

# Baseline Survey in JJ slum cluster, NOIDA Sector 15

## Report



May 2019

Initiative of: Aid for Child Trust

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## Background

Aid for Child Trust (ACT) was working with children in a slum area of NOIDA sector 15 since July 2016. ACT provided free education to children and intended to help these children get out of poverty. However, due to some reasons ACT decided to close its centre at Naya Bans near the slum area. To restart its programme with a proper education plan with vulnerable children of 6-14 years, this baseline survey was undertaken.

### Objective of the baseline survey

The objective of this baseline survey included the following:

1. To understand parental views on educating their children.
2. To understand reasons for children staying/ dropping out of school.
3. To get an estimate of no. of out of school children (6-14 years).
4. To know factors contributing to retention/ admission of children in schools.

### Methodology

- a. Survey questionnaire - this was developed in consultation with ACT team
- b. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with parents and children

### Execution

The baseline survey was conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019, at JJ Cluster, Noida Sector 15 by a team comprising the following members:

1. Mr. Zaved Nafis Rahman
2. Ms. Apurva Singh
3. Ms. Ravinder Kaur
4. Ms. Zeba Khatoon
5. Mr. Vednath Prasad
6. Mr. Pankaj Tyagi
7. Ms. Priyanka Bairagi (data entry)

# Interviews with the parents of out-of-school children

A random sample of 120 families, in which at least one out of school child was present, was taken for the baseline survey.

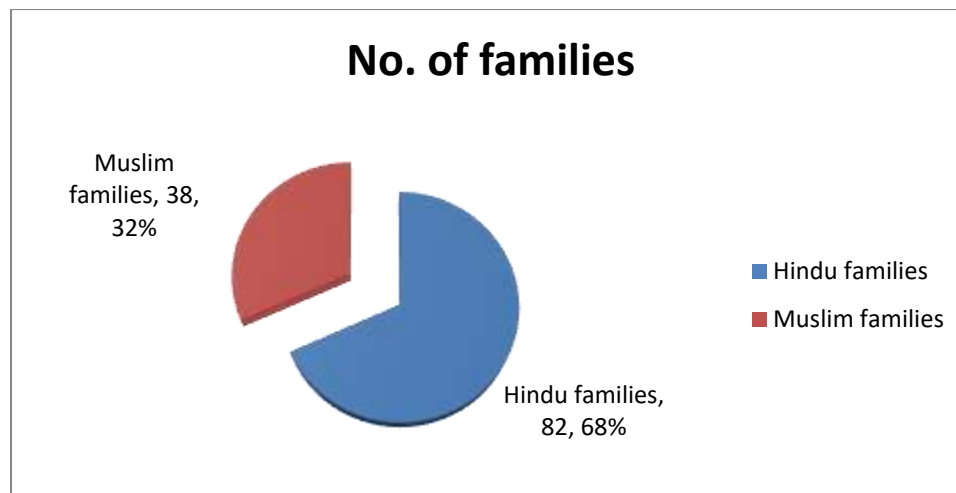
- In total 210 no. of children, 110 boys and 100 girls, in the age group of 6-14 years were reported out of school in these families.

## Families' profile

While assessing profile of the families covered in the baseline survey, three attributes were studied which included- religion, period of stay and number of children in the family.

