



IMPACT THROUGH DESIGN INTERVENTION

SOCIAL CULTURAL ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICAL

SMALL CHILDREN BIG CITIES

CHILD-FRIENDLY 21ST-CENTURY INDIA
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NEW DELHI, INDIA

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Abbreviations

BSUP	Basic Services for Urban Poor
BvLF	Bernard van Leer Foundation
CFCs	Child friendly cities
CINI	Child in Need Initiatives
CURE	Center for Urban and Regional Excellence
CWFC	Child and women friendly community
ECCD	Early childhood care and development
HBC	Humara Bachpan campaign
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Schemes
JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission
IMR	Infant mortality rate
MPD	Master Plan Delhi
NGOs	Non-government organisations
NIUA	National Institute of Urban Affairs
ULBs	Urban local bodies
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



Foreword

The national conference *Small Children, Big Cities: Building Smart Child-friendly Cities for 21st-century India* was held on 28 and 29 November 2014 in New Delhi, India.

The conference was a step towards a pioneering initiative where people, institutions and governments discussed how the inclusive, liveable and smart cities that are being envisaged for the future will respond to and accommodate children. The conference explored how our understanding of the child's perspective of the city can help us to build inclusive and sustainable settlements and public spaces. Participants included government officials, mayors and city managers, urban experts from India and abroad, professionals engaged in urban design, planning and infrastructure development, in addition to NGOs, activists, educationalists and cultural workers. They shared best practices and innovations from India and around the world and deliberated on strategies and approaches to the subject of child-friendly cities in India, which by their very nature are also applicable to the needs of women and the aged. Fifty children from different cities participated in the conference.

Over one and half days, the participants deliberated on issues concerning urban infrastructure and services, such as housing, water supply and sanitation, healthcare and early childhood services, as well as issues regarding the quality of recreational spaces for children, the transportation and mobility needs of children, and the safety of children in our cities. The outcomes of these deliberations have been articulated as guidelines and recommendations to create child-friendly cities.

We are very grateful to Mr Venkaiah Naidu, honourable Minister of Urban Development, for his time and interest in making cities child-friendly. He has inspired us with his very well-articulated speech and subsequent actions in ensuring our cities are liveable and child-friendly.

We would like to thank all the participants, especially the children from the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign for their discussions and recommendations, Bernard van Leer Foundation team members and National Institute of Urban Affairs staff. A special thank you to Mr Suresh Kumar, Private Secretary to the Minister of Urban Development, and Ms Preeti Prada, National Head of *Humara Bachpan*, for their support. The conference would not have been successful without the encouragement of Mr Shankar Aggarwal, former Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, and Mr Durga Shankar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.

On behalf of the Bernard van Leer Foundation and the National Institute of Urban Affairs, we would like to thank you all for being part of this cutting-edge work of making our Indian cities child-friendly. We urge you to go through the conference report and take forward the discussions. All the conference presentations have been uploaded to the conference website www.cities4kids.org.

Sincerely,

Jagan Shah
Director
National Institute of Urban Affairs
www.niua.org

Dharitri Patnaik
India Representative
Bernard van Leer Foundation
www.bernardvanleer.org



Summary

The conference *Small Children, Big Cities: Building Smart Cities for Child-friendly 21st-century India* was organised by the Bernard van Leer Foundation with support from the National Institute of Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India on 28–29 November in New Delhi. The conference had 206 participants from India and abroad. Participants included urban experts from India and abroad, professionals engaged in urban design, planning and infrastructure development, in addition to NGOs, activists, educationalists, social workers, media personnel and children from various Indian cities. They shared good practices and innovations from India and around the world and deliberated on strategies and approaches to develop smart child-friendly cities in the country. These cities by their very nature and inclusive approach will also be responsive to the needs of women and the aged.

Over the two-day conference, the participants discussed issues concerning urban infrastructure and services, such as housing, water and sanitation, and early childhood services, as well as issues regarding the quality of recreational spaces for children, and the transportation and mobility needs of children in cities.

The outcomes of the conference deliberations have been articulated as key recommendations and suggested guidelines on page 40. The following are the highlights of the discussions.

Plenary 1: Urban Policies and Inclusiveness

Indian cities are generally exclusionary in nature. Concerns for equitable distribution of civic amenities with a focus on the underprivileged sections of society is increasingly becoming difficult in the neo-liberal regime. For cities to be inclusive and child-friendly, it is important that these cities integrate the concerns of the poor and children, representing this section of society in the larger city management and planning processes.

The promotion of children's participation (in both decision making and planning) reflects the

importance of their involvement in solutions to community problems and their participation in the formulation of projects. They can provide valuable insight in analysing the problems and in recommending interventions in the form of policies, etc. Formulation of new laws or amending the existing ones to include the concerns of the economically weaker sections of society, with particular emphasis on the poor, could bring about desired results if they involve children who have the potential of becoming change agents within their society.

Plenary 2: Urban Planning and Children

The session on Urban Planning and Children highlighted the opportunities and challenges in planning and implementing participatory initiatives to make the cities of Boulder, Colorado, USA, and New Delhi, India, child-friendly. The session highlighted that the choices that the planners and decision makers make today implicitly have a direct impact on child development and children's contribution to urban prosperity and development. The session also provided an overview of the global understanding of urban children's well-being, especially with relevance to the present indicators for measuring their development, the Urban Child Development Index.

Plenary 3: Practice and Innovations

The growth of child-friendly city movements and initiatives has been largely sporadic. Cities across the globe have taken various measures towards making them child-friendly. Many municipalities have declared themselves child-friendly, have developed city-wise plans for children, developed child-focused policies, carried out budgetary reforms, involved children in decision making and adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a framework for developing municipal agendas for children. The session on Practice and Innovations discussed the innovations and good practices for child-friendly cities across the world.



Plenary 4: Role of Media in Making Smart Cities Child-friendly

Communication is a key factor in engaging people and making them potential agents of change in society. The internet and information communication and technology (ICT) make smart cities conducive to the growth of an aware and engaged citizenry. In the internet era, people can connect to different parts of the globe with the click of a button. Participation and engagement of citizens is the key to any socio-economic change, and therefore it is important for them to be aware not only of issues in the international scenario, but also of conditions closer to home. The media play an important role in connecting people to their community and reporting incidents that become defining moments in history. The media has also become a means of sensitising people to certain issues and showcase the opinion of the masses at times. Social issues, and especially those of young children in cities or living in urban poverty, are rarely highlighted by media, be it electronic or print media. The session deliberated on the challenges, good practices and innovative methods regarding the role of media in highlighting the issues faced by children due to lack of child-friendly urban infrastructure.

Plenary 5: Design and Implementation of Child-friendly Houses

Research has demonstrated that children are affected by the standard of their housing. This 'housing effect' is especially pronounced in relation to health (physical and mental), learning and safety. Growing up in poor or overcrowded housing has both immediate and long-term impacts on a child's development. Homeless children are particularly disadvantaged because of the disruption to their schooling caused by homelessness. Despite the impact of housing on children and the huge social cost involved, both personally and to the wider society, government policy has paid surprisingly little attention to the issue. Housing has never been a significant intervention of the government taking into consideration the needs of the children. The session tried to address this issue by deliberating

on how housing and habitat can be made more inclusive of and responsive to children needs.

Plenary 6: Children's Perspectives

The session on children's perspectives had ten children belonging to low-income families as panelists. These children are part of the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign and represented various cities in India. The children had a parallel workshop where children living in Delhi's higher socio-economic areas and children living in slums participated. The children presented their perspectives on the nine components of safe and healthy living: housing, water, sanitation, air, soil, transport, play space, early childhood services and power.

Plenary 7: Transportation and Mobility

The term 'child-friendly transport planning', and its variants, have never been an agenda discussed in an Indian context. Often children are considered incidental travellers and their needs are overlooked. The session focused on children's issues pertaining to mobility in the city, measures and indicators that can enable 'transport planning and design' to be made child-friendly.

Plenary 8: Early Childhood Services

Early childhood is the phase in life which influences human development. This is the phase which spans the period of conception to 8 years of age. Early childhood services focus on supporting young children's developmental needs. It is important that parents, children, community and government are skilled, confident, competent and supportive in meeting their responsibilities towards children. With this background, the session focused on the challenges, examples and different modes of providing early childhood services in the context of cities and the city makers.

Plenary 9: Public Spaces and Play Areas

Play should be at the heart of children's everyday lives and experiences throughout their childhood, and at the centre of their well-being, safety, learning and social development, as well as their essential enjoyment of childhood.



Introduction

According to estimates by McKinsey & Company's Global Institute (2010), 590 million Indians will live in cities by 2030, where 70 per cent of new employment will be generated. This trend represents both an enormous opportunity for India's growth and leadership in urban development, and a great challenge for the country. Cities are now recognised as engines of economic growth as over 65 per cent of GDP of India is contributed by cities. The newly elected Government of India has recognised this in its early announcement to develop 100 smart cities across the country. Further, significant investment for creation of infrastructure in cities is anticipated under the 12th Five Year Plan.

As India's urban centres rapidly evolve, there is also an opportunity to deliver a higher quality of life to more citizens at lower cost. The same study estimated that economies of scale in urban environments would allow for the delivery of basic services at 30 to 40 percent lower cost than in more sparsely populated areas. However, failure to capitalise on this opportunity will not only leave many millions of Indians living in poverty, it will jeopardise the overall economic potential of cities. Inclusive cities will ensure a strong and healthy workforce and a social climate in which business can prosper, but cities that are not built for all of India's citizens run the risk of stifling the aspiration to build world-class urban centres.

One group of Indian citizens who can help maximise the potential of rapid urban growth is the youngest children. Children in the age group 0–6 constitute 11.45 per cent of the total urban population, as per the Census of India 2011. Young children are the next generation of the urban workforce – a human capital to propel growth – and the way in which Indian cities develop now will determine what kind of workforce and citizens they turn out to be. This is especially true for the many millions of young children growing up among the urban poor.

There are 158.8 million children in India (Census of India 2011). Of these, 41.2 million children,

approximately 26 per cent of the total, reside in urban areas. During the decade 2001–2011, the number of children (0–6 years) in urban areas increased by 10.32 per cent, while in the rural areas the number decreased by 7.04 per cent. The growth in the child population in urban areas is accompanied by a growth in poverty, and this is a significant correlation. According to UNICEF, urban poverty has driven almost 12 per cent of India's children between the ages of 5 and 14 into labour activities. Scientific research has demonstrated that early childhood is the peak moment of lifetime brain development. In the first few years, a young child forms 700 new neural connections every second. These connections build brain architecture – the foundation upon which all learning, behaviour and health depend in their later years. The choices city leaders make now will have a direct impact on how the process of child development unfolds and what kind of contributions these children can make to India's urban prosperity. Young children are affected by all aspects of cities, of which the most significant impacts are experienced in the following areas:

- **Water and sanitation:** Lack of access to clean water and sanitation leads to common illnesses such as acute diarrhoea, which is linked to the risk of chronic malnourishment.
- **Decent housing:** Overcrowded and poorly constructed and maintained housing can lead to childhood respiratory illnesses, increased likelihood of physical injury, and poor behavioural and academic outcomes.
- **Early childhood services:** Parenting programmes, preschool education and nutritional supplements can optimise early brain development, but these need to be of high quality and delivered more efficiently and equitably.
- **Healthcare:** Lack of good quality and timely primary healthcare can put a child at high risk of disease.
- **Recreational space:** Lack of safe public spaces to play in can harm children's physical development and social skills.



- **Transport:** Lack of mobility for the parents of young children affects the growth of the children because their parents have fewer employment opportunities and less income to support their families, and less time at home as they may commute long distances using poor transport.
- **Safety:** Poor physical conditions and the bad quality of the physical environment in the children's neighbourhood limit the mobility of young children and severely hampers their access to sports, recreation and creative activities, in addition to creating higher rates of physical injury and severe accidents.

The conference was organised to discuss how city governments and local stakeholders can best contribute to the task of building sustainable and inclusive cities from the perspective of young children.

- To understand the impact of city development

on young children and how healthy child development can contribute to the future of Indian cities.

- To share good practices from India and around the world that can be replicated by city governments using active leaders to develop child-friendly cities in India.
- To evolve mechanisms to plan and implement child-friendly practices in urban planning and management through the urban mission and smart cities.
- To stimulate innovation and partnerships between policymakers, urban planners, architects, business leaders and non-governmental organisations.
- To debate ways in which to involve young children themselves in the process of city development so as to cultivate engaged citizens from an early age.



Highlights & Proceedings

Setting the tone: Inaugural session

Professor Jagan Shah, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi (NIUA), welcomed the delegates and participants to the two-day conference *Small Children, Big Cities: Building Smart Child-friendly Cities for 21st-century India*. He welcomed Honorable Minister of Urban Development Mr Venkaiah Naidu, Baroness Julia Neuberger, House of Lords, and Mr Michael Feigelson, Executive Director, Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF), and thanked them for gracing the conference.

Professor Shah mentioned that small children in the cities have been overlooked although many initiatives have been taken up in this regard. He also stated that the opportunity to partner with the Bernard van Leer Foundation has given a prominence to the issue of children in the planning of cities and urban areas in the country. ***The conference title refers to 'smart, child-friendly cities' to highlight the fact that it would not be very smart if we build cities in the future which neglect the needs of the children.*** He further stated that the conference would help in making the smart cities responsive and responsible to the next generation.

Baroness Julia Neuberger, House of Lords, UK, stated that while adults live with a passive response to the adversity of their surroundings, children dream and imagine a future for themselves and their families and they cherish their dreams until they can achieve them, or give up forever. She mentioned that it is time to nurture the dreams of children and to create cities which are children-friendly, where each child has access to healthy food, clean drinking water, proper sanitation and each expectant mother has the healthcare facilities available. The city should be able to ensure that the young children are safe when their parents go to work and that they have a safe and secure space to play. She also mentioned that these goals can be achieved if we all come together in our capacities and make our cities livable for children. The Baroness emphasised that

smart cities are about making smart choices and promoting active participation of children. She highlighted the work of child leaders Jasmine, Sasmita and Rupak from the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign and emphasised that as India has committed itself to building smart cities, and in doing so to create new pathways for growth and prosperity, it is important that these smart cities create smart citizens, which ensures children's freedom to express their views and also that their views are given due weight in all matters affecting them.

Mr Michael Feigelson, Executive Director, Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF), an organisation that has for the last 65 years endeavoured to support great leadership, great expertise and great partners to make change for the youngest members of society – the youngest children. He observed that child mortality has dropped dramatically across the world, families have got smaller, access to primary schools is on its way to becoming a right for children everywhere, and more and more children are growing up in cities. Cities offer great opportunities but at the same time they pose many challenges. In the 21st century, India has the potential to deliver ideas and innovations that define the future of cities, and the future of how children live in these cities. Therefore, as a foundation, BvLF would like to support and be a part of the discovery of these ideas. With the presence of great leadership, great expertise and great partners at the conference, he had great hopes for the conference. He hoped that it was the beginning of a wave that began in India, but in time would reach well beyond its borders. This wave would help to put children's experiences in the minds of all people who plan, design and build and who live in cities.

Mr Venkaiah Naidu, Minister for Urban Development, Government of India, complimented the Bernard van Leer Foundation and the National Institute of Urban Affairs on organising the conference and on making children





the focus of urban planning and development.

He drew attention to the fact that Indian society is transiting from a predominantly rural context to a challenging urban context. Urban life presents challenges and particularly so for the less empowered and poor children. In cities, space and opportunities are appropriated by the affluent, while the poor and their children are the most vulnerable sector. They become prone to bad behaviour, non-performance in academia, high risk of disease, chronic malnutrition, impaired physical development, deprivation of parental care, etc. He acknowledged that there are several policies and programmatic initiatives undertaken in India regarding universal health and education, but due to the increasing number of people, the desired outcomes have not been achieved.

He highlighted that India has a rich cultural and natural heritage which needs to be preserved. The cities should be planned in such a way that young brains realise the importance of culture and are able to explore this heritage to their maximum

benefit. Good education, moral values and ethics are imperative to build the healthy citizens of tomorrow.

Mr Naidu concluded his speech by stating that there is a compelling need to make urban planning and development children-sensitive, so as to address the issues and concerns raised by children. We need to look at building sustainable and inclusive cities from the perspective of children. Inclusive cities will ensure a strong and healthy workforce and a socio-economic climate where all can benefit. He wished for the success of the conference and hoped that it would culminate in sound recommendations that his Government can consider.¹

Ms Dharitri Patnaik, India Representative, BvLF, thanked the Honorable Minister Mr Naidu for sparing his valuable time. She mentioned that she looked forward to the Government's commitment to young children. She thanked Baroness Neuberger, Mr Michael Feigelson and Mr Jagan Shah for their encouraging words.

¹ Mr Venkaiah Naidu's speech appears in full on pages 42–3.



1

Urban Policies and Inclusiveness

Indian cities are generally exclusionary in nature. Concerns for equitable distribution of civic amenities with a focus on the underprivileged sections of society are increasingly becoming difficult in the neo-liberal regime. For cities to be inclusive and child-friendly, it is important that these cities integrate the concerns of the poor and children, representing this section of society in the larger city management and planning processes.

