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Community-Based Education to Promote Health and Well-Being for the Children of Migrant Construction Workers in Mumbai, India

**Vrishali Pispati
Asmita Naik Africawala and
Shiny Varghese***

Abstract

The United Nations recognises education as a central measure for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Access to information and education is especially crucial for various marginalised sections of the society who often remain at the periphery of developmental initiatives. Mumbai Mobile Crèches (MMC) is a well-established non-profit organisation that has been catering for over four decades to the children of migrant construction workers in Mumbai, one of the most vulnerable populations of urban India. MMC annually provides comprehensive health care and education to over 4,500 migrant children by operating day care centres at construction sites. The paper focuses on the capacity building and community outreach initiatives of MMC that equip members from the construction workers' and other vulnerable communities to deliver improved health care and nutritional services to very young children. Comprehensive intervention that provides preventive, curative, and rehabilitative health care and nutritional services at a very young age (birth to six years) not only ensures healthy lives and well-being for children living in difficult circumstances but also sets the foundation for lifelong learning. These grassroots initiatives create opportunities for vulnerable communities to improve child health outcomes and thereby realise the true essence of education for sustainable development.

Keywords

education, sustainable development goals, children, capacity building, community outreach, NGOs

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