

# AVEHI Public Charitable (Educational) Trust अवेहि

Audio Visual Education Resource Centre  
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## Minutes of Meeting of NGOs in Education working with the BMC

Date : 15th September 1998

### Organisations present:

1. CRY
2. Janavikas Mandal
3. Yuva
4. Doorstep school
5. JAAG
6. Institute for Socially Disadvantaged Groups
7. Meljol Hum Bacchon Ka
8. Education Cell: Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work
9. Pratham
10. Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work
11. Mobile Creches
12. Community Aid & Sponsorship Programme (CASP)

### Proceedings of the meeting:

All organisations present work Education with children with BMC. specifically, most work with the 10% of children outside the network of formal education. The contexts of the children and the thrust of work differs from organisation to organisation. The reason for the meeting is to discuss problems of working with the BMC, with the objective of devising ways to interact more fruitfully with the system.

#### Report of Doorstep's initiative presented by Bina Seth Lashkari:

Recently a memorandum was presented by Doorstep to the Mayor, Manohar Joshi, etc. stating problems with solutions in the following broad areas of work with the Education Department:

- A. Enrolment
- B. Promotion & other related problems
- C. Undesirable practices.

The memorandum was the culmination of a networking effort, including a meeting with approximately 40 NGOs, and the reports of 25 NGOs about their problems and suggestions regarding the Education Department. Parts of the memorandum were read out to give an idea of the problem areas covered and to illicit suggestions from those present.

It was suggested that NGOs need to co-ordinate efforts to see how their work may be complimentary. Individuals within the BMC system work well. Efforts are needed to strengthen and maintain the system and its mechanisms itself so that effectiveness can be more reliable. Due to reasons and examples cited below, it seems clear that there is concrete political will to execute improvements in the system. Thus NGOs should network now and push the issue. Hence a report of recent developments in the Education Department was presented by Dr. Farida Lambay.

#### Report of recent developments in the Education Department:

School Improvement Committee have existed in the charge of the Corporators and been ineffective thus far. A circular has been suggested saying that each school must have a School Advisory Committee. With the Headmaster in charge, it must include a Pratham member., an NGO member, a Supervisor and one citizen. Its chief role is to monitor.

Every Friday from 9-4PM there are meetings held in the E.O's office to discuss relevant issues. These are attended by the E.O, Sadhana Mane (Chairperson Education Committee), Ratnakar Gaykwad (AMC), a representative from Pratham and other officers in the Education Department, BMC. There have been more than 6 such meetings. Each meeting is followed up with concrete action.

There have been instituted Flying Squads which visit each school. Every instance of commendable and condemnable work is acknowledged promptly with letters within the week.

Information about the structure and recent developments in the BMC, specifically, the Education Department, were outlined as follows:

Structure of the Bombay Municipal Corporation:

Mayor in Council

heads the Administration and Executive wings.

Executive wing:

Municipal Commissioner

Additional Municipal Commissioner (Ratnakar Gaykwad)

4 Deputy Municipal Commissioners in-charge of education, health, slum, judiciary.

Ward Officer (Bombay) in-charge of 23-27 wards.

Subject Committees in-charge of Basic Services including health, education, slums, roads, BEST; each with chairperson in office for one year. Each Subject Committee also includes Corporators, who are planners. Implementation is done by Commissioners & the Executive.

The Education Department:

- Additional Municipal Commissioner- Education.
- Education Officer; The person in-charge of 1,256 schools; 23,000 teachers and 7 lakh children. The Education Officer is helped by:
- 4-5 Deputy Education Officers.
- 5 Superintendents working in the 5 zones that comprises Bombay (namely South, West, East, Central, North). The Superintendents in-charge of all Academic functions including teachers, schools and all programme for children.
- Administration Officers in-charge of the physical structure of school; and language-wise Beat Officers who are like school inspector in-charge of academics including training, supervision, evaluation and performance of teachers.
- Community Development Officers who are social workers responsible for the over all development of children.
- Headmaster.
- Teachers.
- Children.

There are 51 secondary schools in Bombay overseen by one supervisor with an office in Hindu Colony.

The Education Department also has a Research Unit which conducts studies.

#### Decisions taken:

The Education Officer will visit centres of various organisations working with street children.

Abacus will forward the minutes of the meeting to Doorstep, for them to forward to all organisations involved in their memorandum.

It was decided that it would be useful for each NGO to send a one-pager about itself to the BMC. The document will include the organisation's objective, thrust, a description of the children it works with and how it can contribute. Abacus will compile these into one document for better effectiveness. To do this it will require the list of NGOs working in the area of education in Mumbai available with Doorstep (used for the

Doorstep memorandum); and liaison with Pratham (Sarita). It was decided that this document would be compiled in a month's period.

Committees will be formed according to Wards, to be called Ward Committees. For this, Doorstep will send each organisation a list of wards in Mumbai and the schools that fall within them. Each organisation will then respond to Doorstep stating which Ward Committee they would like to participate in. This will be followed by meetings of Ward Committees. Within each Ward Committee, there will also be Committees at school level. The role of each School Committee will include planning with the Beat Officer of the Ward, for e.g. about the enhancement of the environment of schools.

Organisations working specifically resources and training need to make detailed proposals and present them to their respective Ward Committees.

The NGOs should see to it that in the school it is responsible for each child should have an achievement. Parents could be mobilised to create a necessary pressure group which demands better education for its children.

Pratham will hand over all currently available circulars from the BMC, Education Department, to Doorstep, to circulate among NGO's in Mumbai.

The Memorandum prepared by Doorstep will be followed up with relevant levels as planned.

The issues which it presents will be pushed according to priority.

NGOs who have detailed the programme of special groups will forward this to Doorstep so that they may be presented with the memorandum. These will include efforts with balwadis and night schools.