The promotion of children's participation (in both decision making and planning) reflects the importance of their involvement in solutions to community problems and their participation in the formulation of projects. They can provide valuable insight in analysing problems and in recommending interventions in the form of policies, etc. Formulation of new laws, or amendments to existing ones, to include the concerns of the economically weaker sections of society with particular emphasis on the poor could bring about the desired results if they involve children who have the potential to become change agents within their society.

Key issues

- Role of information communication and technology (ICT) and improved child participation.
- Child rights and child-friendly cities.
- Develop capacities in children for awareness building, critical thinking and collective problem solving through active participation.

Mr Amar Patnaik, IA & AS, Accountant General, Odisha emphasised that a child-friendly city is one which guarantees the right to all children, and encourages them, to be participatory in the functioning of the city. Mr Patnaik stated that in a child-friendly city, the child's requirements can be seen in two dimensions; one is the basic services of health, education and shelter, and the other

is quality of life. So far, while designing policies, issues related to meeting of basic services have been addressed, but these initiatives lack quality of life and a child's perspective. Also, in the absence of indicators, existing benchmarks and baseline data, child impact assessment and evaluation become difficult.

He commented that child-centric issues are not enunciated in the National Plan of Action for Children, 2005. The announcement made in it addresses children across the country but does not take into account slums and cities, which have a different set of problems. City development plans make no mention of cities being developed from a child's perspective. However, he acknowledged that there are certain challenges in meeting the requirements of a child-friendly city. For example, the heterogeneity of the target group, building mechanisms for the participation of children in decision-making processes, and implementing the same effectively are few of the challenges.

He suggested that earmarking a separate children's budget in urban local bodies (ULBs) would ensure adequate resource commitment for children, which could be adopted as a best practice by cities to improve the quality of children's lives. He also suggested that from the policy implementation and regulation perspective, societal awareness about CFCs, accessibility to the programmes, the existence of child-friendly networks in cities, capacity-building programmes for youth councils and city coordinators, and auditing new townships and city plans to benchmark them against the best practices of child-friendly urban planning across the globe are some steps that could be adopted towards the creation of CFCs. He concluded the session by stating that there is a need to do the initial work of setting indicators and benchmarks, conducting baselines surveys, evaluating and reporting, because that will give the credibility to



In a municipality in the Eastern region of Nepal, Biratnagar, 13-year-old Sunita and her friends are active members of the child club and regular members of the Municipal Child -friendly Local Governance committee. In 2013 the municipality invited the child club to support the District Education Office in the 'Welcome to School' enrolment campaign. The child club members convinced their friends and other children, especially the girls, to enrol in school. However, after a few months some of the girls in Ward No. 7 began to drop out. When the municipality came to learn about this problem they requested the child club members to help them understand the reasons. The child club members found out that of 91 girls they had helped to enrol into school, 37 were Muslim girls who had dropped out due to an issue regarding school uniform; in particular some parents were not keen on their daughters wearing skirts. The girls themselves provided the solution of wearing salwar kameez so that their parents would allow them to join school. The child club members took this recommendation back and convinced both the municipality and the District Education Office to talk to the parents. The parents agreed and now those girls are back in school.

Highlights:

- One, the adults in authority created a space to listen to children by including them as members of the municipal committee.
- Two, the children were involved in an issue that concerned and interested them – school enrolment.
- Third, a respectful partnership between adults and children was built by the request to the child clubs to find out the reasons why children were dropping out.
- Most importantly, the municipality not only listened to but also acted upon the recommendations made by the children.

occupy space in policy formulation or else it will remain at advocacy level only. This will also result in change in the attitude of policymakers and will make them sensitive to the needs of children.

Ms Paula Azevedo, Manager, Special Projects, Government of Recife, Brazil, presented the model 'Pact of Life' which is a project focusing on various aspects of operation, social participation, urban planning and control and recovery of situations. In spite of adverse circumstances, the project had been successfully ongoing for the past seven years and it had been influential in decreasing the level of violence in the city.

The main target group of the project is children in the age group of 4–12 years as it has been observed that targeting children and teenagers with the programme has resulted in a decrease in the homicide rate in the city. The programme aims to improve civic culture in children, and includes visits to schools and conducting actions against antisocial behaviour such as racism and bullying. She mentioned that bullying is a big problem, not only in schools in Recife but across the city.

The programme tries to reach out to difficult communities and neighbourhoods and to sensitise kids against violence. The project is implemented through a game and, upon successful completion, children are declared to be vaccinated against violence. They get a set of gifts: a bracelet, a magazine and a bottle saying they are 'vaccinated' against violence. There is also a mechanism in which feedback is sought from schools to follow up on the level of violence and the behaviour of children after they have been vaccinated against violence. Ms Azevedo thanked the Bernard van Leer Foundation for their support in running the project.

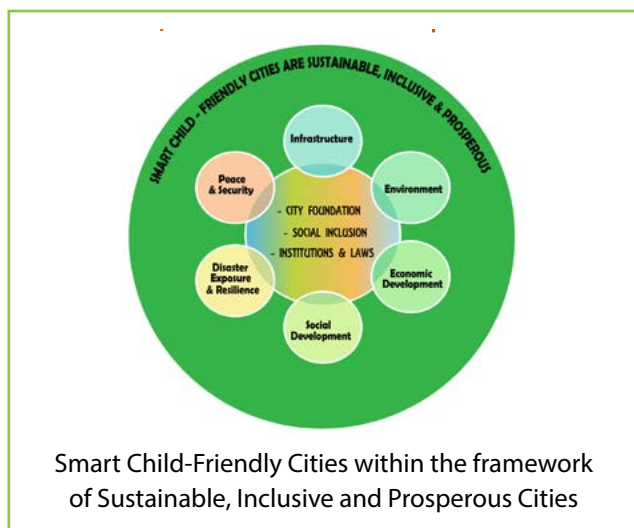
Ms Anjali Pradhan, UNICEF, Nepal presented the experience of Nepal in developing child-friendly cities. She mentioned that the Government of Nepal has started developing policy frameworks. An important framework in this regard is the National Strategy on Child-friendly Local Governance. It provides guidance on how local government, including villages, municipality and districts, can address the issue of child rights, mainstreaming child rights issues in the processes, systems and

¹ The new concept introduced by UN Habitat. Meta cities are those with more than 20 million inhabitants



policies of local government. This framework also allows the facilitation of children’s rights, planning and budgeting. It also provides a platform for sectoral convergence, as this framework outlines some key minimal indicators that must be achieved in order to declare the city child-friendly. It also promotes meaningful participation by children in processes and structures.

She further stated that having a policy is not enough: it should also be operational. They have capitalised on the Government of Nepal’s largest national programme on decentralisation and local governance, which is called the Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP). They have thus been able to mainstream children’s issues in structures and systems and also by ensuring participation at lowest level. Ms Pradhan highlighted that another important achievement is establishing budgetary provision. They have been able to ensure that minimum 10% of the capital grant of each urban local body will be spent on children.



At the ward level, there is a programme called Wards and Forum. It consists of at least 25 members and two members must be from children’s clubs. This means approximately 76,000 children can participate and have a voice. They have institutionalised this connective voice through *Bal Bheelas*. It is an annual consultation – a 13-step process where children are brought together, voice their demands and issues, and their voices

get addressed in the process.

Ms Pradhan accentuated the challenges by mentioning the absence of elected bodies, transfers of government officials, and building the capacity and skills of both the office holders and the children for meaningful participation as some major hurdles that they face in Nepal. They have also realised that capitalising and operationalising existing programmes is very important for sustainability. She concluded her presentation by mentioning that the engagement of political parties is also very fundamental, as they are the decision makers at local level and also contribute towards monitoring the programmes.

Dr Gora Mboup, Global Observatory linking Research to Action initiated the presentation by drawing a comparison between 19th century and the present era. In the 19th century only two percent of the population lived in urban areas, whereas today one half of the world population lives in cities. Indian, Meta1 cities like Delhi has more than 20,000 million inhabitants, and this number is increasing every day. Thirty three percent of urban population live in slums, and in terms of numbers 864 million of urban population in developing countries live in slums areas. It is therefore very important to understand how children are considered in these contexts.

He mentioned that for any city to be smart child-friendly it must be sustainable, inclusive and prosperous. It must promote a people-centered approach on various dimensions such as: city foundation, infrastructure, environment, economy development, social development, social inclusion, disaster exposure, resilience, peace and security, and institutions and laws.

He also highlighted the issue of a weak link between research and action. He stated that often it is difficult for people, government employees and other stakeholders to use indicators for policy formulation. People and technicians as well as managers, and decision-makers, must be equipped with instruments on the development and use of indicators to empower themselves so that they can formulate informed policies and



programmes.

Dr Mridula Bajaj, Mobile Crèches, raised the needs of children in the age group 0–6 years who are unable to participate as they cannot express their opinion. These issues should be taken in cognizance with early childcare. Attention was also drawn to the invisible children – children of migrant labourers who are on move. Migrants are much more disadvantaged compared to slum dwellers. Dr Antony Kollar, Cochin shared the good practice adopted by Kerala for people participation in planning. In Kerala, it is mandatory for the ward

panchayats and gram panchayats to have at least one general assembly out of four focusing on children’s issues to ensure their participation in planning and implementation. Other discussion included that it is easy to have outcome indicators but we need to think of process indicators. It was agreed that to mainstream children in the process of planning and implementation is a challenge at this point of time, as the institutional mechanism for the same is non-existent. Mr Michael Feigelson stated that if social audits and development of indicators need to be taken up in states in India, BvLF can extend its support for these issues.

Key Messages:

- Children to be made compulsory and collaborative stakeholders in the decision-making process concerning their issues and concerns.
- A children’s budget in the urban local bodies needs to be mandated to ensure adequate resource commitment and budget for children.
- Process and outcome indicators, benchmarks, baselines surveys, evaluation and reporting need to be achieved at local government level in order to convert advocacy into action.
- City managers and decision makers must be equipped with instruments on the development and use of evidence-based indicators to empower themselves and make informed policies and programmes.



2 Urban Planning and Children

To be sustainable, a neighbourhood, town or city must sustain its marginalised population, including children. It must provide a physical environment that ensures children's health, develops their faculties, and fosters their love for community and nature. Urban design, architecture, landscape architecture, planning and land development play essential roles in ensuring a sustainable physical and built environment.

In the light of the above, the session tried to address the challenges and good practices towards child-friendly urban planning, bringing the concerns of the children of the economically weaker sections of the population into the mainstream planning agenda. This assumes immense importance in the present policy discourse where Smart Cities are being planned, to ensure better delivery of urban services through smart applications.

Key issues

- Health hazards for children as a result of unplanned urban development.
- Are Smart Cities a way ahead towards sustainability?
- Are urban planning and historic preservation at loggerheads?

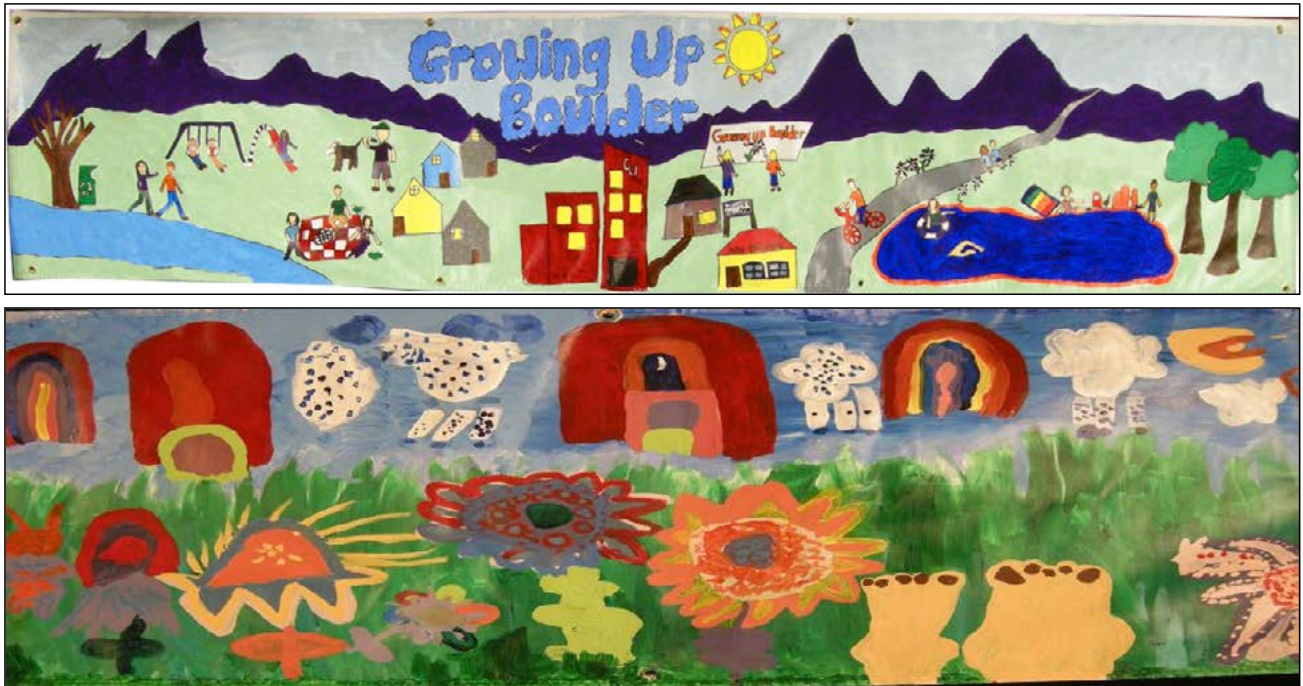
Mr Paul James, Institute for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney, Australia, stated that the Millennium Development Goals are a weak representation of the process of identifying global problems. The strongest criticism is that that it had followed a top-down approach and does not have provisions for including a bottom-up approach. He said that, at this juncture, it is crucial to investigate methods of integrating the two approaches for a child-friendly city. For an effective bottom-up approach, 'participation' would have to be seen as a primary tool for inclusion of children. The methodologies used for children's participation

would have to be sensitive to the particular needs and limitations at various stages of the life cycle of a child. He further criticised the indicators-based research and choice of indicators adopted by UN organisations like UNESCO and UNICEF. In the health sector he pointed out that indicators based on number of physicians per 100,000 population do not hold true in low- and middle-income countries where an estimate of midwives would be a better indicator. In the same manner, a child's safety cannot be estimated only from the number of firefighters or police officers present per 100,000 population. It has many other aspects like sexual harassment, which are not taken into account. Prof. James pointed out that children should not be considered to be small adults, and therefore they have particular needs and limitations. Asking them what they want may not yield the desired results, as their answers might be biased according to their aspirations.

Making reference to his book, he said they had employed a different strategy from the one practised by the UN. He said that economics is not only about finance, it also concerns wealth and its distribution, consumption and use, labour and well-being. He said it is possible to set up a different framework using the child development index from UNICEF, test its strengths and focus, thereby developing a stronger index.

Mr David Driskell, Executive Director, Community Planning & Sustainability, Colorado, USA, focused on the local government perspective in the city of Boulder in Colorado state. He said that two big ideas that are discussed widely in Boulder are democracy and sustainability. He felt that in order to deal with the challenges of sustainability, local government's role should include establishing partnerships with local communities. Sustainability is imperative in protecting the environment, bringing better environmental outcomes within the limitations





Source: Presentation by Louise Turner Chawla

of what one has and helping people make a living and raise their children successfully. While talking about the importance of participation, he mentioned that it is basically a dialogue wherein everyone in the community brings in expertise about what their lives are like and develops plans to put the tools of urban planning together. So while considering the participation of young children, there are two aspects. Firstly, they gain increasing power to make decisions and effect change and, secondly, they have an increasing interaction and collaboration with the community.

He stated that making cities child-friendly is a long-term vision, and therefore the residents of Boulder have taken an initiative to buy the open spaces around their city in order to preserve the landscape of the city. They have also developed a bike path network which allows people to move around the city on bicycles, keeping off the streets. Not only does this practice have tremendous benefits in terms of healthy living, it is also reducing pollution and congestion on the roads. In order to improve the young people's participation in planning, the 'Growing up Boulder' initiative was started between the city and the university, which is a sustained partnership. There

has been a huge shift in the mindset of the city council officers, the locals and professional staff because they have started realising that young people are not only speaking of playgrounds but are really bringing out important issues.

Relating economy and density, Mr Driskell pointed out that we have a tendency to think of both in silos. When cost-effective methods are worked out the life cycle cost is ignored, which is important from social and community point of view. Spatial distribution of the facilities for children and the mapping of unsafe places were also some of the suggestions that were made by the participants.

He concluded by saying that there is great learning in working with the children as they are open-minded and creative and often probe issues with interesting questions instead of presenting solutions on a plate. Creating a child-friendly city is about a long-term vision and the steps towards that need to be taken now.

Dr Louise Turner Chawla, Professor, Environmental Design Program, University of Colorado, USA, stated that, owing to the political system and crippled media, problem solving in the USA should be handled at the local municipal level.



