi, member National Advisory Committee, Vinod Raina, President, BGVS, Yogesh Dubey, member NCPCR and Kiran Bhatta, National Coordinator, RTE Division, NCPCR.







The cases presented to the jury were chosen out of 809 complaints filed by JOSH from the community of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri area in East Delhi to the Department of Education. These cases were across seven different categories, which included,

1. Negligence of children by the school authorities causing severe injuries,
2. Corporal punishment,
3. Collection of fees/funds,
4. Denial of admissions/scholarships,
5. Quality of education and classroom transaction,
6. Infrastructure
7. Poor quality of mid day meal

As part of the hearing, all the different State functionaries, which included, Director of Education, Government of Delhi, Director of Education, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Chief Medical officer of Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital and Chief Executive Engineer of Delhi Jal Board were summoned for the hearing. Also Principals of all the 40 schools of the area were present. Apart from the officials who were summoned, the Deputy Commissioner (East), Mr. R.K. Misra and SDM of Preet Vihar subdivision were also present at the hearing.

## **2. ix. Camps for Admission under Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota:**



Several camps were held to assist the community on admissions in private schools under the EWS provision of the RTE Act. In these camps people were provided assistance in filling up forms and in acquiring the required documents for the same. Parents were also made aware of their rights under this provision as the per the RTE Act. A total of 13 dedicated camps were held during the month of December 2011 and January 2012. During the camps, more than 146 forms were filled of students applying under the EWS quota.



## 2. x. Aaina 2012- Community Theatre Festival:

As part of the initiative to creatively bridge the gap between different sections of the society and to create awareness of different issues JOSH organizes a community theatre festival – '*Aaina*' in the resettlement colonies of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri. This year Aaina 2012 was held on the **29<sup>th</sup> of January 2012** where theatre group from different colleges of University of Delhi and other professional groups perform.

This year theatre groups from Sri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), Kirori Mal College (KMC), and professional group named Aatish and Manzil performed and highlighted issues like Right to Education, police atrocities, corruption etc.

More than thousand of people from nearby community attended the event. Posters were developed and distributed among large numbers to invite and inform community of the event. Volunteers of JOSH supported and also performed in the event. Such efforts help in reaching out to the mass and also inform them different social issues.





## **2. xi. Formation of Information Disclosure Templates for Education:**

JOSH got an opportunity to be part of a National Task Force set up by **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**, the nodal body of Right to Information Act. As part of the task force, which has been mandated to examine the provision of proactive disclosure (Section 4 of the RTI Act) and provide recommendations for its effective implementation. Under this mandate, JOSH was involved in formulation of templates of information disclosure at different levels of the education system.

In the month of June, apart from working on the template, a meeting of different experts on education and Right to Information Act was organized by JOSH, to facilitate a discussion to formulate templates of information disclosure at the following levels;

- a) School
- b) Block/Cluster Level
- c) District Level
- d) State Level

The templates of information disclosure were presented to the National Task Force of DoPT by JOSH. All the templates of information disclosure for

education were accepted by DoPT and were incorporated as part of their recommendation to the Government of India.

**(Find enclosed copy of the information disclosure templates as Annexure I)**

## **2. xii. School Inspection Order by CIC:**

JOSH filed a complaint at the Central Information Commission (CIC), the nodal appellate body under the Right to Information Act (RTI Act) under Sec 4 of the RTI Act, in response to which the CIC passed a landmark order allowing inspection of all records and documents of the school by any citizen on the last working day of every month. This order was passed for both Government of Delhi Schools and for schools run by Municipal Corporation of Delhi. As per this order, any citizen would be allowed to inspect records/documents related to admission, attendance, mid day meal records, details of budget and expenditure, all other registers etc.

Based on this order, JOSH along with Delhi RTE Forum organized orientation trainings for organizations working on education in different parts of Delhi. During this training a plan to conduct a mass inspection of schools on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2011, across Delhi was drawn out. Formats were also developed such that consistent data collection can be done.