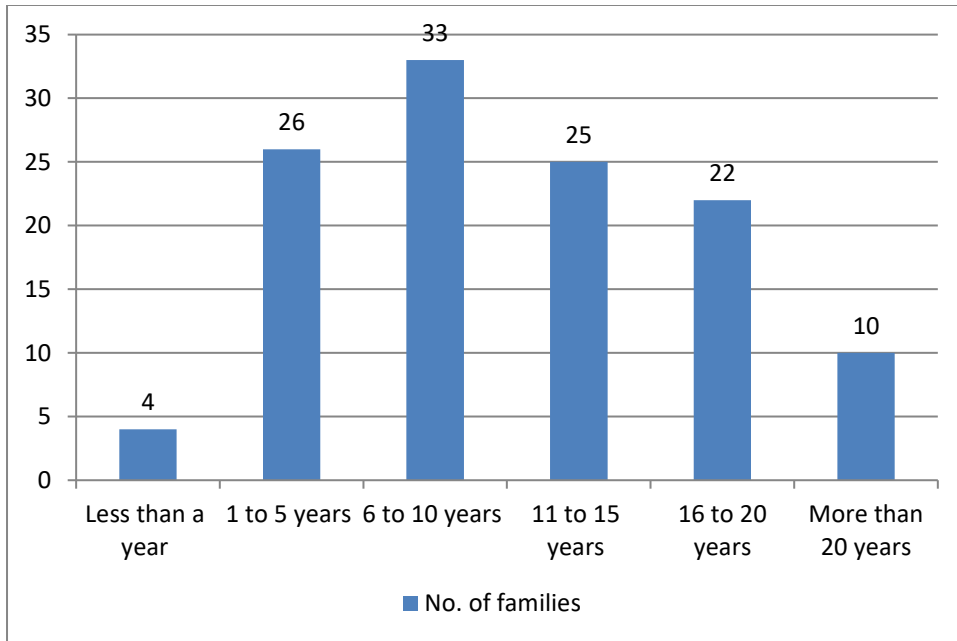
### Religion

- Out of the 120 families covered in the survey majority, 68% were Hindu families and remaining 32% were Muslim families.



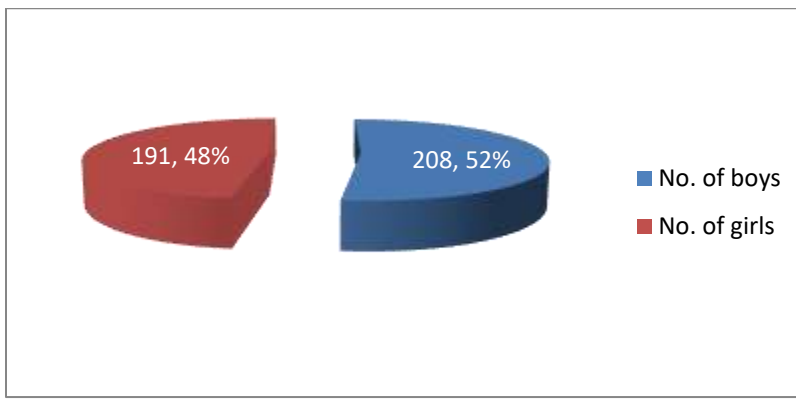
### Period of stay

- Only 4 families were new to this place and have stayed there for less than a year right now. Majority, 28%, families are living there from 6 to 10 years.
- Long period of stay of the families in this area shows their stability and any intervention with these families/ children can be planned keeping in view its long term impact.



### No. of children

- Total no. of children (0-18 years) in these 120 families was 399, of which around 52% are boys and 48% are girls.
- 277 children out of 399 were reported to be out of school of which 210 were in the age bracket of 6-14 years.
- There are 20 such families in which children have their elder brother and sisters who are now above 18 years of age.