She talked about structures that integrate children and youth participation through partnerships between university, city, communities and local NGOs. She mentioned that the structure needs to be top-down, with heavyweight partners at the top and community organisations at the bottom so that they can reach out to more children. There should be multiple regular meetings to bring all the partners together and a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to define their levels of engagement and deliverables. She also discussed the indicators of urban environmental quality from a child's perspective.

She also mentioned that for the Growing up Boulder initiative, she leverages university resources in the form of volunteers, instructors and doctoral students. They also have community projects which began in classes and then opened out to the communities. The children become catalysts for bringing the community together.

Dr Sudeshna Chatterjee, CEO, Action for Children's Environment (ACE), New Delhi, discussed the issues in the light of Delhi and its Master Plan and put forth the gaps and opportunities in the planning processes in Indian cities in terms of responding to children's needs. She highlighted that in the case of Delhi, the capital of India, two major international sporting events have been catalytic in leading to maximum development of the city. However, it has resulted in displacing the urban poor and has led to unplanned development, in spite of the presence of more than three Master Plans since 1960. She mentioned that the Master Plan focuses on decentralised local planning through a participatory approach, but unfortunately it has not materialised as yet and it lacks vision from the perspective of children. The demography section in the MPD does not report the number of children in Delhi. The vision for housing the poor in MPD 2020 includes several factors. Firstly, there is a shift from plotted to group housing which envisages private sector participation for ease of development. The Government in trying to implement BSUP housing in Delhi under JnNURM have been referring to the development norms

specified in the MPD, i.e. permissible FAR of 400 and a density of 600 units per acre. In a slum this norm can be achieved only if a 16-storey building is constructed which will be completely devoid of children's requirements for play and open spaces. The ideation of shelter for the homeless in MPD 2021 is only through provision of night shelters with the norm of one night shelter for 1 lakh population. However, only 4 per cent of children use night shelters, as children feel safer in the street; they fear theft of daily income in these shelters, they are abused by drunken men and the conditions are unhygienic. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development recommends setting up open shelters, particularly in urban areas. But because of lack of periodic review new policies are not accommodated in the Master Plan.

Stating the example of Kudumbshree, in Kerala, she mentioned that the organisation encourages the replication of federating children's groups in participatory structures in other states. Kerala is the only state that has also pledged for *Bal Sabhas* at neighbourhood level, *Bal Samitis* at the ward level and the *Bal Nagar Palikas* or children's corporations at the city level.

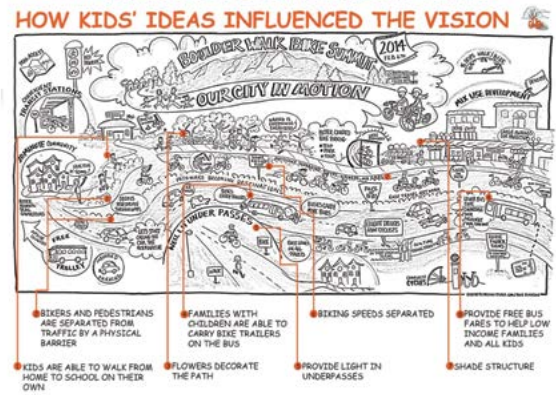
She concluded by mentioning that children themselves should be involved in development of robust evidence bases through digital mapping platforms using mobile and web applications. They should map their own communities and environments and make a report on them so that the planners get to know of the real situation on the ground.



Model Building
Sculptures – 3D Models



Feedback on the Impact of Youth Input
Example from the Boulder Walk-Bike Summit



Source: Presentation by David Driskell

Key Messages:

- Balancing densities is an important aspect of creating child-friendly, liveable cities.
- It is essential to think of life cycle costs for projects and additionally broaden the understanding of life cycle costs rather than just project costs for a new perspective in child-friendly planning.
- While participatory processes can only allow engagement of children at local levels in order to understand their needs, post-occupancy evaluation of living environments, particularly by involving children, is crucial for sustaining the effort.
- It is essential to have partnerships of all stakeholders such as communities, researchers and city managers for effective project implementation.



3 Practice and Innovations

To be sustainable, a neighbourhood, town or city must sustain its poor population, including children. It must provide a physical environment that ensures children's health, develops their faculties, and fosters their love for community and nature. Urban design, architecture, landscape architecture, planning and land development play essential roles in ensuring a sustainable physical and built environment.

In the light of the above, the session tried to address the challenges to and the good practices for child-friendly urban planning, bringing the concerns of the children of the economically weaker sections of the population into the mainstream planning agenda. This assumes immense importance in the present policy discourse where Smart Cities are being planned to ensure better delivery of urban services through smart applications.

Key issues

- Health hazards for children as a result of unplanned urban development.
- Are Smart Cities a way ahead towards sustainability?
- Are urban planning and historic preservation at loggerheads?

Mr Peter Williams, Executive Director, Archive Global, USA, emphasised that many of the measures for preventing diseases lie in the discipline of architecture. The housing structure has a great impact on health. Archive Global has a mission to improve the living standards of children by creating healthier communities through the integration of architecture and health. They follow a three-dimensional approach: firstly, research on earlier evidence of how the built environment contributes to diseases; secondly, advocacy and training; and, thirdly, construction of the kind of change needed.

Mr Williams, with the help of examples, demonstrated that in both developed and developing regions of the world diseases like asthma, tuberculosis and malaria are intricately related to the person's living or environmental conditions. To eradicate health disorders, they worked closely with entomologists and construction engineers and tried to raise awareness among the people who are affected by such diseases.

Moreover, he also advocated several design solutions such as cross-ventilation and stack ventilation for preventing malaria and paving mud floors, which reduces diarrhoea by 50 per cent. All his projects involved active participation of the community members, are cost-effective and are location-specific.

Dr Ratna Jain, Former Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Kota, stated that since children are not counted in the voter's list they are unable to make impressions on the minds of the politicians. To sensitise the politicians a 'Mayor's Defenders of Children' initiative was launched in Dakar, Senegal, as a way of involving municipal authorities in implementing child rights and making them child-friendly. Mayors Defenders of Children mobilised child-focused activities at the local and regional levels, generating models for implementing child-oriented programmes by municipal governments. Similar initiatives need to take place in India to sensitise the politicians on this critical issue, and more so in the light of the Prime Minister's announcement of the creation of 100 Smart Cities.

Mr Jaco Cilliers, Country Director, UNDP, India, focused on the lessons learned from United Nations' Development Programmes. He mentioned that in Asia-Pacific countries the pace of urban growth has caught many governments and communities unprepared. The demand for



land, shelter, transport, energy supplies and social and environmental services has outstripped supply. He feels that there is a need for child-friendly cities and such cities should look at three perspectives: people – the social aspect which not only includes adults but children; profit – generating employment, income, infrastructure, etc.; and the planet, or the environment around us. If one does not have a balance between these, one cannot have sustainable cities that can care for generations to come.

Drawing on experience of working on various case studies from around the world, he mentioned the following conclusions for the way forward towards a child-friendly city: creating and extending community linkages and partnerships; catering for diversity – the needs, abilities and interests of children and young people vary widely with age, gender, culture and life opportunity; improving information and data to better inform policymakers and the public, including the use of child-generated indicators; ensuring that essential services and facilities including schools, childcare, health services and recreational facilities are available and accessible; providing child- and family-friendly facilities and services; and lastly partnerships with key groups, including government agencies, local councils, developers, families, planners and children and young people.

Mr Jayakumar Krishnaswamy, Managing Director, AkzoNobel India, put forth seven basic needs of children: water and sanitation; decent housing; early childhood services like education; healthcare; recreational space; transport; and safety. As part of their corporate social responsibility, AkzoNobel has tried to develop 'human cities' in partnership with organisations both inside and outside the country.

He mentioned that 50 per cent of the world's population is living in cities and by 2050 it is going to be about 75 per cent. To accommodate the growing urban population new cities are not created but the existing cities are expanding; therefore it is important to make cities resilient. AkzoNobel has partnered with the Clinton Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation for

water, sanitation and housing. In India, AkzoNobel is working in partnership with CRY. Together with CRY they are trying to develop a module to teach road safety to children, since India is a country with the highest fatality from road accidents and children are exposed to constant traffic hazards.

Ms Mirai Chatterjee, Director, SEWA, shared the view that women are active participants in the informal sector of our country's economy. Their labour not only reduces family poverty by around 50 per cent, but these women lead difficult lives for the betterment of their children's future. She opined that organised childcare facilities would enable women to become more active participants in the labour market.

SEWA has been working for three decades with women and children. The organisation has *Balsevikas* or childcare teachers who assume several roles as crèche worker and teacher. These crèche workers have regular interaction with the parents and design interventions beyond childcare activities. The children are provided with meals twice a day, regular health check-ups, immunisations, and recreational and educational activities, and the programme ensures that the children are admitted to neighbourhood schools. According to Ms Chatterjee, these childcare centres play a holistic role in poverty reduction. They enable the mothers to go out to work. Moreover, men play a very active and supportive role in this regard. The role played by childcare centres has a wider impact – it helps to reduce malnutrition among poor children, reduces drop-out rates and working as *Balsevikas* provides an employment opportunity for the urban poor women. Ms Chatterjee concluded by stating that childcare is an entry point for overall community development and integration of community and communal harmony.

Mr Manu Prakash, Director, TARU Leading Edge, emphasised clean environment, safety and security as the key issues which need to be addressed not only for the children of poor families but for every child, including those of affluent families. He further elucidated that there are many initiatives taken by the Government



which have positive impacts for children even though they did not target children directly.

The slum-free city will provide security of tenure to children; the AADHAR card tries to establish the identity of poor people in urban cities; a landfill site has been converted into a park for children; the Eco-ATMs use recycled material in an effort to save our planet. Provision of a power supply 24 hours a day helps to brighten rooms so that children can study. *Swacha Bharat*, the use of clean fuel, and 24-hour water supply are all considered good practices which have indirectly benefited the children.

He further discussed some of the innovations such as the child-friendly city plan of Aurangabad; 'Raahgiri' day in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Gurgaon, where children and adults are invited to bike, skate, run and walk, to partake in community leisure activities such as street games and to come together as a community and celebrate life; the 'Jodo gyan' programme of the KATHA organisation,

where innovative methods of teaching maths and science are used so that children can learn, understand easily and enjoy what they are being taught. Other innovations he cited included Surat Municipal Corporation, which has devised an application that helps children and their families to access services.

He provided three recommendations: a child-friendly framework should be set up; the institutional set-up should be strengthened to implement the same; and the champions of child-friendly cities should be incentivised to encourage the cities to take initiatives and to motivate other cities.

It was highlighted that integration, institutionalisation and innovation are the key to mainstreaming child-friendly initiatives. There should be integration of ideas, actions, and knowledge, and institutionalisation of several efforts that have been carried out in isolation.

Key Messages:

- There is a direct linkage between the health of children and habitat quality and design. Architects, planners and policymakers should take note of these linkages while designing spaces for children.
- Politicians, mainly mayors and councillors, need to be sensitised to bring child-friendly planning and practices to the centre of the urban agenda.
- Through partnership between corporations and organisations working with children many of the initiatives can be designed and implemented successfully.
- Childcare is a good entry point for addressing larger social concerns like gender and communal issues, as it promotes integration and becomes a hub for community organising and development activities.
- Investment in early childhood care and development is essential and must be part of urban planning as it directly impacts other issues like poverty, child health, and education.



Source: Presentation by Peter Williams

4

Role of Media in making Smart Cities Child Friendly

Communication is a key factor in engaging people and making them potential agents of change in society. The internet and information communication and technology (ICT) make smart cities conducive to the growth of an aware and engaged citizenry. In the internet era, people can connect to different parts of the globe with the click of a button. The media also become a means of sensitising people to certain issues and showcase the opinion of the masses at times. With this background, the session would try to point out challenges, good practices and innovative methods in the role that media can play in highlighting the issues faced by children due to lack of child-friendly urban infrastructure

Key issues

- Role of media in popularising the concept of the child-friendly city, particularly in the Indian urban context.
- Role of media as a connecting link between children and the decision making bodies, governments, etc.
- Media as an important tool to report issues related to the living conditions of young children in cities, especially the correlation with their health and well-being.

Mr Bhriгу Bakshipatra, Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party, Odisha, said that young Indians hold great potential and they are the human capital of the country. In sync with the theme of the session, he then highlighted the role that media play. He emphasised that media have the power to create opinion in favour or against any issues. He insisted that the media therefore have an important role to play so far as issues with children are concerned. He further stated that children are not included as they are not seen as a key audience. Often, topics on entertainment and higher education are covered but there is very

little on child rights and children's issues.

In India children are not seen as a key audience. At present India has 900 million mobile subscribers, 730 million television viewers, and 353 million print readers but 52 per cent of children in India do not read newspapers. There is no readership between the ages of 12 and 15 years. At the same time they are the largest audience for radio and the greatest users of the internet. He opined that the media should use this as an opportunity. He further suggested that Indian media should act as a catalyst in developing a smart, child-friendly city. Media should rely on children as journalists so that children who are empowered can put forward their opinions. Similarly, he advocated for setting up a children's summit and a news hour for children. He concluded the presentation by stating that the media should engage in the issues of children and should take an interest in child right issues and the issues of children in the country.

Ms Harini Calamur, Head, Digital Content at Zee Media Group, Mumbai, stated that while envisioning a city we look at it through rose-tinted glasses and it seems to be a perfect land occupied by happy people. In reality, it is heterogeneous mixture of various ethnicities and socio-economic groups. She mentioned that the media should debunk the role of a 24/7 watchdog and rather revisit their foundations which are based on principles of socialisation. She further mentioned that the role of the media is to disseminate information, educate people, provide analysis of news, and also to entertain. She pointed out that child safety is a multifaceted issue which includes the involvement of parents, other adults and also institutions like schools, colleges, etc. She mentioned that there should be clear guidelines as to where the media is expected to intervene. She envisions the use of digital media to address local issues of sanitation, health, and law and



order at constituency levels. She listed a few good initiatives such as a cub reporter programme, an internship programme for college students. She mentioned their initiatives to collaborate with government and non-government organisations to involve socio-economically disadvantaged groups in reporting on their own stories. Her last remark was about the predicament of the media in trying to promote positive stories, whereas audiences like bad news.

Ms Shivani Singh, Metro Editor, Hindustan Times, New Delhi, quoted Mr Enrique Penalosa, the Mayor of Bogota, Colombia, who had famously said 'Children are a kind of indicator species. If we can build a successful city for children, we will have a successful city for all people.' As a city reporter covering quality of life in Delhi, she feels that reporting on children is an entry point into all aspects of an urban area. It includes the state of childcare facilities, hospitals, quality of housing, gardens, open playing fields, open areas, walking spaces and transportation.

Ms Singh suggested that the media could help by putting child rights on their agenda and bringing them to the attention of the public and opinion makers. Through their shows and articles, the media can make governments accountable. Newspapers have an enormous potential to make a social plan where children become a priority. Stating the example of the December 16 campaign and the Facebook campaign launched for the missing child Jhanvi, she explained that the media have been successful in creating impact and finding the voice of a minority. Campaigns by newspapers and television channels were successful in bringing about changes in the law and the judicial system and achieved greater accountability from the law and Government. There is ample scope for the media to take on similar campaigns focusing on children.

She opined that local supplementary publications by newspapers have more scope for reports on community and local matters. Local journalists are able to gather community opinion, advocate policy changes, and can campaign for parks, cycling and better mobility options. She stated

the example of the *Raahgiri* campaign, launched by the *Hindustan Times* and the *Times of India*, which was an initiative to free busy areas from cars in order to allow cycling, kite flying, yoga sessions and many other activities which families could do together.

She concluded by mentioning that, now armed with social and digital media platforms, the media are actually more powerful than before in promoting issues of children and citizens in urban spaces. The remarkable source of news and sustained conversations can effectively be used by media to promote issues of children and citizens in urban spaces. They have the technology, tools and the audience. If they channel this to improve the present and future, it will result in smart and secure cities for our children.

Mr Nila Madhab Panda, Film maker, remarked that children should be considered as individuals. They are also consumers of apparel, infrastructure and media. He explained that children use media as a form of entertainment and form a large percentage of users of social networking websites. He further stated that television and cinema have a very deep influence on the minds of both adults and children in India. Indian cinema does not produce films for children, which is unfortunate in our society. Indian television also has very few shows targeting children as their audience. He also suggested that government in India should categorise censorship according to different age groups, as done in Europe.

He highlighted the negative aspects of social networking. He mentioned these platforms have resulted in a severe decline in face-to-face interactions among children. They are now being pushed to a virtual life, wherein they have another identity.