## **Capacity Building Training of Community Members on School Inspection:**

Capacity building training of community members on school inspection was conducted by JOSH. This was done such that the community members going into the schools effectively inspect the records and documents of the school. This exercise and the subsequent inspection, proved to be an immensely empowering exercise for the community.



### **School Inspection across Delhi:**

Based on the order of the the **Central Information Commission (CIC)** an inspection of **60 schools** across Delhi was conducted on **30<sup>th</sup> of September 2011** by more than **15 organizations** part of the **Delhi Right to Education Forum**. The main findings were:

#### **Problems Found:**

- Complete **lack of hygiene facilities** in the schools was a consistent problem found across Delhi. Most of the schools lacked adequate sweepers and thereby leading to very few functional toilets. Most schools having **more than 2500 children had just few functional toilets**
- There are **inadequate sweepers** in the schools. Most schools have sweepers on contract with limited responsibilities
- There is enormous delay in distribution of the text books. Many schools have received the **text books in the month of September**, whereas the session has started in April. This clearly indicates how these students are expected to study!
- There is enormous delay in receiving of scholarships meant for Dalit, Minority students and other scholarships under different categories. The

**scholarships due for the academic session of 2009-2010 have just been received by the schools.**

- In Central District schools, (also the MP constituency of MHRD minister, Shri Kapil Sibal) of the schools inspected in the Jama Masjid area, **none of the schools had any playground and there were no sports equipments.**

Most of these schools have sports teachers but since there is no playground therefore no sports activity is been undertaken. **Teachers claimed that almost 90% of the schools in the Central District of Delhi don't have any playground facilities.**

- **Inadequate teachers in the schools** was a consistent problem across all the schools
- All schools inspected in East District had **ongoing construction** work in the schools. The construction work is been undertaken by DSIIDC (Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd) The school authorities claimed that there has been **enormous delay in completion of construction work** by this department. Also the school authorities claimed that the construction undertaken has been of **very poor quality**. And since the school management has no coordination with DSIIDC there is **complete chaos in the schools due to construction work**, which includes problems of management, as the construction labors have housed themselves in the school premise; shortage of water, which is been used up for construction work etc.

This process has been become an ongoing process and is been carried out on the last working day of every month.

**(Some of the Media Coverage Attached below )**



# EWS parents denied nursery forms on flimsy grounds

**VIOLATION** Common form for such children of no use; schools disobey govt order, turn away parents

Mallica Joshi

mallica.joshi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Umesh Kumar has been running from pillar to post for the past one week to get a form for the admission of his child to nursery class.

Kumar, who belongs to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), was refused application forms from various private schools on flimsy grounds. "Some schools wanted me to produce a domicile certificate to provide me with a form. Are they asking the richer, more educated parents for these certificates? Why are we being discriminated against?" he said.

The Right to Education Act 2009 envisages that 25% of the total seats in schools must be reserved for children belonging to the EWS category.

This year, the Delhi government brought out a common admission form for children belonging to the EWS category. It directed all schools to distribute the forms to those belonging to this section, but most have failed to abide by the government's directive and have

## NO CHILD'S PLAY



■ Many schools are asking parents to get the form meant for EWS children from the DoE's office.

SUNIL SAXENA / HT PHOTO

### Common problems

- Refusal to issue forms without seeing the documents
- Refusal to submit forms stating lack of seats
- Asking for medical certificate from parents whose children are not disabled
- Not accepting BPL (below poverty line) ration cards as proof of income
- Asking for domicile certificate even if parents have a voter's ID and ration card

### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR EWS CATEGORY

Only one from each section

#### PROOF OF AGE

- Birth certificate
- Hospital register record
- Anganwadi record

#### ADDRESS PROOF

- Ration card of parents
- Domicile certificate

#### Voter ID cards

- Electricity/ water bill

#### PROOF OF INCOME

- Income certificate by a revenue officer
- BPL ration card
- Antyodaya ration card

#### DISADVANTAGED GROUP

- Certificate issued by revenue officer
- Caste certificate by DC
- Medical certificate from govt hospital for disabled children

allegedly turned away parents from the gates. The government has also made the form available on its website — edudel.nic.in. All schools have to accept this common admission form and admission will be

carried out through lottery.