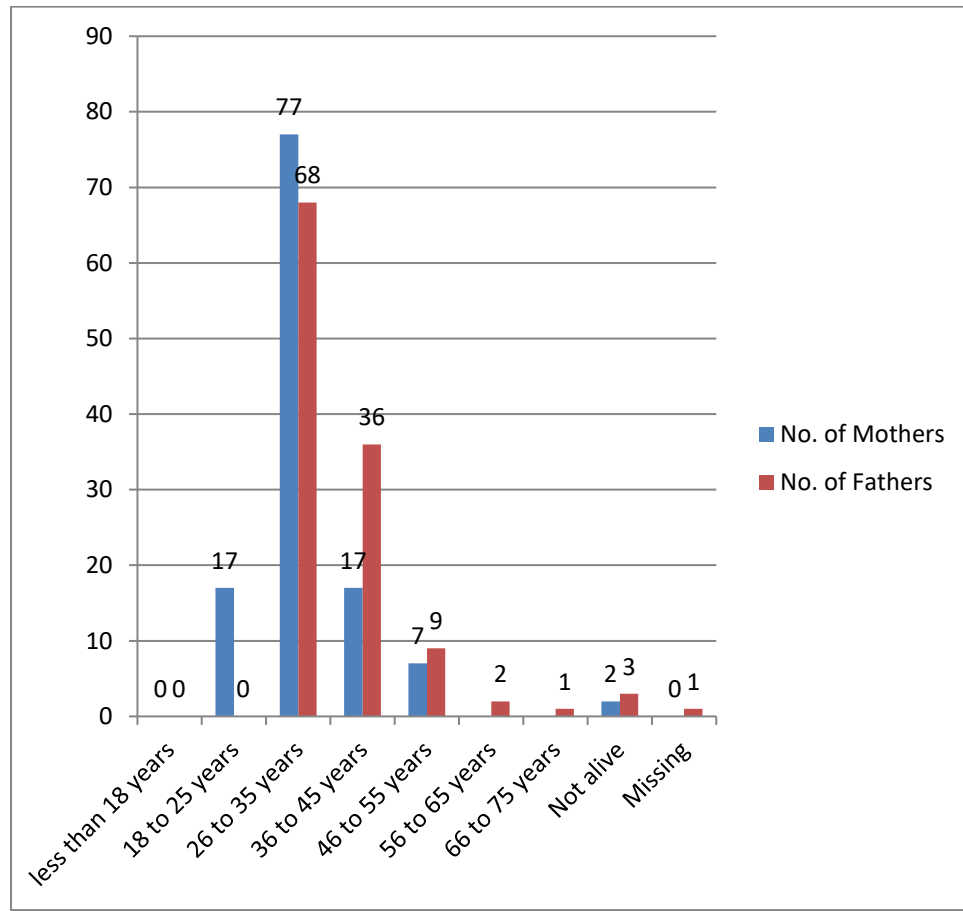


### Parents' profile

Three aspects of parents' profile were studied during the survey which include- age, education and occupation of both the parents. Major findings on parents' profile are as follows:

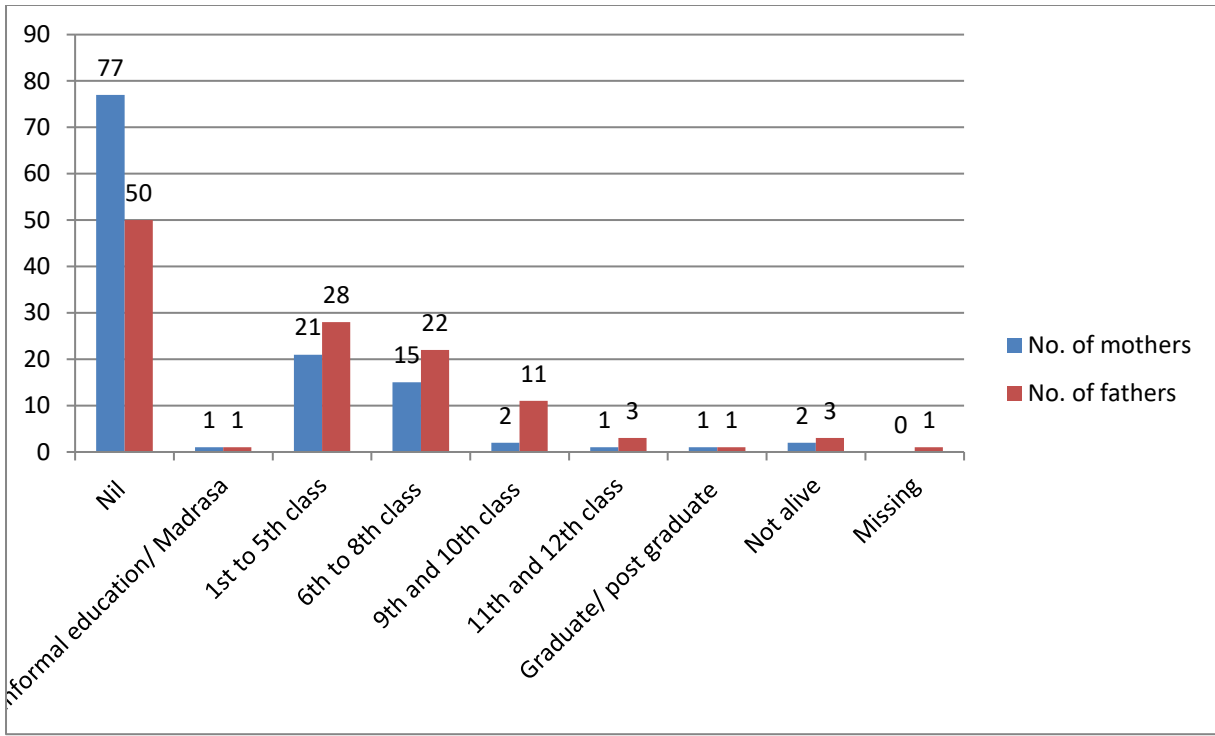
### Age of parents

- The youngest mother is reported to be 20 years of age who has her eldest child as 6 years old. The eldest mother is reported to be 55 years of age who has her youngest child as 8 years old.
- The youngest father is reported to be 26 years of age who has his eldest child as 6 years old. The eldest father is reported to be 70 years of age who has his youngest child as 10 years old.
- Majority, 77 mothers and 68 fathers, are in the age bracket of 26 to 35 years.