Mr T.S. Sudhir, Editor South, Headlines Today, Hyderabad, stated that the safety of children is the most important thing, for a city to be 'smart'. A city cannot be smart unless it promises that its children, whether at home, in school or in the playground, are safe and secure. He further mentioned that a city has a lot to do with emotions. When we are



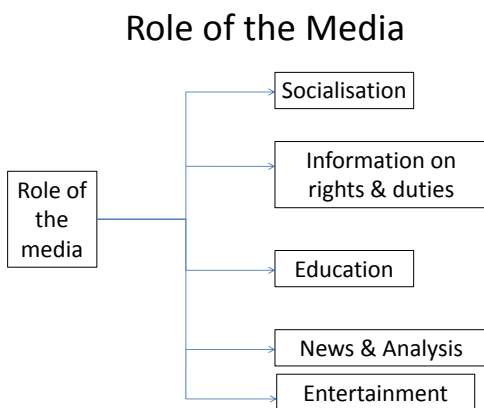
designing smart cities, the architect, the planner and the political class have a huge responsibility in ensuring that an entire young generation is kept safe and can have an emotional connection with their city.

He cited the example of Bengaluru, where schools were reluctant to conduct counselling classes and install closed-circuit television cameras, due to the additional expenditure. The media, by constantly keeping up the pressure and creating awareness amongst parents, succeeded in getting the task accomplished.

He further mentioned that community media can be used to reach out to a more selected and targeted audience. Community media actors can be integrated with mainstream media so that such issues stay in the public consciousness and knowledge and information are disseminated to all stakeholders, who can in turn be vigilant and careful about the kind of upbringing that their kids are exposed to.

The chair summed up by stating that the media has a role in making cities safer for children, but it is also the media that is making things unsafe for children. So it is a double-edged sword and it depends on how one uses the media. She further suggested that the media had to address inclusiveness through film, television, print and books. Society expects richness from the media, which will enrich children and their childhood.

In this era of digital technology, it is important that the media plays an active role in spreading awareness of digital security and safety in partnership with schools. The media can also develop appropriate content to educate children regarding civic issues. It was suggested that the media can also influence parenting behaviours in favour of children. The former finance minister of Kerala initiated the idea of performing crime mapping in his constituency; the media can disseminate the patterns that emerge from crime mapping and similar exercises can be adopted in other cities.



Source: Presentation by Harini Calamur

Key Messages

- The media should think of creating forums for children where the children could put forward their perspective.
- The media can also organise children’s summits, like the leadership summits, and have separate news hours dedicated to children or children’s issues.
- Media can set up sensitising programmes in schools to explain how the media can play a pivotal role in ensuring child safety.
- The media need to re-prioritise and focus on children’s issues in regional areas in a solution-oriented approach. The media can facilitate the building of child-friendly cities by acting as agents to share information on the needs and issues, acting as a medium between children and policymakers, urban planners, architects and other stakeholders.



5

Design and Implementation of Child Friendly Houses

A large section of the population belongs to the economically weaker sections who lack access to proper housing facilities and basic amenities. This has resulted in the growth of slums and squats. Research has demonstrated that children are affected by the standard of their housing. This 'housing effect' is especially pronounced in relation to health. Children living in poor or overcrowded conditions are more likely to have respiratory problems, to be at risk of infections, and have mental health problems.

Housing that is in poor condition or overcrowded also threatens children's safety. Despite the impact of housing on children and the huge social cost involved, both personal and to wider society, government policy has paid surprisingly little attention to the issue. By including the needs of children and young people of the economically weaker sections of society within neighbourhood planning and housing design, a city can create sustainable living environments that promote social, cultural and environmental integration.

Key issues

- How can housing policy be made more inclusive and responsive for children needs?
- How to translate such policy into action?
- How to sensitise planners, designers and policymakers to ensure that children flourish in a safe, secure and healthy environment?

Mr Indu Prakash Singh, City makers, New Delhi, focused on the need for honest and accurate data which enumerates homeless people in urban areas. He expressed his concern over discrepancies in the last two censuses. He explained that counting fewer people would lead to apportioning less service and invariably there will be a deficit in provision of basic services.

Drawing on his team's experience of conducting surveys on urban shelter, he mentioned that in contradiction to the official figure for housing deficit, the actual shortage is much higher. Therefore, in order to meet the Government's plan to provide housing to all by 2022, there is a need to pay serious attention to this issue. He felt that not only is there a deficit of housing but also a severe deficit of shelter. He concluded his presentation by stating that before we plan ahead for child-friendly cities we need to take a few steps backwards to make the upcoming smart cities safe and secure, where children get the feeling that the city belongs to them.

Mr Saketh Singh, Director, Play Design Studio, Puducherry, highlighted the issue of disconnect between design and social issues. In an attempt to establish a practice that could bridge this gap, he demonstrated a model which was developed through cross-disciplinary collaborations. Design interventions could be used to resolve issues that are social, cultural, economic and ecological. He re-emphasised his point by giving the example of the construction of a school building, where children had no motivation to continue learning. Realising the problem in a holistic manner, his team intervened to develop a learning community with the idea that people would live and study in the same community. Instead of just constructing a school building they designed the project to include dwellings, a play area, a learning centre, toilets, etc. by sensitising and involving the community. They not only inculcated the sense of ownership but also ensured sustainability. He emphasised that housing can be a platform for academic achievement among low-income students, that is, high-quality, affordable housing, located in safe neighbourhoods can go beyond providing basic shelter and stability, and can help provide a stable environment where children access high-performing schools, learn, and succeed academically.



Mr Shailesh Pathak, Bharatiya Developers, New Delhi, put forth his idea that making a city child-friendly is not a social responsibility but can be seen as a profitable business. He stressed that if the customer is made to realise the added advantages of child-friendly designs, the project can yield economic benefits to the developer. He illustrated this by giving the example of Bangalore, where they had built a housing society for more than 50,000 people. Their design objective was that every 6-year-old child should be able to walk to school unassisted, without any adult supervision.

He stated that developers have now started realising that mass housing could become a successful business. They need to be sensitised towards creating child-friendly housing design. In such environments people, especially children, will spend less time inside the home and more time outside.

Dr Urvi Desai, Professor, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, drew attention to the point that the house is the fundamental unit of a child's development, the place where they spend the early years of their life. Improper housing, conflict for open spaces and lack of hygiene push a child into the cycle of poverty as these circumstances prevent children from being educated; they in turn are unemployed when they become adults, and the same cycle repeats. Therefore it is important to take initiatives to preserve childhood. Further, in order to break this cycle, she gave the example of the Utah Experiment in 2011, in which the focus was on providing housing facilities. For years the USA had given social security, unemployment benefit, medical care, rehabilitation. In 2005, they decided, instead of providing such a wide range of benefits, to make houses available to poor people. Housing gives a sense of belonging, a sense of identity and helps to cure many the other problems.

She also emphasised the need to contextualise and consult children in the design of open spaces. She reported that the spaces that are provided for mass housing have made no distinction for age and gender. When we consider the use of space, it is seen that girls play immediately in the vicinity

of their houses, young boys move a little further away but not that far, so that they can be easily seen by their parents, while older boys move further away.

She concluded that innovation would be the key to finding a solution to the problem of housing. Challenges like lack of space and high human density need to be regulated so that there is enough space for children to grow.

Mr Vishnu Swaminathan, Ashoka Fellows, South Asia, as Chair agreed that the challenge lies in the existing innovations, which are very niche, and the need to be scaled up. He offered a broader framework in which he mentioned that we should first look at safety within houses and then also focus on safety outside them. We should aim to make design more inclusive for children, like including play areas, having space for cycling, and enabling children to walk to school. The roads, parks and public spaces need to be designed to encourage children to explore their living environment. The housing should be able to meet current and changing needs of the inhabitants and incorporate barrier-free design, accessibility, sustainability and adaptability. The larger question is, he affirmed, how do we make this happen? He agreed that the building code is one way, but then enforcement is a challenge.

Young citizens usually lack opportunities to express their very special needs and aspirations and to propose alternatives from a child's perspective. Children in wealthier communities often live in a world rigidly organised by adults with little opportunity for playing and socialising freely with their peers. Children in low-income communities live with their families in one-room tenements or shacks, often without the most basic services or support and many are threatened by traffic, violence and pollution.

The common courtyard helps to define the neighbourhood, creates a safe and nurturing place for children and young people, and provides a social connection that is not found in many medium- to high-density developments to date. Courtyard housing has the opportunity to



increase the affordable housing inventory, as it reduces development costs through efficient use of land and energy. The courtyard may be used

as a child-friendly amenity space, as do common pathways and corridors or simply a shared entryway, where public interactions will occur.

Key Messages:

- It is imperative to maintain accurate data and continuously record changes. As estimation and further planning depend on records, inaccurate data often result in underestimation thereby resulting in inadequate provision of services.
- Providing physical and social infrastructure per se will not suffice. The need of the hour is to make self-sustaining communities so that they can maintain and sustain it.
- Planning, design and innovations should suit the needs of a varied population. There is a need to develop community-based planning and infrastructure development which cater to different age groups and genders, since one size does not fit all.
- Making child-friendly infrastructure should not be seen as a social responsibility; instead, through better planning, design interventions and marketing it can be result in a profitable business.
- Implementation of building laws should be more stringent and action-oriented.



Source: Presentation by Saketh Singh, Play Design Studio



6

Children Perspective

The session on children's perspectives had ten children belonging to low-income families as panelists. These children were from the Humara Bachpan Campaign and resided either in slums, peri-urban areas or urban villages. In their well-articulated, concise accounts they talked about the issues they face in their everyday lives related to the dismal living conditions in slums.

Water and Sanitation: Shahnaz and Kajal, Delhi

Shanaz and Kajal both live in the slums of Narela in Delhi. They spoke about water crises and the high density of population in their area. They mentioned that water supply in their locality is for limited hours and there is a long queue at the water source. Sometimes they have to go to the neighbouring areas to fetch water; as a result they are often late for school and are reprimanded by their teacher. The water supplied is seldom clean and at times it is yellow in color, foul-smelling and infested with insects. This forces them to purchase water at the rate of Rs 300 per month which is an additional expense for the family. In the house where they stay, there is no provision to store water. If the bucket is kept outside their home, it does more harm than good by being a breeding place for mosquitoes and flies. They brought to our notice that there wouldn't be so many problems, if they received a piped water supply. They also raised the issue of unclean, non-functional toilets that are present in their locality. They highlighted that since they are located far from their home, it is unsafe to use the toilets at night. The drains and manholes in their locality are not covered, which results in a foul smell and they are a breeding ground for mosquitoes. They also mentioned that the municipal workers do not abide by their responsibilities and fail to carry out regular collection and disposal of garbage from their locality. The situation gets worse during the rainy season. Therefore they suggested the provision of piped water supply for a fixed

duration, covered drains, and more toilets that are accessible for children and women.

Housing: Malati and Nayaz, Mumbai

Malati and Nayaz live in a slum in Mumbai. They share the difficulties that their families face in their small house of 8 x 8 feet. They mentioned that the space is too small for their entire family to sleep in and therefore they are always in a curled-up position. Moreover, only one activity can be pursued at a time, and cooking has to be given precedence. They also mentioned about the lack of privacy due to thin walls and closely stacked houses. They also spoke about fear of electrocution from low-hanging electric wires. There were cases of children getting electric shocks due to wrongly placed wires. Because the houses are closely stacked, natural daylight is not available in the room. There are no playgrounds, or open spaces for the children to play in the neighborhood.

They aspire to a house which is made of bricks and sand instead of straw, so that water does not seep through the roof in the rainy season. They also want paved streets and adequate space in between houses, with emergency exits. They dream of a neighbourhood, full of trees, where the houses do not get too hot in the summer and there is no seepage and flooding in the rainy season. They also wanted the streets to have dustbins, covered drains, open spaces and streets free of ruffians and addicts.

Public Space: Bhuwaneshwari and Anil, Hyderabad

Bhuwaneshwari and Anil initiated their speech by sharing statistics about their state. There are 1400 slums of which 18% have no open spaces and 20% use parking lots as open spaces. The available spaces are either occupied by ruffians for drinking and smoking purposes, or the space



is used for construction of a temple or due to lack of toilet facilities people use these spaces for defecation. They emphasised that adults need to understand that while not all open spaces are playgrounds, all playgrounds must be open spaces. They highlighted that playing is an integral part of childhood as recreation is very important for mental, physical and ecological growth. Through sports they learn a number of lessons like leadership quality, team spirit, etc. Therefore it is imperative that parks are built with trees, benches, grass and children from all economic classes play together.

Early Childhood Care: Jasmin Nissa and Vikas, Bhubaneswar

Jasmine and Vikas focused on the need for *Anganwadi* centres. They mentioned that *Anganwadi* centres are often set up in rented and dilapidated buildings, with water dripping from the roof. They suggested changes in design for these centres and they felt that if the centre is made as a pucca house where there is ample space to sit, a kitchen to cook in, a room for storage, and a room with some toys, there would be more participation. The toilet seats and washbasins should be adjusted to the correct height for use by children. A boundary wall to the *Anganwadi* centre, to prevent entry of stray dogs and cows, should also be in place. The centres should also have a water supply and electricity throughout the day.

They felt the *Anganwadi* workers must speak in their mother tongue and maintain records for every vaccination, both given and due in the days to come. They should regularly disseminate knowledge to expectant mothers and new mothers and arrange meetings for the same purpose.

Transport and safety: Rupak and Sushree, Bhubaneswar

Rupak and Sushree discussed issues of transport in their city, in comparison to the other cities they had visited. They stated that their city had a very poor public transport system as most people

take private vehicles to work. This often causes traffic jams and accidents, and makes it difficult for children of their age to cross roads safely. They also highlighted that having more vehicles on road contributes to pollution. They mentioned that streets near their house have no speed limits and with people travelling at high speed, pedestrians are prone to accidents. There are no zebra crossings or footbridges despite the traffic moving at high speeds.

They suggested that ideally the city should have footbridges and subways. In case that is not possible at least footpaths should be made. The traffic signals and street-lights are often dysfunctional and very often, the signals get covered by the branches of nearby trees. They feel it is very important for their safety that the traffic lights in the city are properly maintained. To improve public transport, they think that bus stops should have route maps, and route numbers. They added that along with maintenance of roads, there should be lanes for bicycles and proper markings for zebra crossings, especially near schools and hospitals.



Sushree advocated that girls also want to play. They are unable to indulge in outdoor activities as they do not feel safe if they remain outdoors after sunset. Neha mentioned that the park nearest to her place is full of construction waste and therefore it is difficult to play. As a result, they have to go out in search of play spaces to the streets, where they become more prone to accidents. Anushka, a student of Shriram School, Delhi, appreciated the segregation in metro trains by reserving the first coach of every train for women.

Pragya Singh summed up the session by emphasising the fact that as children are the assets of a nation, necessary steps should be taken to keep them safe. She concluded the session by stating that she dreams of a future where there would be no discrimination among children on the basis of socio-economic classes. Children should be allowed to play together and study together. There should be no walls in parks or in lives.

Key Messages:

- Lack of piped water supply is indirectly affecting children’s performance in school and their health.
- Provisions for basic amenities like piped water, electricity supply, and garbage collection need to be ensured. There should be concrete houses that don’t need repair every six months and are weatherproof.
- The play areas should be free of ruffians and drug addicts. Play spaces should have amenities, separating areas for different age groups and genders.
- In terms of improvements for Anganwadi Kendra, it is suggested that the centre should have child-friendly infrastructure. A boundary wall enclosing it to keep stray animals away would also be a good initiative. Uninterrupted water and electricity supplies should also be ensured.
- Children observed that the cities are not friendly for people walking or cycling; only cars and heavy vehicles take up the space and they in turn cause traffic jams and pollute the air. Therefore there is a need to rectify this through proper planning; other changes suggested by children were maintenance of streetlights and repair of roads to prevent potholes in the rainy season. Bus stops should display bus routes and bus numbers.



Source: Humara Bachpan Campaign



7 Transportation and Mobility

The term 'child-friendly transport planning', and its variants, have never been discussed in India. Often children are considered incidental travellers and their needs are overlooked. The session focused on children's issues pertaining to mobility in the city, and measures and indicators that can enable transport planning and design to be child-friendly.

Key issues

- How can transport system be more inclusive?
- How can child-friendly infrastructure development and practices be designed?

Mr Ashok Bhattacharya, Adviser, Center for Science and Environment, New Delhi, spoke about the challenges and the opportunities that exist with rapid urbanisation, especially in context of Delhi. Critically evaluating the Master Plan for Delhi, he pointed out that the plan lacks policy guidelines for local-level planning and priorities for children and other disadvantaged groups. He also mentioned that along with the absence of community participation, specific social/age group considerations in neighbourhood planning are largely missing in master plans and zonal plans.

He highlighted that overdependence on car by adults is restricting the independent mobility of children. Commuting time also has an effect on the quality of life of children as they do not get sufficient time to build bonds with neighbours and communities. He then pointed out that children's mobility decisions are place-based and in turn influenced by children's age, physical and social aspects, and traffic environment. He stressed that there is a need to find solutions for road safety so that children are able to take opportunities to explore, uninhibited by physical, social or cultural constraints. There should also

be universal accessibility by making provision for sidewalks, crossings, parks, public spaces and amenities – for differently abled children and people.

He also shared design provisions for cycling and walking space to link neighbourhoods. He insisted on the inclusion of traffic-calming measures, with the help of design and use of materials, to ensure that traffic in neighbourhoods did not exceed 15–25 km/hour. He concluded his presentation by advocating, instead of urban sprawl, compact city development which stands on the pillars of inclusiveness and equity.