"I have been going to schools in the neighbourhood for the past three days, but all have told me that they don't have any such form and I should go to the Directorate of Education (DoE)

to get them. Why should I go so far when the schools are mandated to provide us with the form?" said Sangeeta, who is seeking admission for her son.

While getting a form has turned out to be a major hassle,

various NGOs have started distributing the document to parents belonging to EWS category and the disadvantaged group.

"Getting these forms submitted is an even bigger problem. While there are multiple agencies that can distribute forms, only schools can accept them. This is where the schools are using their discretion, which they are not permitted to do," said Thomas Antony, member of JOSH, an organisation that works in the field of education.

Asking for unnecessary documents, which are difficult to get at the last moment, is the most common way in which schools are harassing parents.

"I have a BPL ration card that was made two years ago, but schools are not ready to accept it as a proof that my annual income is less than ₹1 lakh. It's a government document. How can they refuse admission on this basis?" said Geeta, an accredited social health activist.

All complaints have surfaced despite the EWS form clearly mentioning the documents required for the admission of a child in nursery.

Hindustan Times, Jan 10, 2012



# RTE breach hearing sees 'ghastly' cases

**SHOCKING** 1,400 people come with grievances to first-ever hearing



■ Kiran Bhatti (left), national RTE coordinator, NCPCR, and Farah Naqvi (middle), National Advisory Council member, addresses the media after the public hearing on RTE organised by the NCPCR at Trilokpuri in New Delhi on Wednesday.

MOHD ZAKIR/HT PHOTO

## HT Correspondent

■ [htreporters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htreporters@hindustantimes.com)

**NEW DELHI:** Eight-year-old Kunal Subhas cleans and sweeps the floor of his classroom and picks up garbage every day. Hemant, when he was in Class 7, suffered a permanent injury due to negligence of the school authorities. Muskan, a Class 9 student, who is a Muslim and entitled to scholarship, is yet to receive any from her school.

Out of more than 800 such cases lodged by students, parents and ordinary citizens against government schools in Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri, around 25 cases were presented before a five-member jury panel chaired by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chairperson Shantha Sinha.

The NCPCR and Joint Operation for Social Help jointly conducted a public hearing on violations against the Right to Education (RTE) Act on Wednesday at Trilokpuri.

Over 1,400 people attended the first-ever public hearing in Delhi on issues relating to negligence of school authorities,

corporal punishment, denial of admissions and scholarships, quality of education and poor quality mid-day meal.

The commission summoned officials from directorate of education, medical superintendent of Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital and the Delhi Jal Board specifically for the hearing.

Principals and teachers from the schools in Trilokpuri were also present.

"Once when I visited my son's school I spotted the teachers playing cards in the library. When I approached the principal, he shooed me away," said a woman, whose child in spite of being in Class 6 can barely write his name. The principal, on being questioned, said he did not know how many teach-

ers were present on a particular day and whether they take any classes or not.

More than 200 complaints were about non-functional and dirty toilets. The jury asked the administration to submit a report on the status of toilets. "The attitude of the government officials have been particularly shocking. Insensitive remarks such as 'these children are not interested in studying' when asked about infrastructure problems and ignorance about the RTE act highlighted their apathetic attitude," said Kiran Bhatti, national coordinator, RTE Division, NCPCR.

"The principals and the government officials did not expect this sort of a hearing. It was heartening to see the people coming out in large numbers to testify. It shows how keen they are to educate their children. It is high time the government got its act together and addressed the issues raised," said Sinha.

In addition to issuing case-wise directions, the NCPCR also issued a set of general recommendations to the state on developing a school safety policy and a school health policy.

**The principals and government officials did not expect this sort of a hearing. The nature and magnitude of the RTE act hasn't hit them yet.**

SHANTHA SINHA,  
chairperson, NCPCR

# DU students use street plays to highlight issues

HT Correspondent  
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Unresponsive government, lack of transparency, poor infrastructure and non-participatory decision making — these are the issues that bother the poorest of the poor when it comes to educating their children.