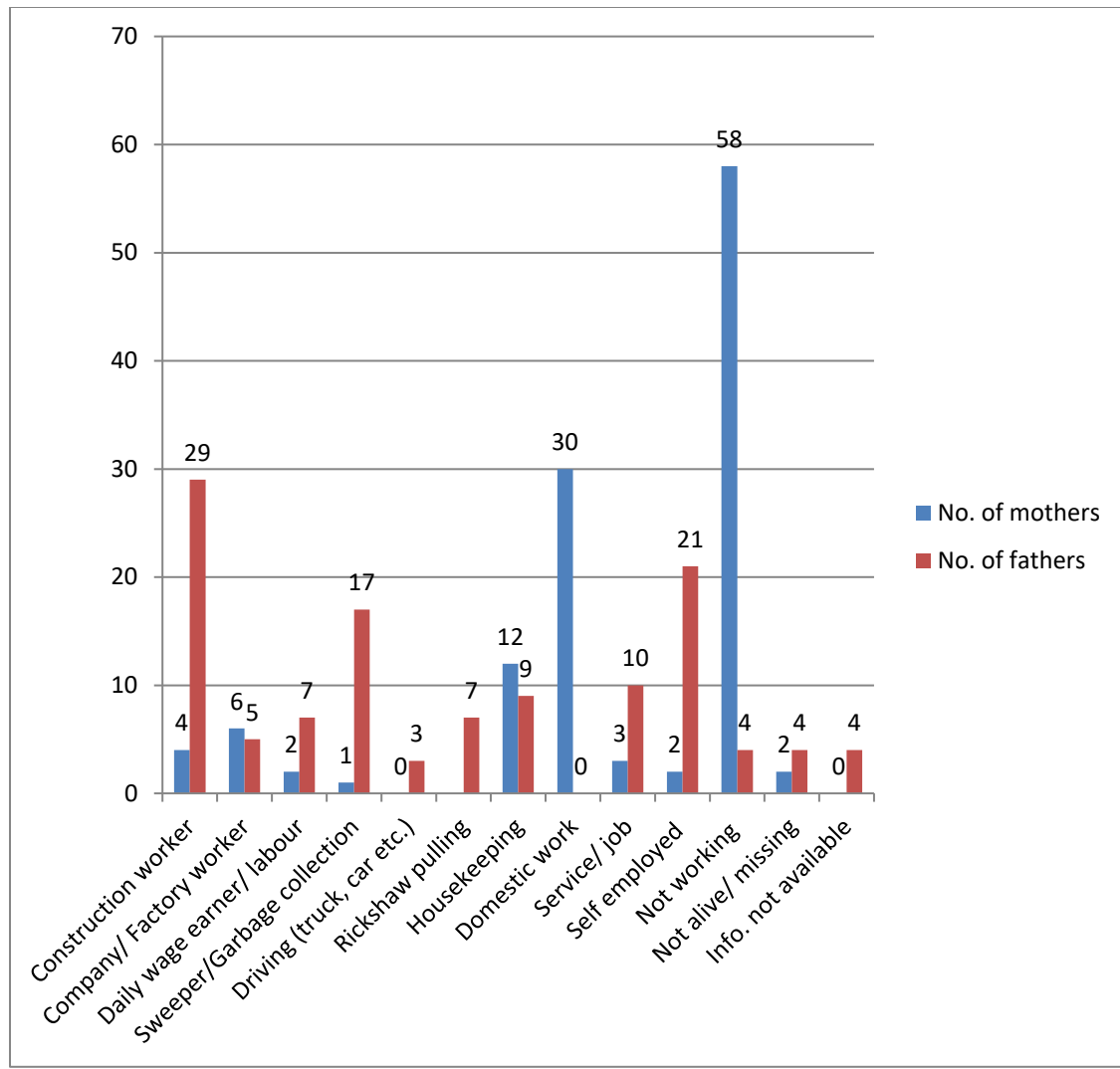
### Education level

- Education levels of parents/ guardians: Most of the mothers around 64% were uneducated, whereas around 42% fathers were reported to be uneducated. Amongst the parents who were educated, following is their education level:
- Highest qualification of one of the mothers is M.A. Hindi and one of the fathers is LLB (Urdu medium).
- Majority of the parents (21 mothers and 28 fathers) have studied, upto 5<sup>th</sup> standard.



### Occupation

- Occupation of parents include housekeeping, domestic work, construction labour, factory labour, garbage collection, rickshaw pulling, painting, plumbing, security service etc. 48% mothers are not working. Those who are working, domestic work is the topmost reported occupation of the mothers followed by housekeeping service.
- Only a very few fathers, 3%, are not working mainly due to health issues. Construction work, 24%, and self-employment, 18%, are the topmost occupations of the fathers.
- The parents who are into service/ job, their profiles are as security guards, supervisors, peon, canteen worker etc.



### Parents' views on educating their children

All the parents believed that education was important for their children. Out of the 120 parents interviewed, 112 said that their children will have better future if they are educated. 58 parents also said that their children will not be dependent on others once they know reading and writing.