Mr Mauro Cesar Ferreira, Director, Transit Education Department, Rio de Janeiro Transit Authority, Brazil, and Ms Mariana Koury, CECIP, Brazil, through a joint presentation, shared experiences from two projects, Small Children in Focus and Rio + Social, which were started in 2011 in Brazil, with the financial support from the Bernard van Leer Foundation and later from the C & A Institute.

The aim of the projects was to have children's participation in formulating and implementing social policies as a strategy to prevent violence against them. Strategies were to hold model experiments, articulate with government agencies and other organisations, promote awards, and conduct seminars and training courses. The model action was much valued by the city government in Brazil as it took into consideration children's participation through workshops and then followed by articulation with government officials. Community participation was ensured at all level of project planning and execution. The children designed traffic junctions, signage and the locations of zebra crossings, which were incorporated by traffic engineers. As a part of the project, a guide for practitioners was prepared which illustrated ten activities for listening to



children. Research projects were undertaken to provide in-depth knowledge about the situation.

Among many other revelations were the fact that designing roads is a science that needs to recognise children as a significant user group. Urban issues like the relocation of slum communities to the fringes are to be addressed with greater sensibility. We ultimately live in the city that we design, and therefore it is up to us to make it congested or friendly for users. They opined that cities must shift their present focus from being car-centric to an infrastructure development approach which will ensure safe and child-friendly cities.

In concluding their presentation they re-emphasised the importance of building partnerships between community, educational institutes, academia and government, and pointed out that sensitisation of policymakers is also an important step in the entire process of making cities child-friendly.

Mr Amit Bhatt, EMBARQ India, as Chair of the session said that the problems faced do not require critical understanding of transport

planning. This only establishes the fact that there is something wrong with the way the cities are planned. Even though India is only 35 per cent urbanised (developed countries are about 85 per cent urbanised), there is tremendous complexity in the urban areas. The pace at which India is urbanising offers the opportunity of 'planning' for the future.

Modern transport modes, particularly cars, create health hazards for children through air and noise pollution. Also the lack of dedicated cycle lanes and pedestrian paths results in physical inactivity and obesity among children. Heavy traffic and lack of compliance to traffic regulations result in frequent accidents. This also obstructs children using footpaths and cycles to commute even for short distances. Child-friendly smart cities should recognise the right to safe and accessible transport as a prerequisite for inclusive cities. An integrated transport policy, which encompasses accessible public transport, public transport infrastructure, and a barrier-free pedestrian environment, is fundamentally important.

Key Messages:

- The local area plan or zonal transport plan should have separate guidelines for ensuring child safety in the city.
- Walking and cycling should be promoted in school, and separate walking and cycle paths should be designed for children. Speed limits to be maintained stringently and traffic calming to be ensured near schools and in low-income urban neighbourhoods.
- Public spaces such as activity centres should be 'vehicle-free zones' so that they are accessible to and safe for children.
- Cities must shift their present focus from car-centric to 'child-centric' infrastructure development in order to ensure the safety of children in the city.
- Designing roads is a science that needs to recognise children as a significant user group.



8 Early Childhood Services

Early childhood is the phase in life which influences human development. This is the phase which spans the period of conception to 8 years of age. Early childhood services focus on supporting young children's developmental needs. It is important that parents, children, community and government are skilled, confident, competent and supportive in meeting their responsibilities towards children. With this background, the session tried to focus on the challenges, examples and different modes of providing early childhood services in the context of cities and the city makers.

Key issues

- Importance of early childhood education (ECE), care and service provision for young children living in urban poverty.
- Availability of crèches and learning centres for the children of migrant workers and workers in the informal sector.
- Challenges faced in ECE service delivery and also discussion of innovative practices.

Dr Renu Khosla, CURE, New Delhi, shared her interpretation of a child-friendly city, which is to provide children with clean drinking water, proper sanitation facilities and secured housing. The children in the slums and resettlement areas are forced to live in cramped houses without proper ventilation and play spaces. She mentioned that the Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) works in urban slum communities to innovate and implement in order to equalise the poor with similar kinds of services to those available in the city. They are striving to build toilets that are connected to a sewage system, construct water treatment plants that can supply pure and safe drinking water, and construct a drainage system that it does not overflow onto the streets.

Citing examples from the city of Agra, Dr Khosla narrated incidents when her organisation brought the community together to clean, sweep and wash their surroundings to get rid of the refuse in the area and make spaces available for children to play. She stated that, with the help of the Heritage Walks that her organisation is arranging, they have not only started building toilets in the slum areas but also maintaining the streets and central courtyards. CURE is also trying to make use of the parks and streets, introducing design elements into them so that children who run around and play can also learn from the environment. Dr Khosla concluded her presentation by stating that inequality is not inevitable but one needs to design equality into the cities in order to have an equal child-friendly city for the children.

Mr Illan Fathi, Director, Department of Health Promotion and Environment, AJEEC-NISPED, Israel, provided a brief description of his work with the Arab Bedouin Community who live in villages and are unrecognised by the government of Israel. As a result, these villages are not connected to any of the regular mandatory services like water, electricity, schools and medical services that are available in the cities. He reported that statistics have pointed out that about half of the infants die on the first day of their life and this has direct linkage with lack of prenatal check-ups. Many diseases and medical complications can be prevented by a regular visit to the physician. He reiterated that in order to reduce infant mortality rates, they focused on empowering women, acknowledging them and educating them about health issues and concerns.

Another issue that Mr Fathi mentioned with regard to early childhood services is cultural adaptation. He mentioned that at times services are implemented without realising the fact that the target group is unable to understand the language of the nurse or physician, timings of the



clinic are not in sync with working hours of the people, etc. Citing the example of an ambulance service that is run by his organisation, Mr Fathi stated that raising awareness about the services provided is also important, to make people aware of the available facilities.

He further stated that their sustained efforts have resulted in two major achievements – firstly, the infant and maternal mortality rates have decreased and secondly, creating a safe space for the children during the day has enabled women to go out to work or study knowing that their children are safe.

Mr Fathi ended his presentation with a quotation from a Jewish Rabbi, which says the greatest inequality is the equal treatment of unequals.

Dr Adarsh Sharma, ECCE Expert, New Delhi, put forth the rights perspective and stated that early childhood education is every child’s right irrespective of whether the child belongs to the elite, middle class or underprivileged section of the community. She stated that it is the age group of 0–6 years which is most vulnerable and cited the ecological model of Bronfenbrenner which says that physical environment can have a direct bearing on the development of the child at all stages. Development is a continuing process that begins during the prenatal period and is crucial up to age 6. She further stated that there is a synergy between health, nutrition and psychosocial development (rationale of endorsing an integrated approach as a strategy for ECCD). Biological and psychosocial risks (poverty, malnutrition, and lack of stimulation) affect the development of the brain and compromises children’s development, which can be overcome by cognitive stimulation. All major cognitive, social, emotional and physical development takes place during these early years. Research has highlighted that there are particular risks to young children which arise from malnutrition, disease, poverty, neglect, social exclusion and violence. Also well-designed prevention and intervention strategies during early childhood have the potential to impact positively on young children’s well-being and brighter prospects.

She mentioned that in spite of the number of policies, commitments from government, and service-providing schemes like ICDS, the children in our country are still deprived of the quality of early childhood services to which they are entitled and have the right to. She brought into focus that cities are not providing play spaces, which is a serious concern. Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) do not allow children to play in parks and many of the schools do not have playgrounds.

Dr Sharma concluded her presentation by saying that ‘we as adults, planners, educationists have certain responsibility towards children and if we haven’t fulfilled the responsibility, we are guilty of it and we have to be really blamed for the fact that we have not played our role.’

Mr Rajib Haldar, Director, CINI, West Bengal, focused on the understanding of Early Childhood Care and Development issues of the urban poor in West Bengal and emphasised Child in Need Initiatives (CINI), innovations with regard to child-friendly cities.

CINI has developed and implemented a Child and Woman-Friendly Community (CWFC) approach in Kolkata and Siliguri cities. The approach requires equal involvement of the community, urban bodies and service providers. Some innovative practices in CWFC include home-based parental education on Early Childhood Stimulation for physical and cognitive development, using locally developed modules, community managed crèches, parental education by adolescents and young mothers, and a Nutrition Education and Rehabilitation Programme for malnourished children through community support. They have also strengthened slum-level committees for making service providers accountable. Their initiatives have seen tremendous improvements in the levels of institutional delivery and primary immunisation. Child-friendly spaces have also been created within *Aganwadis*, local schools and community centres. He stated that Integrated Nutrition intervention is central to ECCD and building child-friendly communities. Health and nutrition programmes should be linked up with the Water and Sanitation Hygiene



(WASH) programme. He mentioned that a child protection framework is necessary to address ECCD outcomes, especially declining child gender ratio and birth registration.

Mr Sreedhar Mether, Save the Children, New Delhi, stated that the timing of the conference *Small Children, Big Cities* could not have been better, because just 10 days prior the United Nations and the friends of children and people who work with children were all convened and celebrated 25 years of UNCRC. During the celebrations, it was reiterated and reconfirmed that children will be protected, policies would be initiated for their development and their participation would be encouraged in every sphere of life.

He shared the example of a project where Save the Children has worked in partnership with the Government to specifically address the children of urban slums in Delhi. The project focuses on five areas: provide a stimulating learning environment in early childhood programmes; try to bridge the gaps between schools and real life by linking schools and communities; provide access to health and nutrition; facilitate capacity building at various levels; and partnership with Government and other stakeholders. The model that the Save the Children fund developed provides holistic development and school readiness to all children up to 6 years of age who are living in the slums of Delhi.

He mentioned that the Government should be urged to allocate larger expenditure to the 6–8 years age group, not only in urban slums but also in general in the country. He elaborated on this by giving the example that, if one invests well in preschooling, then the quality of education which is a major constraint at present can be addressed automatically. The agenda of child-friendly cities should be pushed forward so that governments give due impetus while developing policies in the next 15 years.

The rights perspective was identified as critical when related to urban development. The right to life, right to protection, right to education,

right to play and right to leisure are important for the healthy development of a child. Children and women are the most vulnerable groups, and therefore their safety is an important concern. It is important that the child-friendly cities should be resilient and should adapt to issues like climate change, natural calamities and inter-community riots.

Key Messages:

- High Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is due to lack of sufficient prenatal check-ups. To reduce IMR, it is important to empower women and sensitise them to medical services and specific healthcare services.
- Cultural adaptation of services is an important aspect. Therefore, it is critical that realities on the ground are properly studied before launching any service for children.
- Bridging the gap between schools and real life by linking schools and communities, ensuring that schools equip children for a rapidly changing society.
- Providing the service is not sufficient. It should be supplemented by awareness generation so that the parents and community are aware of the benefits and can also suggest changes if there is any scope.
- Health and nutrition services should be linked to the WASH programme.
- Sensitisation of children on hygiene and sanitation themes: clean school/AWCs, clean surroundings, clean self, clean food, clean drinking water and clean toilets.
- It is important to have daycare services for children so that they are safe during the day, thus enabling their mothers to join the workforce without having to worry about the safety of their children.



9 Public Space and Play Space

Play should be at the heart of children's everyday lives and experiences throughout their childhood. Children's well-being, safety, learning and social development, as well as their essential enjoyment of childhood, are affected by the extent and the quality of their opportunities to play. Today's children and young people generally have fewer opportunities for outdoor play than previous generations. Lack of space, increasing traffic levels, concerns about risk and safety, are amongst the many factors that have led to children to have fewer opportunities to play outdoor games.

Key issues

- The challenge of how to recognise and respond to children and young people as stakeholders and users of public space and spaces for play.
- How to integrate play space sensitively into the wider design of the public realm in smart cities.
- What are the principles for creating imaginative, innovative, and stimulating play spaces that will enrich the lives of children and young people?

Ms Beena George, Head, Livable City programme, ESAF, started her presentation by stating that play is a vital part of growing up. It helps children to learn about their environment, to relate to others, and to burn off energy. It helps start the process of becoming a citizen, and improves their health, and therefore it is important to find and protect space in cities for children to play. She showcased the case study of their work in cities in India where auditing of open spaces has been helpful in making parks functional for children and other communities in the vicinity. She stated that on auditing the parks and open spaces it was found that parks were often non-functional, abandoned and had become a sought-after place for antisocial activities. Government records of the parks were outdated as parks were often encroached upon, and used as a parking

space or a dump.

As a part of the project they sensitised the communities and formed park councils. They arranged training programmes for volunteers and also formed women's self-help groups. She mentioned that as part of communication and partnership development, they formed the Livable City Network and worked with the local government on developing child-friendly infrastructure in and around the parks. The project has been successful due to partnership with government organisations, architects, local communities and the NGOs. The project resulted in cleaner and functional parks which were owned and maintained by the communities.

Mr Isidore Phillips, Director, Divya Disha, Hyderabad, presented on scarcity of play spaces in urban areas. The prevailing notion that land is precious, and hence cannot be dispensed for children to play on, has led to a lack of usable open space in urban areas. He stressed that access and safety issues in open spaces should be considered while designing open spaces at the neighbourhood level.

Mr Phillips presented case studies from Vaddera Basti in Hyderabad where meetings were organised for children and mothers to discuss open space issues and identify unused open spaces in their neighbourhood. Identification of unused open spaces helped in augmenting the land stock for open spaces for children. He also presented the case study of Guru Brahma Nagar where open spaces in slums were turned into safe and clean spaces for children by clearing the garbage around the open spaces. He opined that micro-level intervention by involving communities is important as it helps in developing the sense of ownership in them. He also suggested that builders could be incentivised on providing open space and that implementation of building laws



should be more stringent and action-oriented.

Dr Rajni Konantambigi, President, International Play Association, stated that play provides spontaneous engagement by children with their environment. She further said that play is a cognitively, socially and emotionally engaging activity and is synonymous with the development of the child. Therefore it is the duty of adults to cater for children's need for play. Psycho-social development which evolves as a result of play is crucial and essential for the mental health of the growing child as well as for adulthood. She stressed that competitive sports are collaboration rather than competition that promotes the development of social skills.

Dr Konantambigi opined that play spaces need specified planning for safety, well-being and cognitive stimulation. To achieve this commitment the support of the Government through acts and schemes becomes crucial. Developers, architects and builders should be incentivised to create play spaces. She mentioned that there should be more actions at the macro level such as collaboration with the traffic regulation authorities to block traffic during play times. Initiatives like *Raahgiri* in Delhi and the Toy Library in Mumbai are well appreciated. Among other initiatives a 'Play and Leisure' exhibition in Germany, and Adventure Play Parks are inspiring. Play in special settings, such as encouraging play in the hospitals, are relatively newer efforts which can be adopted.

Mr Pradeep Narayanan, Director, PRAXIS, New Delhi, presented on the social dimension of play spaces. He mentioned that public spaces play different roles for different sets of citizens. Serving as medium for the performance of public life, public space has always been subjected to structural changes. PRAXIS made an effort to create a timeline of parks and open spaces through the perspective of children. They got kids to draw maps of parks in their area over a period of years. The revelations have been noteworthy, as it was discovered that most of the open spaces have either been transformed into car parks or garbage dumps. They have become places for drug transactions, 'eve teasing', and benches

and swings were inappropriate for use by kids. Shrinking of public space has reduced social interaction and increased social barriers. Takeover of public spaces by elite groups reduces interaction between the classes. He drew attention to the fact that economically disadvantaged groups have a cost entry barrier to most 'public' places in urban centres in India, be it parks, theatres or libraries. Many parks now have an entry fee which restricts use by poor sections of society. 'Policing' of parks, beaches and other open spaces creates a sense of fear to use them.

In conclusion, Mr Narayanan stated that institutionalising child sensitivity and encouraging children's participation in planning could be vital since they are as much today's citizens as they will be tomorrow.

Ms Havovi Wadia, Head, Research and Development, Magic Bus, Mumbai, presented case studies from suburban Mumbai. She mentioned that Magic Bus uses the playground as a learning space and community youth leaders as mentors, and activates systems to respond to children's issues. Through this initiative they have reclaimed 603 play spaces in New Delhi, 1266 in Andhra Pradesh, 491 in Maharashtra and 316 in Karnataka. According to Ms Wadia, playgrounds are the territory of childhood, uncolonised by adults, and yet colonised and cordoned off. To address these issues they use Mimetic Action for social transformation and encourage people from all age groups to listen, question and respond.

She presented a case study where a group of young girls were enthusiastic about football. They approached the MLA and refused to accept the playground that was initially provided to them on the outskirts of the city. Through courage and commitment, they were finally able to obtain a playground in their neighbourhood. She stated that these examples could act as an inspiration to many children deprived of play spaces which are their basic right. She also suggested that the playgrounds available in schools should be made available out of school hours.

The barriers to outdoor play are complex.