As students from different colleges of Delhi University (DU) presented street plays before residents of resettlement colonies of Trilokpuri and Kalyanpuri at a community theatre festival, the grouse of hundreds of parents who had gathered to watch the performances came pouring out.

"In the past few years, the



■ The theatre festival organised by NGO Josh was centered on issues related to police atrocities, education among others.

HT PHOTO

number of parents who want to get their children educated has gone up considerably, but the schools — both government and private — have not managed to

keep up with the demand of quality education. The parents rue bad infrastructure and the way decisions are taken in schools without involving par-

**The number of parents who want to get their kids educate has gone up considerably. But the schools have not managed to keep up with quality.**

SAURABH SHARMA  
Josh, NGO

ents at all," said Saurabh Sharma, member, Josh, an NGO that works in the field of education and has also organised the theatre festival.

Dramatics teams from Kirori Mal College, Shri Ram College for Commerce and former Miranda House students were the main participants along with a music band called

Manzil.

The festival centered on issues such as education — especially Right to Education Act — police atrocities, custodial violence, domestic violence and corruption.

The residents of the area, meanwhile, discussed their problems in detail with those present.

"While the government said it would help people belonging to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in the nursery admissions, its officers turned me out when I went to submit the form for my son. So, nothing really has changed from last year," said Umesh Kumar, who has been trying to get his son admitted to nursery class for the past two years.

Hindustan Times, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2012



## CIC inspection brings out poor state of Delhi schools

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar, 01, October, 2011

An inspection of 60 schools — most of them located in East Delhi and Chandni Chowk parliamentary constituencies — by over 15 organisations under the Delhi Right to Education Forum has revealed "complete lack of hygiene" in most of them.

As per Joint Operation for Social Help (JOSH), which had filed a complaint with the Central Information Commission about the state of schools in Delhi, the inspection was undertaken in accordance with an order issued by the CIC. The order allowed for inspection by citizens of all schools under the Delhi Government on the last working day of every month.

In the inspection undertaken on Friday, the Forum found that there was "complete lack of hygiene facilities in the schools". It said "most of the schools lacked adequate sweepers" and thereby had "very few functional toilets" despite having over 2,500 children. Most schools had sweepers on contract with limited responsibilities.

The Forum also stated that there was "enormous delay in distribution of the text books" in these schools. "Many schools have received the text books in the month of September,

whereas the session had started in April. This clearly indicates how these students are expected to study!”

So was the case with the disbursement of various scholarships including those meant for Dalit and minority students. “The scholarships due for the academic session of 2009-2010 have just been received by the schools,” it noted.

In the Central District schools, from where Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal is the Member of Parliament, the Forum had inspected schools in the Jama Masjid area. “None of the schools had any playground and there was no sports equipment. Most of these schools have sports teachers but since there is no playground therefore no sports activity is undertaken.”

In the Central District, the Forum said the teachers claimed that almost 90 per cent of the schools did not have any playground facilities. Shortage of teachers in the schools was also a “consistent problem”. Besides, the Forum said, all schools inspected in East District had ongoing construction work in the schools and this was adversely impacting studies there. “The construction work has been undertaken by the DSIIDC (Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd). The school authorities claimed that there has been enormous delay in completion of construction work by this department. Also, the authorities claimed that the construction has been of very poor quality,” the Forum claimed.

“And since the school management has no coordination with the DSIIDC, “there was complete chaos in the schools”. Due to the construction work, it said, the labourers are staying on the school premises in many places and this had been leading to problems such as shortage of water.

Earlier, in its order, the CIC had directed all the Delhi Government schools to make available all records and documents pertaining to admission, attendance, budget allocation and expenditure, details of scholarships and other registers in the school for inspection by citizens.

Although most school authorities cooperated with the teams of citizens and members of the anchoring organisation, some schools in East Delhi District, especially those in evening shift, refused inspection and allegedly misbehaved with the inspection team, the Forum claimed.