Benefits of educating children as explained by parent	No. of parent
Better future	112
No dependency on others for reading address, bus no. etc. Also get respect in society	58
Job security	44

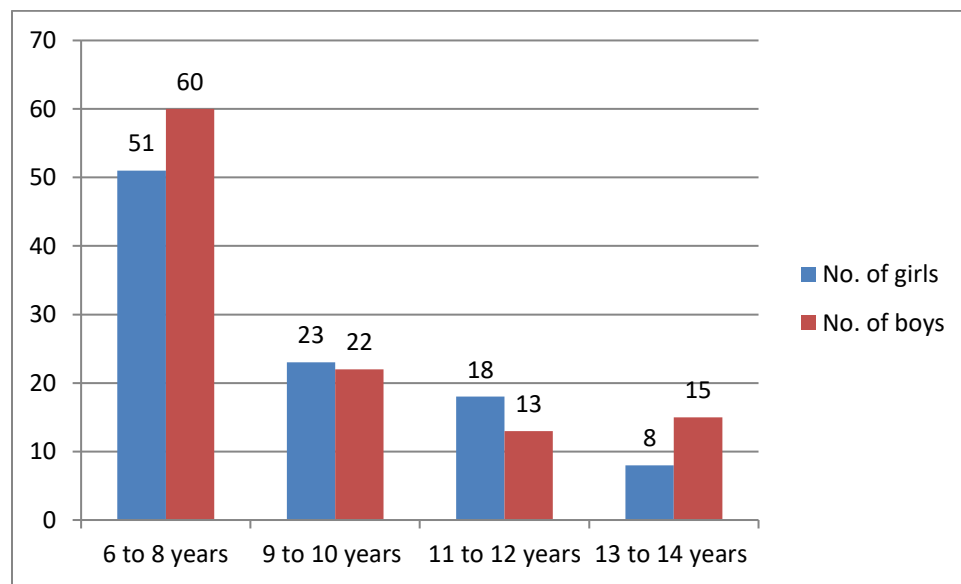


## Out of school children's profile

Four aspects of out of school children's profile were studied during the survey which include- age & sex, previous education level, school attended and documents available. Major findings on out of school children's profile are as follows:

### Age and sex

- In total 210 no. of children, 110 boys and 100 girls, in the age group of 6-14 years were reported out of school in these families.
- Majority of the out of school children are in the age bracket of 6 to 8 years. Their age wise representation is as follows:



### Education level

- Out of the total 210 no. of children, 49 boys and 61 girls had previously attended schools.
- Majority of the children had dropped out of school in classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. Their class wise representation is as follows:

Studies upto class	No. of boys	No. of girls	Total
Nursery/ KG	5	9	14
1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> class	31	39	70
6 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> class	6	7	13
Do not remember	7	6	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>110</b>

### School attended

- Out of these 210, around 52% children had earlier attended school either in their village or at their present location.
- Majority, 54%, of the out of school children who have previously attended schools were going to schools at the vicinity/ nearby areas. The school wise profile is as follows:

School attended	No. of boys	No. of girls	Total
Govt. school in village	17	11	28
Govt. School in the vicinity	23	36	59
Private schools in the vicinity	9	14	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>110</b>

### Documents available

- Out of the 210 children covered under the survey, only around 60% had their identity documents such as Aadhar card and birth certificate.

### Why children stay/ drop out of school?

The survey also covered the reasons for children staying or dropping out of school which include reasons like relocation, school denying admission due to incomplete documents or not taking admission in the middle of an academic session, short attendance, financial constraints, children not interested to study, teachers/ facilities not satisfactory, safety concerns etc.

Reasons for children staying/ dropping out of school	No. of children
Financial Problem	72
Relocation	46
Incomplete documents	33
Underage	31
Child is not interested to go to school	25
Short attendance	18
Because of fees	15
Bad Teachers/Facilities	18
Medical/ Mental health issues	10
Can't say	8
Parents doesn't have time for enrollment	6
Session not started	7
Parents aren't interested to send to school	2
Safety Issues	2

- Topmost reason reported by parents for their children staying/ dropping out of school is poor financial condition of the families. Out of the 210 children, 72 children stayed/ dropped out of school because of their financial circumstance followed by relocation as another reason in 46 cases and incomplete documents in 33 cases.

### Engagements of out of school children

- Only around 15% of the children covered under the survey were associated with NGO nearby which included educational centers run by All India Development (AID) NOIDA, Sewa Bharti, Suraksha Shiksha Kendra and Ujala.
- Most of the out of school children do nothing or just play around. Some go for private tuitions or coaching in nearby NGO centers. A few take care of elderly persons/siblings in the family or go to work with parents.

### Children feedback about the schools they previously attended

60% of the children who attended school previously liked their teachers because they found their teaching methodology interesting. However, around 21% of children disliked their teachers because their teachers would beat children, they were not very attentive and their teaching methodology was not interesting.