Dedicated play areas, and spaces that offer children a place to play, need to appeal to children, respond to their needs and sustain their engagement. Creating inspiring play spaces that will please, excite, challenge and satisfy children, requires knowledge of play, technical skill, an understanding of children and, above all, imagination. Also the cooperation of various stakeholders is needed to ensure a cohesive and effective approach to build play spaces for

children, especially those from the poor section of society. To address the issue raised by Child Leader Rupak regarding the inaccessibility of a playground in Science Park Basti, as it is in close proximity to the police camp in Bhubaneswar, Mr Nitinjeet Singh, former Deputy Commissioner of Police and present Superintendent of Police, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar made a commitment that he will ensure that the park is available for children to play.

Key Messages

- There is great diversity in the concept of space. It is not only physical space that has to be taken into account; the effect that a particular open space has on a child's mind is something that requires greater attention while designing of public spaces.
- Access and safety issues need to be considered while designing open spaces at the neighbourhood level.
- Identification of unused open spaces helps in augmenting the land stock of open spaces for children.
- Builders, developers and architects could be incentivised on providing open space.
- Implementation of building laws should be more stringent and action-oriented.
- Problems of encroachment could be solved by uniting and empowering the users of open spaces, i.e. the children. Case studies from suburban Mumbai showcased by the Magic Bus initiative are eye-openers in this respect.
- Schools with large playgrounds could also have alternative uses for them after school hours for local communities.



Source: Humara Bachpan Campaign



Closing Remarks

Mr Jagan Shah stated that in every session it was highlighted that cities are incapable of, and in some cases unwilling to accommodate children and their requirements. This issue needs adequate emphasis in the policies, programmes and mechanism that are devised by the Central and the State Governments of India. He mentioned that the conference attempted to understand the landscape of concerns of people who are involved in ideating the world to be a better place for children. He stated that NIUA has been very fortunate to be exposed to the rich discourse.

Mr Durga Shanker Mishra, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, was the guest of honour and gave the concluding remarks by stating that the concept of close-knit families and the importance of relationships seems to have lost its flavour in the present time. He further stated that sustainability should not only be for the environment but also applies to culture and society. Indian society consists 30 per cent of children who would become responsible citizens of tomorrow, and therefore it is vital to provide them the right kind of environment today. Behaviour change can be another solution and it would be applicable not only to children but also to the parents of these children. In this regard, he mentioned the current Government-launched '*Bal Swachta Abhiyaan*' in the country on Children's Day with an oath to keep the surroundings clean.

He further laid emphasis on three important aspects of a child's growth – safety, health and recreation. The city can play important role in accomplishing these needs of children. It can provide opportunities so that they grow not only academically but as complete human beings. He also stated that children are very creative and very often come up with excellent solutions to their problems. The Government system should have a mechanism to take children's perspective. He concluded his speech by reiterating the words of the honorable Minister of Urban Development and stated that smart cities will not be planned

without focusing on children.

Mr Michael Feigelson, Executive Director, Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF), concluded the conference by presenting a vote of thanks and sharing his views on the two-day conference. He highlighted the fact that to have children at the conference and to listen to their smart and practical ideas was one of the best features of the conference. He announced BvLF's continued support to the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign. They would also explore other funding opportunities with those with whom they work so that the campaign could spread beyond 17 states in India.

He mentioned that at the two-day conference, the children presented very simple ideas to make the city a healthy, clean and safe place for children. Mr Feigelson concluded that he looked forward to making smart cities in India child-friendly and hopes that the movement initiated in India will spread globally.

Bernard van Leer Cities4Kids challenge

Mr Feigelson announced that BvLF will set up a challenge or competition for ideas that can improve the health, safety and learning of young children through better planning and design in India. To participate in the challenge, practitioners will send ideas (on no more than one page). The same idea will have to be supported by at least three people who are not working together. The idea would be to put through a practicality test and would be judged by the children of the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign. The children will suggest whether the ideas would work in their community. The idea should have applicability to a larger group. The idea will have to pass through two other levels, one will be the level of the Ministry of Urban Development and at the second level it will be put to engineers and architects to weigh up its feasibility.



Conference Declaration



**Declaration read by Miss Jasmin Nissa, Child Leader,
*Humara Bachpan Campaign***

The conference on smart child-friendly cities recognises that the Government of India has undertaken a pioneering initiative to create 100 smart cities in India. We are confident that the Government of India will commit to making these smart cities of India child-friendly cities, more than 100 spaces where the children of the poor and rich alike will find spaces for play, to create and to grow.

The conference has brought together a community of citizen-practitioners, experts, advocates, researchers, activists and institutions who are committed to work together and champion the cause of small children in our cities. We are confident that our cities can be sustainable only if we recognise the rising demand from all sections of society to orient the planning, governance and economy of cities in India towards fulfilling the needs of children.

Children are the citizens of tomorrow. They determine the future of our entire societies. If the vision of the clean city – a clean India – can be a necessary condition for making smart cities, then it is only natural that child-friendly planning and governance should also be a condition for making smart cities.

We collectively highlight the urgent need to make our cities child-friendly. Through our shared commitment, we dedicate ourselves to finding the mechanisms, policies and actions that can transform our cities today for the children who will create the future tomorrow.



Key Recommendations

URBAN POLICIES, PLANNING AND INCLUSIVENESS

- Children to be made a compulsory and collaborative part of the urban planning and decision process.
- City master plans, smart city programmes and other urban development programmes should have children-centric components.
- A children's budget in the Urban Local Bodies needs to be mandated to ensure adequate resource allocation specifically targeted at the needs and safety of the child in the city.
- Mandatory baseline surveys, process and outcome indicators to be included at local government level for evaluation of allocated resources on regular basis.
- Mandatory capacity building of city planners, designer-architects, mayors, councillors to be done to ensure city infrastructure development is in line with child-friendly components.
- While the participatory process allows engagement of children to understand the child's perspective and needs, post-occupancy evaluation of public infrastructure (houses, community centres), especially in low-income neighbourhoods, could enable interpretation of the impact on children's living environment.
- Build a community-driven process of slum improvement, which recognises 'inclusiveness of the stakeholders', especially children.
- Designing of 'open play spaces' for children to allow access and safety of children to be part of the policy framework.
- Existing policies, such as the Electricity Act 2003 relating to power, should be tapped into to make conducive policies for children in urban poor neighbourhoods.
- A set of exclusive child-friendly transportation guidelines for children should be developed by the transport authority in the respective cities.

- Children's desk to be mandatory in the Municipality.
- Children should be made part not only of the planning but also of the monitoring of Government schemes/policies that directly affect their well-being.

GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTED MEASURES

HOUSING:

- Provision for all-weather, disaster-proof, ventilated and spacious housing.
- Houses to be of sustainable design, with choice of material for construction to be colourful, malleable, and durable.
- It should have basic amenities like access to water, electricity, and individual toilets.
- It should have adjustable and multipurpose common areas for stimulating a child's need for exploration, belonging and identity.
- It should have security of tenure, as the constant fear of displacement affects a child's physical and mental development.
- There has to be improvement in the location of houses, as a majority of them are near railway tracks, rubbish dumps and industrial areas.
- Houses to have railings, and roofs with boundaries, for the safety of children.

POWER:

- Electricity power supply to be 24/7.
- Provision of guarded transformers to be ensured in the neighbourhood.
- Implementation of underground electrification system
- There could be provision of solar lighting to facilitate continuous power supply.
- Streetlights can be centrally located for maximum utilisation.



WATER

- Individual housing should have 24-hour piped water supply.
- Installation of low-height taps in the household/community.
- Provision for recharge wells and facility for rainwater harvesting could be looked at as an alternative source of water supply at community level.
- Available water should meet the national permissible water standards: bacteriological, biological and virological requirements.

TRANSPORT

- Need to have wide and properly made roads near the low-income urban poor neighbourhoods.
- Roads to have footpaths/sidewalks.
- Provision of child-friendly zebra crossings near schools and near crossing junctions.
- Provision of footbridges.
- Improved access to transportation such as bus stops to be set up within accessible distance of the slums (innovative practices like maps, frequency of service information).
- Roads near schools and slums to have traffic calming.



- Ensure traffic signage boards near every school.

SANITATION

- All drains should be covered.
- Child-friendly toilets with smaller pans and railings to be included in design of individual/community toilets.
- Community toilets should have 24-hour water and power supply, with separate toilets for children.
- Waste segregation at the source.

PUBLIC SPACE

- Children should have access to safe public spaces and playgrounds, with toilets, water and sufficient lighting within the neighbourhood.
- Separate play provision for young children (0–8 years) to be made in parks and public spaces.

AIR AND SOIL

- Houses to have chimney facilities.
- Installing air pollution monitoring devices in areas for creating real-time database.
- Improve provision of services to collect and dispose of garbage.
- Reduce accumulation of toxic chemicals in the living area of low-income urban neighbourhoods.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND PARENTING SUPPORT

- Quality childcare in every neighbourhood, subsidised for the poor.
- Early learning centres in every neighbourhood with accreditation and quality standards.
- Parent support programmes, especially in poor neighbourhoods.
- The above infrastructure and budget allocation has to be inbuilt in the master plans and municipality plans and budgets.



Minister's Address



Address by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Urban Development, Government of India, at the Conference *Small Children, Big Cities: Building Smart Child-friendly Cities for 21st-century India* in New Delhi on 28 November, 2014.

I have been addressing several conferences and events over the last five months in the context of smart cities becoming the flavour of the season ever since the government spoke of building 100 such cities.

Of all such events, I consider today's conference as unique and the most important as it seeks to open our eyes and ears to an often-neglected aspect of our urban planning, that being the concerns of children's welfare.

I sincerely compliment the Bernard van Leer Foundation for their initiative of organising this meeting and also for their work towards promoting the welfare of children and making children the focus of planned development.

Urban planning and management of urbanisation in our country, I have no hesitation in acknowledging, is marked by some serious deficiencies. These include institutional limitations, deficient capacities, weak planning and execution, inadequate empowerment of urban local bodies, poor-quality leadership in urban areas, etc.

Like the transition of our country from colonial subjugation and feudal socio-economic structures to democracy, we are transiting from a predominantly rural context to a challenging urban context. Managing this change will be the

challenge of 21st century for us.

We don't have the luxury of time to effectively and gainfully manage this change and challenge and convert it into an opportunity. Nevertheless, we have to rise to the occasion and meet the challenge. And we are at it.

Urbanisation and urban life are by nature harsh, and particularly so on the less empowered and the poor. Children of the poor are the worst affected.

Of the 159 million children in India, about 26 per cent, that is 41 million, live in urban areas. Of these, 8 million are reported to be in slums.

The children of today are the future of tomorrow. But what kind of a future we are nurturing? Early childhood is the peak moment of lifetime brain development. Are we providing the right environment for proper development of brains and perspectives? I am afraid we are not.

There is no equality of opportunities in the fields of education, health and development of creative capacities. No doubt, universal health and education are our objectives and several policy and programmatic initiatives are being taken. But the proof of the pudding lies in its eating. In terms of desired outcomes, results fall short of the desired targets.

The scenario is even more serious in urban areas. As the urban space and the available opportunities get to be appropriated more and more by the rich and the affluent, the poor are the losers and their children become the worst victims. This is the harsh urban reality. This is more compounded by the inherent defects of our urban planning and execution.

Before it is too late, we need to address this problem so that our future is founded on a sound footing of reasonableness and rationality.

We have been debating about smart cities over the last six months. Let me be honest and say that we have been talking in general terms of aiming at enhancing the quality of urban life through



smart cities, but not specifically from the point of view of children.

That is why I am happy that this Conference has particularly highlighted the need for looking at the problems and prospects of children in the new cities that we seek to build.

The harsh realities of urban life impact children and, particularly, the poor in several ways. These include: poor behavioural and academic outcomes; high risk of diseases; chronic malnourishment; inadequate early brain development; impaired physical development and skills; deprivation of parental care, etc. These risks are there for the rural poor also, but they are more acute in urban areas.

Early exposure to such harsh experiences severely impacts their perspectives when they grow up and are ready for their lives on their own, with the attendant undesirable consequences for society and the economy.

There is a compelling need to make urban planning and development address these issues by making them 'children-sensitive'. Early childhood should be marked by positive and enabling experiences.

We need to look at building sustainable and inclusive cities from the perspective of children. I am happy that this Conference seeks to focus on the impact of city development on young children and how healthy child development can contribute to the future of our cities, sharing of replicable and enactable good practices

to promote child-friendly city development, stimulate innovation and partnerships between policymakers, urban planners, architects, business leaders and NGOs, besides grooming citizens as engaged citizens.

The objectives of this Conference are indeed the issues and the challenges that need to be addressed. I compliment the organisers on framing such a meaningful agenda for this two-day conference.

I am glad to know of the activities of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, particularly, in India, with the aims of expanding the reach and accessibility of quality early learning, reducing violence in young children's lives and improving their living conditions.

Inclusive cities will ensure a strong and healthy workforce and a socio-economic climate in which all can benefit. Otherwise, cities run the risk of stifling the aspirations of a vast number of urbanites.

I am glad that the National Institute of Urban Affairs and School of Planning and Architecture are also associated with this very meaningful event.

I can assure the organisers and all the participants that the conclusions of your deliberations and recommendations will receive my personal attention for taking further necessary action.

I wish the two-day conference all success.



Programme Schedule

28 TH NOV

8.45 - 9.15

Registration

9.15 - 10.15

INAUGURAL SESSION

Welcome and Objectives of the Conference

Mr Jagan Shah, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs

INAUGURAL

Baroness Julia Neuberger, House of Lords

SETTING THE CONTEXT

Mr Michael Feigelson, Executive Director, Bernard van Leer Foundation

KEYNOTE

Mr Venkaiah Naidu, Minister, Urban Development, Government of India

RELEASE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD MAGAZINE

VOTE OF THANKS

Ms Dharitri Patnaik, India Representative, Bernard van Leer Foundation

10.15 - 10.30 | TEA BREAK

10.30 - 11.30

URBAN POLICIES AND INCLUSIVENESS

Panellists:

Dr Gora Mboup
Global Observatory linking Research to Action

Mr Amar Patnaik
IA & AS, Accountant General, Odisha

Ms Paula Azevedo, Manager, Special Projects,
Government of Recife, Brazil

Ms Anjali Pradhan, UNICEF, Nepal

Chair: Mr Jagan Shah, Director NIUA

11.30 - 12.30

URBAN PLANNING AND CHILDREN

Panellists:

Mr Paul James, Institute for Culture and Society,
University of Western Sydney

Mr David Driskell, Executive Director, Community
Planning & Sustainability, Colorado, USA

Dr Louise Turner Chawla, Professor,
Environmental Design Program, University of
Colorado

Dr Sudeshna Chatterjee, CEO, Action for
Children's Environments (ACE), New Delhi

Chair: Prof. Chetan Vaidya, Director, School of
Planning & Architecture, New Delhi

12.30 - 13.30 | LUNCH 13.30 - 14.30

PRACTICE AND INNOVATIONS

Panellists:

Mr Peter Williams
Executive Director ARCHIVE global, USA

Dr Ratna Jain, Mayor, Kota Municipal Corporation

Mr Jaco Cilliers, Country Director, UNDP India

Mr Jayakumar Krishnaswamy,
Managing Director, Akzo Nobel India

Ms Mirai Chatterjee, Trustee, SEWA

Mr Manu Prakash, Director, TARU Leading Edge

Chair: Dr Urvi Desai

Centre for Environment Planning & Technology,
Ahmedabad

14.30 - 15.30

ROLE OF MEDIA IN MAKING SMART CITIES CHILD FRIENDLY

Panellists:

Mr Bhriugu Bakshipatra, Bharatiya Janata Party



Ms Harini Calamur
Head, Digital Content at Zee Media Group
Ms Shivani Singh, Hindustan Times
Mr Nila Madhab Panda, Film maker
Mr T S Sudhir, Journalist, Hyderabad
Chair: Ms Geetha Dharmarajan, Katha

16.00 | TEA BREAK

16.00 - 17.00

DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION OF CHILD FRIENDLY HOUSES

Panelists:

Dr P S N Rao, SPA, New Delhi
Dr Urvi Desai, CEPT, Ahmedabad
Mr Saketh Singh, Play design studio
Mr Sailesh Pathak, Bharatiya Developers
Mr Indu Prakash Singh, City makers
Chair: Mr Vishnu Swaminathan
Country Director, Ashoka Foundation

12:00 - 16:00

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP FACILITATED BY HUMARA BACHPAN CAMPAIGN. LOCATION: SENATE ROOM

19.30 - 22.00

DINNER

Maharani Hall, the Claridges

29 TH NOV

09.00 - 09.15

RECAP OF DAY 1

Mr Marc Mataheru, Programme Manager, Bernard van Leer Foundation

9.15 - 10.15

CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVES

Panelists

Water and Sanitation: Kajal and Shahnaz, New Delhi

Housing: Malati and Niyaz, Mumbai

Public Space: Bhuvaneshwari and Anil, Hyderabad

Early childhood care and Services: Jasmin and Vikas

Transport and Safety: Rupak and Swati

Chair: Ms Preeti Prada, National Campaign Coordinator, Humara Bachpan Campaign

10.15 - 11.15

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Panelists

Mr Mauro Cesar Ferreira, Director, Transit Education Department, Rio de Janeiro Transit Authority, Brazil

Ms Mariana Koury, CECIP, Brazil

Mr Ashok Bhattacharjee, CSE, New Delhi

Chair: Mr Amit Bhatt, EMBARQ India

11.15 - 11.30 TEA BREAK

11.30 - 13.00



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Panelists

Mr Ilan Fathi, Director, Department of Health Promotion and Environment, AJEEC-NISPED, Israel

Dr Adarsh Sharma, ECCE Expert, New Delhi

Ms Shireen Vakil Miller, Save the Children

Mr Feisal Alkazi

Creative Learning for Change, New Delhi

Mr Rajib Haldar

Child in need institute (CINI), West Bengal

Chair: Dr Venita Kaul

Director CECED, Ambedkar University, New Delhi

13.00 - 14.00 | LUNCH BREAK

14.00 - 15.00

PUBLIC SPACE AND PLAY SPACES

Panellists:

Ms Bina George

Head, Livable Cities Program, India, ESAF

Mr Isidore Philips, Divya Disha, Hyderabad

Dr Rajani Konantambigi

President, International Play Association

Mr Pradeep Narayanan, PRAXIS

Ms Havovi Wadia, Magic Bus

Chair: Mr Kabir Vajpeyi

15.00-15.15

CONFERENCE DECLARATION.

Recitation by Ms Jasmin Nissa of Humara Bachpan Campaign

15.15-15.30

LAUNCHING OF AWARD TO RECOGNIZE SMART CHILD-FRIENDLY URBAN INITIATIVES

Mr Michael Feigelson

Executive Director, Bernard van Leer Foundation

15.30-16.00

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr Durga Shankar Mishra
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development

Mr Vinay Sheel Oberoi
Secretary, Women & Child Development (TBC)

Mr Jagan Shah
Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs

16.00-18.00 | HIGH TEA



Speakers' Profile

Paula Azevedo

Ms Paula Azevedo is currently working as the Manager of Special Projects at the Urban Security Department in the City of Recife, Brazil. She has two Bachelor's degrees in Law and International Relations. She also holds a Masters Degree in International Relations and Security. She has experience in the field of Relations.

Bhrihu Bakshipatra

Mr Brighu Bakshipatra is currently one of the State Secretaries of Bharatiya Janata Party in Odisha. He was National Vice President of BJP Yuva Morcha. A youth political leader, Bhrihu takes a keen interest in the development of tribal communities and children. Prior to joining politics he was in electronic media and was also Managing Director of Wishbone Advertising and Tourism Promotion Pvt Ltd. He holds an MTech degree from IIT, Mumbai.

Amit Bhatt

Mr Amit Bhatt currently holds the position of Strategy Head, Urban Transport, at EMBARQ India. He is based in Delhi and provides vision and leadership to all transport initiatives across EMBARQ India. Amit has over 12 years' experience in the field of transport and urban development. He is also a visiting faculty member at the Department of Transport Planning and the Department of Urban Planning at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. Amit has been formally trained as an architect and transport planner. He has a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and a Masters degree in Transport Planning from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. Amit also has a Masters degree in Economics from CSJM University, Kanpur, and a diploma in Transport Economics and Management from IRT, New Delhi.

Ashok Bhattacharjee

Mr Ashok Bhattacharjee is currently working as an advisor at the Centre for Science and Environment

(CSE). Before this he worked for 32 years at UTTIPEC/DDA and retired as Director (Planning). His worked involved mobility planning with a focus on environment, equity, energy, affordability and safety. He is also a visiting faculty member at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. He completed his Masters from SPA, his Bachelor's degree is in Architecture from Bengal University. He also studied Action Planning in Urban Development at the University of London.

Miss Bhuvaneshwari

Miss Bhuvaneshwari is a member of *Humara Bachpan* children's club. An active child leader she addresses problems pertaining to living conditions in her slum. In Basti meetings she has been strongly advocating for the improvement of water and sanitation facilities to higher officials such as corporaters and the Mayor. Bhuvaneshwari is articulate and motivates her community to keep the areas around them clean and raise issues for redress with the Municipality.

Harini Calamur

Ms Harini Calamur is currently the Digital Country Head for Zee Media Corporation in India. She is a media entrepreneur with 19 years of achievements across areas such as news, education, children's content, and a range of formats including film, video, digital media and platforms. She is a renowned writer and columnist and specialises in media and audience strategy, live interactive media, social media, children's programming, broadcast consulting, film production and copyright ownership and exploitation. She did her Bachelor's degree in Economics and Management Studies at the University of London and is an alumna of City University, London, where she did her Masters in Communication Policy Studies. She is also an educator and is the University of Mumbai Chairperson for Broadcast-related subjects. She is also a visiting faculty member at Sophia College for Women, Mumbai, Whistling Woods and MICA.

Mirai Chatterjee

Ms Mirai Chatterjee is an Indian social worker and Director at SEWA, Ahmedabad. She was appointed



a member of National Advisory Council in June, 2010. She is currently Chairperson of the National Insurance Vimo SEWA Cooperative Ltd and of Lok Swasthya health cooperative. Both cooperatives are promoted by SEWA. Ms Chatterjee serves on the boards of several organisations in India, including the Friends of Women World Banking (FWWB) and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). She was also a Commissioner in the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health.

Sudeshna Chatterjee

Ms Sudeshna Chatterjee is the CEO of the non-profit Action for Children Environments, which engages in research, advocacy, planning and design to improve the living environments of children and upholds the rights of children by promoting and creating child-friendly environments. Trained as an architect and urban designer, Sudeshna has a PhD in Community and Environmental Design from North Carolina State University, USA. Sudeshna has been part of several international projects as advisor and consultant to organisations such as UNICEF and Save the Children, among others. Most recently she served as a member of the IPA-led working group for the drafting of the UN General Comment 17 on Article 31 (right to play). Sudeshna is the India Chair for the Child Friendly Asia Pacific Network; research affiliate of the College of Architecture and Planning of the University of Colorado, USA; is on the editorial advisory board of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) and the international journal on Children, Youth and Environments (CYE). Sudeshna is also a visiting faculty member in the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.

Louise Turner Chawla

Ms Louise Chawla is a Professor in the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado, where she is connected with the Children, Youth and Environments Center for Research and Design and the journal *Children, Youth and Environments*. Her interest in children's informal learning in their communities led her to

a Masters in Education and Child Development from Bryn Mawr College, followed by a doctorate in Environmental Psychology from the City University of New York. Her publications include the books *In the First Country of Places: Nature, Poetry and Childhood Memory* and the co-authored collection *Growing Up in an Urbanizing World*. When she served as a Fulbright Scholar at the Norwegian Centre for Child Research, she revived the Growing Up in Cities project of UNESCO, which continues to involve urban children in cities around the world in evaluating and improving their local communities. The project won the 2002 Place Research Award from the Environmental Design Research Association. She is currently involved in promoting design for children's nature play in residential neighbourhoods.

Jaco Cilliers

Mr Jaco Cilliers is currently the UNDP Country Director for India. Prior to that, he was the Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Uzbekistan, where he was responsible for management and coordination of all operational and programmatic activities of UNDP. He also worked with UNDP Cyprus as office head. He has significant experience working in development and conflict areas. He also taught courses at universities, including George Mason, Notre Dame (USA), Sabanci (Turkey), and Nelson Mandela Metropolis (South Africa).

Urvi Desai

Ms Urvi Desai is the Director of Student Services Office (SSO), CEPT. Currently an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Architecture, she was earlier in the Faculty of Sustainable Environment and Climate Change (FSECC) at CEPT. Urvi holds a Master of Science degree in Community and Regional Planning, with a focus on Sustainable Development, from the University of Texas at Austin, USA, and a Diploma in Architecture from the School of Architecture, CEPT. Urvi's areas of interest cover a broad range, including sustainable design approaches, passive solar architecture, community-based climate change adaptation, sustainable cities and water resource management.



Geetha Dharmarajan

Ms Geetha Dharmarajan is the Executive Director of Katha, a non-profit organisation that she founded in 1988. Interested in learning across boundaries, her work has focused on education, especially of children from economically poor families; stories and story telling for deep-rooted learning; and linking India's diverse cultures, values and traditions. Her interests have shaped the inclusive and integrated work of Katha, and its various interlinked activities. She received the Padma Shri Award for her work in education and literature in 2012. Geeta's professional editorial experience began with *Target*, a children's magazine, and continued with *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, the award-winning alumni magazine of the University of Pennsylvania, which contributed to her becoming the rigorous children's books publisher and visionary activist that she is today. Geeta's published works include more than 30 children's books and over 450 individual pieces that have been published in respected magazines and newspapers in India and abroad.

David Driskell

Mr David Driskell was appointed Executive Director of Community Planning and Sustainability in July 2009. He has led and managed planning projects in dozens of cities in California, Oregon, New York and New Jersey, as well as in the countries of Qatar, India and Kenya. His work has been recognised by awards from the California Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Environmental Design Research Association *PLACES* Magazine, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. He authored the book *Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth: A Manual for Participation* (Earthscan/UNESCO, 2002) and has written numerous articles on the topic. He is a research affiliate at the Children, Youth and Environments Center for Research and Design at CU-Boulder, serves on the steering committee for the Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement at CU-Boulder, and is an advisor to UN-HABITAT's youth-led development programme. He is a graduate of Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Michael Feigelson

Mr Michael Feigelson is Executive Director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation. He has spent the last 15 years focusing on working with governments, civil society and business to improve opportunities for children and young people around the world. He joined the Bernard van Leer Foundation in 2007 as a Programme Officer and has since served as a Programme Manager, Programme Director and now as the interim Executive Director. He is a former Thomas J. Watson Fellow and McKinsey & Company consultant and has degrees from Princeton and Wesleyan University.

Mauro Cesar Ferreira

Mr Mauro Cesar Ferreira is a professor of Sociology and Director of Transit Education in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He graduated from the State University of Rio de Janeiro and has taught since 2005. He worked in the Traffic Engineering Company of Rio de Janeiro since 1993. In 2009, he was appointed Director of the Center for Transit Education. He participated in the working group that drafted the Municipal Policy for Infancy. He is local councillor of the Anti-Drug City Council and member of the Thematic Chamber of Transit Education and Citizenship of the National Transit Department.

Beena George

Ms Beena George is the head of the Livable Cities programme, India, of ESAF. She is a psychiatric social worker by profession. Her areas of interest are social performance management, human resource development, planning and policy, advocacy and networking. She believes in community participation, and developing the potential of communities, empowering them to stand for their own rights.

Rupak Kumar Gouda

Master Rupak is a child leader from the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign, Bhubaneswar. He aspires to become an aeronautical engineer. Rupak has been voicing various concerns of children about unhealthy and unsafe living conditions in the slums. He represented India in Children as Actors



for Transforming Society conference held in Caux, Switzerland, where he spoke about issues that children living in urban poverty confront in their daily life. Recently he participated in the 11th Metropolis World Congress, Cities for All, held in Hyderabad, as a speaker in the Voices of Children plenary session. He also took part in the Childrens Day programme held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Rajib K. Haldar

Mr Rajib K. Haldar is the Additional Director of the Child in Need Institute (CINI). His earlier professional engagements include: Executive Director, Institute of Juvenile Justice, based in New Delhi, Technical Advisor to UNAIDS and short-term Consultant with UNICEF Country Office and International Labour Organisation, New Delhi. He was instrumental in setting up a social business enterprise in skills development, livelihood and economic empowerment sector, under Section 25 of the Company Act. He participated in an EU Parliament visit to Brussels as the young global leader to present India's national perspectives on child rights and public health nutrition issues.

Niyaz Ahmed Peer Mohammad Idrishi

Master Niyaz has been associated with Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti (BASS) for the past three years. He has participated in various events such as *Bol Mulanche* (Voices of Children) child protection and participation, a forum about child security and child labour. His area of expertise is child protection, child labour and participation. BASS is involved in the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign in Mumbai where Niyaz is a young leader.

Ratna A. Jain

Dr Ratna Jain, Mayor of Kota city, is an obstetrician and gynaecologist by profession and has been practising since 25 years. She is also the Director of two multi-specialty hospitals in Kota. In her political career, she is a member of the Central Supervisory Board, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, a member of the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board and the Convener of Planning with People, Horizon

2030, a state-level committee. Her focus areas are women's empowerment, mother-child health, infrastructure development for a greener city, and environment protection. She also works to improve the conditions of grassroots workers and leaders. She wishes to implement the integrated management of Municipal Solid Waste in the city, thus making Kota a clean, green, healthy and wealthy city. Her dream is to implement E-governance and develop solar power generating units in the city and she is happy that these dreams are turning into reality. She wishes to make Kota an Education city by bringing world-class universities here. She has actively participated in more than 50 national and international conferences and has been involved in many global activities organised by various UN organisations.

Paul James

Mr Paul James is the Director of the United Nations Global Compact Cities Program. Across the last decade, James been engaged in bringing out a 16-volume series for Sage Publications called *Central Currents in Globalization*, a landmark collection that maps the contours of a burgeoning field that now crosses the boundaries of all the older disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. Most recently, James has been working on the issue of community resilience and urban sustainability. This currently involves ongoing work with the UN Global Compact Cities Program, UN-Habitat, Metropolis and World Vision to develop an alternative model of urban development called 'Circles of Sustainability'. It is developed in a book called *Urban Sustainability in Theory and Practice: Circles of sustainability* (2014).

K. Anil

Master K. Anil is a child leader in the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign, Hyderabad. As an enthusiastic leader he is advocating for better sanitation facilities for his slum. To solve issues of open drainage he motivated children and mothers on the committee and wrote letters to municipal officials, resulting in the drains now being covered.

K. Vikash



Master K. Vikash is a child leader in the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign, Bhubaneswar. Vikash has taken the lead to create and showcase his dream neighbourhood, through 3D modelling, to his local corporater and city mayor. Vikash was also part of the Swacha Bhubaneswar Abhijan programme held at Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, and the Meet the Mayor programme.

Vineta Kaul

Dr Vineta Kaul is currently Director at the Center for Early Childhood Education and Development, and a Professor at Ambedkar University, Delhi. She is currently engaged in setting up a Center for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED) at Ambedkar University, Delhi. This is a centre for research, quality promotion and advocacy in early childhood education and child development for children up to 8 years of age. Earlier she worked as Senior Education Specialist at the World Bank, in the areas of elementary education, early childhood education and integrated child development. She undertook her doctoral studies in Educational Psychology at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. She has number of national awards and affiliations, and has written books on early childhood.

Shehnaaz Khatoon

Miss Shehnaaz is a child leader from the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign, Delhi. She lives with her mother and six younger siblings at Pocket 14, Sector A-5, Narela. As a child leader she highlighted issues such as unsafe water, substandard sanitation levels, and housing-related issues to the Delhi media who had visited her slum recently. She is passionate about addressing the everyday problems that the children face in her slum. She is very fond of singing and painting.

Kajal Khurana

Miss Kajal Khurana is a child leader of the *Humara Bachpan* children's club in New Delhi. As a member of the club she is passionate about addressing the everyday problems that the children face. The issues that she focuses on are sanitation, water and hygiene. In a recently held

press visit to her slum she talked with vigour and clarity about the lack of toilets and how insecure they feel when they have to defecate in the open. She has also participated in the 11th Metropolis World Congress, Cities for All, as a speaker in the Voices of Children session and in the Children's Day programme held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Rajani Konantambigi

Dr Rajani Mohan Konantambigi is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Human Ecology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Her broad areas of work and interest are: child development and socialisation; play in children; teaching and learning in the school context; teacher education; learning problems and learning disability; the mental health and well-being of children, individuals and families; counselling and interventions for children; and issues related to qualitative research methodology and to observation as a method. She has edited and published chapters in books on child development and care and learning disabilities and has also published papers in journals. She was awarded the Fulbright Post-doctoral Fellowship, Georgia State University, and The Rockefeller Team Residency Fellowship, for editing a book, at the Bellagio Study Center, Italy.

Mariana Koury

Ms Mariana Koury is a graduate in Social Sciences from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). She has experience in social projects carried out by NGOs and social movements in poor communities, especially with children. Currently, she is with the project Small Children in Focus, developed by the Popular Image Creation Center (CECIP).

Jayakumar Krishnaswamy

Mr Jayakumar Krishnaswamy is responsible for steering and overseeing all of Akzo Nobel's businesses in India. In addition, he is responsible for developing new markets for Akzo Nobel's decorative paints business across the South-east and South Asia (SESA) region. Jay is a Mechanical



Engineer from Delhi College of Engineering (1987), and has over 26 years of experience across the automotive and engineering sectors as well as the FMCG and cement industries. During the course of his career, Jay has developed expertise in integrated supply chain management, kick-starting start-ups and transforming organisations. He joined Akzo Nobel India in 2011 as Director, Supply Chain. Prior to joining Akzo Nobel he was associated with Hindustan Unilever for over 15 years and played an important role in shaping the supply chain of the company. He has also worked with Lafarge, Brakes India and Eicher Tractors.