Response about teachers	No. of children who attended school previously
Very good	2
Good	64
Bad	23
No response	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>

Regarding the facilities in the school, most children, 51%, found them good which mainly include provision of free meals, uniform and books. Other good facilities include drinking water, clean washrooms etc.

Response about teachers	No. of children who attended school previously
Very good	0
Good	56
Bad	20
No response	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>

## ✚ Views of children who had never gone to school about teachers and facilities

62% of the children who never attended school had positive and good views about schools teachers. According to them teachers educate children and give their time to them. However, those who had negative views about teachers believed that teachers ignore students and don't teach interestingly.

Response about teachers	No. of children who never attended school
Very good	0
Good	62
Bad	8
No response	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

Regarding the facilities in the school, most children, 56%, had positive and good views about facilities such as the provision of free meals, uniforms and books.

Response about teachers	No. of children who attended school previously
Very good	0
Good	56
Bad	7
No response	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

# Focused Group Discussions with Parents

Focused group discussions were done with parents of the out of school children in two groups participated by 14 parents in total.

## Focused Group Discussion with Parents- Group1

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Day:** Sunday

### Participants:

S.no.	Name of the parent participating	Occupation	Name and age/sex of their children out of school
1.	Ruksana	Sweeper	Sadam, 6/M
2.	Sanjeena	Not working	Khushi, 12/F Sarfraz, 7/M Shahnawaz, 14/M
3.	Shehzadi	Not working	Shabana, 6/F
4.	Gulshan	Not working	Asmeen, 6/F
5.	Heena	Sweeper	Amir, 7/M Sameer, 8/M
6.	Zulekha	Not working	Shehzadi, 7/F
7.	Manjur	Runs tea stall	Minaz, 8/F Armaan, 6/M

### Discussions

#### Parents' views about children's education

All the parents who participated in the discussion said that education is important for their children. They said that education will help their children in following ways:

- Getting good employment opportunities
- Earning respect and importance in society
- Becoming independent and self-reliant

Parents (mostly mothers) who were not educated also shared their personal experience during the discussion that they feel hesitant talking to others as they feel that someone might ask them something that they won't be able to answer being uneducated. Also, they feel scared to go long

distance out of their house as they find it difficult to know their routes and location. Sometimes it is embarrassing also when they have to ask someone else to read their letters etc. Thus, they all desire that their children must study.

One of the mothers, Sanjeena, shared that her eldest daughter who is 20 years old teaches other children and she feels really proud about that.

#### **Name of schools attended by children from the community**

Children mostly attend government school in Noida sector 15. However, a few also go to private schools nearby namely Moonlight Public School, Sunlight Public School and Tagore Public School.

#### **What do the schools offer?**

Parents informed that the private schools offer education better than the government schools. However, there the children are not provided with free meals, uniform and books. Parents have to pay for everything if their children go to a private school. Whereas, in government school food, uniform, books etc. are all provided free of cost.

NGO centers are also there in the vicinity run by organization namely Deepalya, AID and RSS in which children get tuition support, fun learning activities etc.

#### **Reasons of children dropping out / staying out-of-school**

According to parents the most important factor for children staying/ dropping out of school is their peer group pressure. Due to their peer group and culture of playing around all the time, children don't wish to go to school. Also, sometimes children feel hesitant and unconfident to go to school and get along with other students. Some of the other reasons include:

- Teachers not coming to classrooms
- Teachers not taking interest in teaching
- Teaching methods not interesting

#### **Challenges faced by parents in getting school admissions**

The biggest challenge faced by parents in getting school admission is providing adequate/ valid ID proofs for admission. Also, schools often deny admissions in the middle of an academic session. In private schools where specific ID proofs are not required, there they have to pay fees/ money so they can't send their children to private schools. '

### ✚ Specific issues regarding sending girls to school

Parents said that education is important for both boys and girls. As such there are no challenges in sending girls to schools except the distance. One of the mothers said that if girls get education then they will be able to read letters and receive parcels etc. which these mothers in their own life can't do.

### ✚ Factors contributing towards admission of out of school children in school

Parents said that to send their children to school it was important to be strict with them sometimes and also scold if they don't go. They also said that whenever there are parents and teachers meetings (PTMs) in school, parents should go and check with teachers about their child's attendance and performance. One more suggestion by parents was to open an organization nearby to motivate children to go to school and also sensitize teachers to teach using interesting methods.