Marc Mataheru

Mr Marc Mataheru joined the Bernard van Leer Foundation in 1986, and since April 2009 has been responsible for programme development and the activities of the Foundation in Israel. In early 2010 he also assumed responsibility for the Foundation's programme development in Turkey. Previously he managed the Foundation's projects in countries including the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands Antilles, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Argentina, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia. Marc has a Masters Degree from the Free University (Amsterdam) in Social Geography (specialising in Developing Countries) and before joining the Foundation worked for 5 years as a UN technical expert in socio-economic planning in Senegal, the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Palau (Micronesia).

Gora Mboup

Dr Gora Mboup is the Founder and CEO of Global Observatory linking Research to Action (GORA). Dr Mboup has more than 25 years of experience in international cooperation, particularly in the field of statistics, population, health and urban studies, of which he served 10 years as the Chief of the Global Urban Observatory of the United Nations Human Settlements Program. He has also worked for ten years with Macro International (USA), which coordinated the worldwide Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program and implemented it in Africa, Asia and Latin

America. He received the Macro International Leadership Award in 1999. He has contributed to international debates such as Rio+20 Post 2015 Development Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, and the preparation of the third Habitat Conference (Habitat III). He is the author of the UN-Habitat publication *Streets as Public Spaces and Drivers of Urban Prosperity*. He also authored the development of three important indices, key for sustainable urbanisation: the Composite Street Connectivity Index (CSCI), the City Prosperity Index (CPI), and the slum indicator. He was a co-author of four series of the State of the Worlds Cities launched at World Urban Forums: Prosperity of Cities. He holds a PhD and a Masters degree in Demography, a Bachelor's degrees in Statistics and Economics.

Durga Shankar Mishra

Mr Durga Shanker Mishra, IAS, currently serves as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India. Mr Mishra has also served as Director of National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. Mr Mishra holds a BTech (Electrical Engineering) from IIT, Kanpur and a MBA (International Business) from the University of Western Sydney, Macarthur, Australia. He also has a PG Diploma in Human Resource Management from AIMA and a PG Diploma in Democratisation, Governance and Public Policy from Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands.

Venkaiah Naidu

Shri. Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu is an Indian politician hailing from undivided Andhra Pradesh. He is a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and has also served as the National President of the party from 2002 to 2004. Currently, he is serving as the Union Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Pradeep Narayanan

Mr Pradeep Narayan is Director of Research and Consultancies at Praxis. He is a human rights activist-researcher associated with many rights-based NGOs and campaigns in India. He has



more than 15 years of experience of working in government and in the corporate and non-governmental sectors. For the past six years, he has focused on children's issues, primarily child labour and its relation to education, child protection, child participation, and health. Over the years, he has also handled projects on issues of community participation, water rights, free trade agreements and fair trade.

Baroness Julia Neuberger

Rabbi Julia Neuberger is a member of the British House of Lords. She formerly took the Liberal Democrat whip, but resigned from the party and joined the Crossbenches in September 2011 upon becoming the full-time Senior Rabbi to the West London Synagogue. She attended South Hampstead High School and Newnham College, Cambridge, obtaining her Rabbinic Diploma at Leo Baeck College, London, where she taught from 1977 to 1997. She was Chancellor of the University of Ulster from 1994 to 2000. She was appointed a DBE in the New Year Honours of 2003. In June 2004 she was created a life peer as Baroness Neuberger of Primrose Hill in the London Borough of Camden. She served as a Liberal Democrat health spokesperson from 2004 to 2007. On 29 June 2007, Baroness Neuberger was appointed by the incoming Prime Minister Gordon Brown as the Government's champion of volunteering.

Jasmin Nissa

Miss Jasmin Nissa is a child leader in the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign, Bhubaneswar. She has been involved with *Humara Bachpan* since the age of 12. She participated in Children as Actors for Transforming Society at Caux, Switzerland. Recently, Jasmin was a panellist for the Voices of Children plenary session at the 11th Metropolis World Congress, Cities for All, held in Hyderabad. She also participated in the Children's Day programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Nila Madhab Panda

Mr Nila Madhab Panda is a filmmaker and social activist from Odisha. He is also the Founder

and Executive Director of the International Screenwriter's Lab, which focuses on creating quality scripts for Indian cinema. He is the Indian Creative Associate for the UK Arts Council-funded Moti Roti 360 Degrees and has commissioned 60 short films in India Pakistan and London. He has produced and directed over 70 shorts, documentaries, television dramas and films for national broadcasters, the BBC, the Discovery Channel, NGC and private producers. His films have won him several awards. He has also served on the juries of several national and international film festivals. His film *I Am Kalam* became an iconic film in India, winning over 30 awards (27 international awards, a national award, film fare and screen award). His new film *Kaun Kitney pani mein*, a satire set in rural India about a water crisis will be released soon.

Sailesh Pathak

Mr Sailesh Pathak has contributed to public policy and infrastructure financing in various professional associations, PSUs, the Planning Commission and various ministries. He is on the national infrastructure, capital markets and urban development committee of CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM. He chairs the BRICS infrastructure working group in the BRICS Business Council. He has lectured extensively in Indian business schools, including IIMs and ISB, the LBS Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, the National Police Academy, Hyderabad, the Railways Institute in Lucknow, and also the Alberta Business School in Canada. Mr Pathak graduated from Shriram College of Commerce, Delhi and

completed his MBA in Finance from IIM Calcutta in 1986. He is also a Law graduate. In 2011, he attended a Chevening Leadership programme at Oxford University Said Business School. He was one of 15 young Indian leaders chosen for the prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship in 2000, and now leads the nominations for new Eisenhower Fellows from India.

Amar Patnaik

Mr Amar Patnaik has been in the civil service



in India for the past 20 years, serving under the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. Currently he is Accountant-General (General, Social Sector Audit), Odisha. He has been involved in carrying out value-for-money evaluations of Government programmes in sectors such as health service delivery, water supply, consumer protection, poverty reduction, environmental protection, city slum development and child labour. He has also conducted international audits of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome and in Kabul, Afghanistan and most recently, of the United Nations African Union hybrid mission in Darfur, Sudan at Entebbe, Uganda and also in New York. He has introduced several innovations in public sector audit methodology and practices within the CAGs organisation through involvement in areas and domains that concern ordinary citizens, the disadvantaged, and women and children. These audits hope to alert Government, non-state actors and citizens to the need for re-evaluating policies, regulations, and their design and implementation in these areas. They also contribute to giving a voice to those who are disadvantaged. His interest in child issues in city slums is one such area. He is a Certified Internal Auditor, a Certified Fraud Examiner, and a Certified Risk Management Assessor. He has a Masters degree in Business Administration and a Bachelors degree in law and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in development management and institutional studies. He has also completed a Masters programme in Public Management from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore and the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 2010 and was also selected as a Chevening Gurukul Fellow for studies at the London School of Economics in 2013.

Dharitri Patnaik

Ms Dharitri Patnaik is the India Representative of the Bernard van Leer Foundation. Dharitri has been associated with international development and the non-profit sector for more than 18 years. Her areas of expertise are human rights, governance and non-profit management. She

has worked extensively on tribal issues in Odisha, urban development and internationally on poverty eradication, knowledge management and public policy. She has worked with UNICEF, the Government of Odisha's urban development department, Unifem, ActionAid International and Care USA. She has a Masters degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, USA, and a Masters degree in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India.

Isidore Phillips

Mr Isidore Phillips has 27 years' work experience with various issues concerning children and young people. A social entrepreneur and a child rights activist, Isidore is the Director of *Divya Disha*. He is also a member of the State Executive Committee of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (RVM), Andhra Pradesh, Convener for the Hyderabad Child Rights Network (HCRN), a member of the State Academic Support Group of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (Rajiv Vidhya Mission), a member of the State Core Committee on the Adolescent Education Programme, a member of the State Committee for the Integrated Child Protection Society, and resource person on the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, the Convention on Child Rights, the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, and child issues. He is also an Ashoka Fellow.

Preeti Prada

Ms Preeti Prada is the National Campaign Coordinator of *Humara Bachpan*. She has worked in CSR initiatives in the corporate sector and had gained expertise in a wide range of industries and roles prior to her becoming part of the development sector. She has seven years of experience, during which she has worked for children with disabilities, children from indigenous communities, and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Her research has been in education, disability, juvenile delinquency, and HIV/AIDS. She has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from BJB College, Bhubaneswar and an MSc from the London School of Economics (LSE), London.



Anjali Pradhan

Ms Anjali S. Pradhan is the Programme Specialist and Chief of the Child Friendly Local Governance Unit of UNICEF in Nepal. She manages the Decentralization and Child Friendly Local Governance portfolio and has been working at UNICEF Nepal since 1994. Anjali earlier provided technical support to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MOFALD) to conceptualise a Child-friendly Local Governance (CFLG) initiative in Nepal and provided technical support to develop the National Strategy on Child-friendly Local Governance which was approved by the Cabinet of Nepal in 2011. Her policy advocacy has contributed to influencing policy provision that mandates local bodies to allocate 10–15 per cent of the local capital block grant for children throughout Nepal. In 2014, she received recognition from the Deputy Prime Minister citing her dedication, technical expertise, and contribution to the development and success of the CFLG program in Nepal. She has been actively involved in the Government's largest national local governance programme, the Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP). More recently she has successfully advocated in favour of making every municipality child-friendly as of one the core indicators of the Performance Contract developed by MOFALD for Municipal Executive officers. She has also contributed to mainstream gender and child participation issues in Local Governance in Nepal. She was part of the core team of UNICEF Nepal that conceived the development of the Disadvantaged Mapping Exercise. Ms Pradhan holds a Masters Degree in Economics from Rajasthan University, India.

Manu Prakash

Mr Manu Prakash is currently Director at Taru Leading Edge. He has over 15 years of rich development experience with a range of international, national, and community organisations. As advisor, consultant and staff member in various capacities, his responsibilities included programme development, management, lending, grant-based projects, policy analysis, capacity development, knowledge, advocacy

and professionalisation, and transformational initiatives.

Jagan Shah

Professor Jagan Shah is Director of the National Institute of Urban Affairs. He has 20 years of professional work experience in various aspects of urban development in India. He studied Architectural Design at the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi, and Architectural History and Theory at the the University of Cincinnati and Columbia University, USA. He has served as the Director of Sushant School of Architecture, Gurgaon, and taught at the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) from 1998 to 2006. From 2007 to 2010, he was Chief Executive of Urban Space Consultants, providing consultancy in policy formulation, spatial planning, heritage conservation, transportation and livelihoods development for clients such as Infrastructure Development Finance Company, Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transport System, Jaipur Virasat Foundation, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, India Foundation for the Arts and others. He has a comprehensive list of publications to his name. He is the author of *Contemporary Indian Architecture* (2008), co-author of *Building Beyond Borders* (1995), and co-editor of *Round*, a collection of seminal Asian texts on architecture. He is also a founding member of the Modern Asian Architecture Network (MAAN).

Adarsh Sharma

Dr Adarsh Sharma is currently a freelance consultant in the field of ECE and human development. She is the Country Coordinator of Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) and was also a member of its steering committee from 2006 to 2011. Her professional career spans a period of four decades in the field of child development. She has worked in the University of Delhi and G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, as Professor. She was associated with the setting up of the Center of Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED) of the Ambedkar University of Delhi as a Visiting Professor (2009–2012). After working for over two decades at the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child



Development (NIPCCD), a premier organisation for child development, she retired as its Executive Director in 2005. She has played a key role in the movement for ECE during the last four decades as a researcher, trainer and expert in the field of ECCE. She undertook her post-doctoral research work on Techniques and Methods for Evaluation and Appraisal of Early Childhood Interventions at Pennsylvania State University, as a Fulbright Scholar. She was a member of the ECE subgroup of India's National Curriculum Framework 2005, designed by NCERT. She was a member of the core group that formulated the policy on ECE.

Indu Prakash Singh

Dr Indu Prakash Singh is a human rights defender, poet, author, feminist and a PRA practitioner/facilitator. Previously he was with Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) as Head of SHELTER (Sustaining Housing, Health, Education, Livelihoods through Empowerment and Rights) Intervention, City Makers Programme. He became part of the Women's Movement from 1982 onwards. He is author of four books on women issues: *Women's Oppression, Men Responsible; Women, Law and Social Change in India* (London; New Delhi); *Indian Women: The Captured Beings*; and *Indian Women: The Power Trapped*. Indu has an MA in Philosophy (University of Delhi), MA in Sociology (Jamia Millia Islamia) and MPhil in Sociology (Jawaharlal Nehru University).

Saketh Singh

Mr Saketh Singh is a young architect who started an innovative design research studio with the name of Play Design Studio at Puducherry.

Shivani Singh

Shivani Singh is the Metro Editor of the *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi. Besides managing a large team of reporters in Delhi, Shivani conceives and implements the newspaper's key editorial strategies. She has been successful in introducing a number of innovations in news coverage and launching editions in Gurgaon and Noida. A journalist for 18 years, Shivani has worked at *The Times of India* as a Deputy City Editor and a Special

Correspondent in the national bureau. She started her career as a trainee journalist in *The Sunday Observer*.

T.S. Sudhir

Mr T S Sudhir is the Editor for South India on the TV Today Network of the India Today Group, in charge of the editorial requirements of Headlines Today and Aaj Tak news channels. He also anchors the daily news show *Up South* on Headlines Today, besides documentaries at weekends. He also writes regularly for *India Today* magazine and website. A print, television and web journalist with over 22 years' experience, Sudhir had a long period of over 16 years with NDTV, where he was Resident Editor (South India). He has covered every election in South India since 1996 and has a special interest in politics, Maoism, development subjects, sports, movies and human interest stories. A 2001 Chevening scholar, Sudhir turned author in July 2012 with the biography of badminton player Saina Nehwal and in November 2012 was nominated by the Foreign Press Center of the US State Department to represent India in an exclusive group of 25 journalists from 25 countries to cover the US Presidential elections.

Vishnu Swaminathan

Mr Vishnu Swaminathan is the Country Director of Ashoka India. He is an experienced entrepreneur and innovator. He started two IT-based companies in Singapore in the areas of financial transactions and animation technology. Following acquisition of one of the companies, he moved to India to head a leadership school based in Pune, where he led the school's social effort by creating an Independent Centre for Social Development. He worked on large government projects with an aim to donate the surplus to fund citizens' organisations. Most recently he ran an assignment with National Innovation Foundation, a government-sponsored organisation working on grassroots innovation at national level in India. He started his career as a 3D and film special effects artist, later turning towards project management. He holds a few patents. He has worked on a wide range of technologies, projects, training and



strategic business models and has been a leader at those initiatives. He holds a MBA from the University of Southern Queensland.

Kabir Vajpeyi

Mr Kabir Vajpeyi is an architect by training and has extensive experience in developing learning environments for schools in rural as well as urban areas. He co-founded VINYAS in 1996 to undertake innovative, application-oriented, interdisciplinary research and design, build capacity and provide policy support. Since then, VINYAS has advised and provided consultancy to the Government of India, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, the World Bank, DFID, GTZ, Aga Khan Foundation, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, HUDCO, as well as several NGOs and private institutions on matters related to education, building design, conservation, tourism, training, construction, policy, etc. VINYAS conducts workshops and training programmes for administrators, architects, engineers, teachers and masons in participative design and construction practices. Presently, Kabir is also Advisor Infrastructure for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. He has initiated the concept of Whole School Development Planning and is expected to influence more than thirteen lakh primary and elementary schools across the country in next few years. Also he was identified as one of the 32 Inventive Indians in the book that profiles 32 Indians, *Great Stories of Change: Inventive Indians*, in July 2009.

Havovi Wadia

Ms Havovi Wadia is part of a larger team that develops programmes for the organisation Magic Bus. Havovi's background is eclectic, ranging from an MPhil in English Literature, to Women's Studies, and over the past eight years, a passion for the rights of children and understanding of childhood. She has worked with CRY and Praxis.

Peter Williams

Mr Peter Williams is a renowned architect and social entrepreneur who prioritises the link between housing and health as an important

means for improving the lives of the world's poor. For over ten years, he has worked on building projects on five continents and has taught at universities around the world. Peter holds two Masters Degrees in African Studies and Architecture respectively from the University of Oxford and Columbia University, a summa cum laude degree from the City University of New York and a diploma from the University of Technology in Jamaica. Peter has received numerous awards for research including the Kinne Fellowship from Columbia University, which led him to form ARCHIVE. He has also been a visiting researcher at the UNAIDS Secretariat in South Africa and has worked for the World Bank. In 2009, Peter was named among the 22 best emerging social entrepreneurs in the world by Echoing Green and in 2011 he was recognised as one of London's 40 under-40 International Development Leaders by Devex. In the same year, Utne Reader also named him among the 25 Visionaries who are changing the world. Peter is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health, a member of the American Public Health Association and lectures widely on architecture, public health and international development.

Malathi Guruswami Madaswami Yadav

Miss Malati Yadav is a child leader in the *Humara Bachpan* Campaign, Mumbai. She has participated as a speaker at the 11th Metropolis World Congress, Cities for All, Hyderabad in the session Voices of Children. She also represented the Campaign at Children's Day programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, where she met the President of India.



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