## Focused Group Discussion with Parents- Group2

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Day:** Sunday

### Participants:

S.no.	Name of the parent participating	Occupation	Name and age/sex of their children out of school
1.	Ram Singh	Self employed	Priyanka, 9/F Piyanshu, 8/M
2.	Jamshed	Construction labour	Jahur, 6/M Sarina, 8/F
3.	Mohd. Nazir	Construction labour	Kajal, 12/F Noor, 7/M
4.	Sanjay	Sweeper	Astha, 11/F
5.	Rinku	Company worker	Komal, 10/F Kajal, 6/F Raja, 6/M
6.	Jhanta Lal	Sweeper	Bappi, 12/M Akash, 10/M
7.	Pramod	Construction labour	Sahil, 8/M Sameer, 14/M

### Discussions

#### Parents' views about children's education

All the parents who participated in the discussion said that education is important for their children and also for the Nation. One of the parents said that because he was not able to study that is the reason he had to do menial work all his life.

#### Name of schools attended by children from the community

Children mostly attend government school in Noida sector 15. However, a few also go to private schools nearby namely Moonlight Public School, Sunlight Public School, Tagore Public School etc. There is a Madrasa also in the community providing Urdu education.

#### What do the schools offer?

Parents informed that earlier government school at Noida Sector 15 was providing meals to children but now they don't provide. Only occasionally on functions, schools provide juice and biscuits now.



### **✚ Reasons of children dropping out / staying out-of-school**

According to parents in this group the most important factor for children staying/ dropping out of school is parental neglect. Parents are not able to supervise their children and give them their time to encourage them to study. Other factors include the following:

- Teachers being rude to children sometimes
- Peer group (bad company) influence
- Financial issues compelling older children to drop out either to work or take care of siblings while their parents go to work
- Children not taking interest in studies because teachers don't adopt interesting methods

### **✚ Challenges faced by parents in getting school admissions**

Parents reported that earlier admission process was simple for government schools but now they also do lot of paper work and formalities due to which parents don't take much initiative towards getting admissions. The biggest challenge faced by parents in getting school admission is providing adequate/ valid ID proofs for admission.

### **✚ Specific issues regarding sending girls to school**

Parents said that education is important for both boys and girls. However, it depends on the family conditions if girls in their adolescent age are allowed/ encouraged to go to school or not because at times parents have safety concerns for their daughters due to distance of senior secondary school (at Ashok Nagar) from their community.

### **✚ Factors contributing towards admission of out of school children in school**

Parents said that to send their children to school it was important that parents pay attention to their children and regularly attend parents and teachers meetings (PTMs) in school to check with teachers about their child's attendance and performance. Also, children should get midday meals in schools to increase attendance and retention.



## Focused Group Discussion with Children- Group1 (Girls)

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Day:** Sunday

**Participants:**

S.no.	Name of the child	Age	School name	Present status
1.	Razia Khatoon	9 yrs	Govt. School, Noida Sector 15	Studying in 4 <sup>th</sup> standard
2.	Shivani	9 yrs	Govt. School, Noida Sector 44	Studied upto 2 <sup>nd</sup> standard, dropped out because of relocation
3.	Mehreen	9 yrs	Govt. School in village (Bengal)	Studied upto 2 <sup>nd</sup> standard, dropped out because of relocation
4.	Sonam	9 yrs	Govt. School, Noida Sector 44	Studied upto 2 <sup>nd</sup> standard, dropped out because of relocation
5.	Chandani	6 yrs	NA	Never attended school
6.	Nazrana	8 yrs	NA	Never attended school
7.	Tabassum	8 yrs	NA	Studying in NGO run education centre

### Discussions

#### Experience sharing by school going children about school, teachers and facilities

One of the school going girls, Razia, shared that she likes going to school. Her teachers are good, she also gets to learn computer, school provides uniform, drinking water and other facilities like toilets, sick room etc. However, the only dislike about her teachers she reported was that her teachers don't take steps to stop students from verbally abusing each other.

Other girls, Sonam and Shivani, reported that facilities and teachers in their school were also good but they didn't have a sick room to rest there. Students falling ill were given medicine and sent back home.

#### Reasons of children dropping out / staying out-of-school

- Lot of homework was given that burdened them
- Bullying and beating by other students
- Teachers using blackboard method for teaching mainly, which was not very interesting

- Teachers not checking notebooks
- Getting admission is difficult sometimes
- Distance between home and school is long
- Children have to take care of their siblings at home

#### **✚ Factors contributing towards admission/ retention of children in school**

- Regular classes should be held and teachers should come
- Interesting and fun based pedagogy is needed
- Uniform and books should be provided
- Teachers should check homework
- Teachers should listen to children and make them understand concepts
- Teachers in schools should not give punishment.
- Basic facilities like electricity, drinking water and toilets should be there.



#### **✚ Challenges faced by out-of-school children**

Children informed that if they don't go to schools, then they have to do all the household chores or accompany their parents to their workplace (mostly household for domestic work) to assist them.

#### **✚ Challenges faced by school going children**

- Some teachers don't take much interest in teaching and just write things on blackboard without explaining. Due to this children find studies difficult and not interesting.
- When children are moved to higher classes, they are required to attend school which is far from their house. Girls are not allowed to go there usually because of safety concerns.
- Teachers give lot of homework and children fail to do it because they help in household chores.

#### **✚ How does education help children?**

All the children said that education is important and by getting educated they will be able to make their parents proud. Their life will become better as they will be able to read and write, talk to people confidently and get good jobs.

#### **✚ Help required by children to attend school**

According to children, facilitating their school admissions will be useful in getting them to schools and also talking to their teachers to make their teaching methods more interesting for children.

## Focused Group Discussion with Children- Group2 (Boys)

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Day:** Sunday

### Participants:

S.no.	Name of the child	Age	School name	Present status
1.	Pankaj	8 yrs	NA	Never attended school
2.	Sumit	12 yrs	Govt. School in village	Studied upto 5 <sup>nd</sup> standard, dropped out because of relocation
3.	Adi	9 yrs	NA	Never attended school
4.	Anand	11 yrs	Govt. School in village	Studied upto 1 <sup>st</sup> standard, dropped out because of relocation
5.	Kuldeep	12 yrs	Govt. School in village	Studied upto 1 <sup>st</sup> standard, dropped out because of relocation

### Discussions

#### Experience sharing by school going children about school, teachers and facilities

One of the participants, Sumit, shared that he liked going to school but his fellow students would often bully him and the other students. His teachers never took any measures to stop bullying in school, thus he disliked his teachers. Facilities in schools were satisfactory such as the drinking water, washrooms etc.

#### Reasons of children dropping out / staying out-of-school

- Peer group influence
- Bullying and beating by other students
- Teachers using blackboard method for teaching mainly, which is not very interesting

#### Factors contributing towards admission/ retention of children in school

- Regular classes should be held and teachers should come
- Children should not bully or fight with each other
- Play time should be given after lunch
- Facilities such as drinking water, washrooms, electricity should be there

### **✚ Challenges faced by out-of-school children**

Children informed that if they don't go to schools, then they get into bad company easily and waste their time in unproductive tasks such as wandering around, playing all the time etc.

### **✚ Challenges faced by school going children**

Some children fight a lot with other children and teachers don't take any steps to stop them. This is one of the biggest difficulties faced by children especially boys.

### **✚ How does education help children?**

All the children said that education is important and by getting educated they will be read and write. Better job opportunities will be available for them. They won't be fooled by others easily.

### **✚ Help required by children to attend school**

According to children, children should be called from their homes if they stop going to school. Teachers should be strict about school attendance. In government schools, teachers don't take any steps to bring back the children who stop going to school.



# Recommendations

1. Get in place a good team of a social worker/ community worker and two teachers who are willing and show capability to work with the children and their families in the community.
2. The team should get in touch with each identified child and their families using the database (which includes phone numbers) and enlist them for the programme. Thereafter, 50 children can be selected for the programme.
3. It is needed that individual records of these children are maintained in the centre which are updated regularly. This should include the child's profile (basic information like name, age, address, gender, interests, educational background, disability if any, etc.), parents' profiles (information like name, occupation, address, contact number), previous academic records if any (transfer certificate or report card etc. if the child can provide) and any important health related information about the child (any allergies, vaccinations done etc.).
4. It is also important for the social worker/ community worker and educators/ teachers to visit children in their homes periodically to identify any personal challenges that the family might be facing which can affect the child's education.
5. Assessment of children's level of education must be done by ACT at the beginning of the programme. This can be done by developing simple assessment tests in main subjects i.e. Hindi, English and Mathematics (referring to the national curriculum/ NCERT). Similar assessments must be done periodically to track children's progress and provide required support whenever the child needs.
6. Adequate measures must be taken to develop the ACT centre into a safe and enabling zone which facilitates learning and also gives the parents confidence to send their children especially girls for learning. This can be done by identifying space for the centre near the community, building separate toilet for girls, female teachers motivating the parents to send their daughters and by providing any other necessary facility like sanitary pads to girls to ensure uninterrupted education.
7. Have quarterly (once in 3 months) group meetings with parents of children in the programme to share about children's progress and discuss other important matters.
8. The Programme Manager with the support of teachers should meet every week to discuss children's progress. A system of monitoring of the education programme indicators should be put in place. This should include updating of every child's progress regularly and document parents' involvement in supporting children's education.
9. Apart from having targets to attain higher levels of education for every child, ACT should see that these children become eligible to enroll in mainstream schools in 1-3 years' time.