

Dil Se Education Program

Education is one of the most important tools we can provide for children who live on the streets; it empowers, provides opportunities, and is valued both by the children as well as society. Not only do the educational backgrounds of children who live and work on the streets vary, but their needs and aspirations do as well. These children are unique in many ways; they are independent, they are courageous, their daily needs are not granted to them, and many of them have experienced trauma and/or neglect.

Street children need education options that include life and work skills focused courses and programs designed to help them successfully transition into mainstream education, all of which must be innovative, engaging and tailored to their particular needs. A multi-grade bridge curriculum, with accelerated learning options, customized for each child according to individual needs and aspirations will be developed.

Salient Features

- Literacy, numeracy, critical thinking skills will be the priority.
- Life skills education (healing, self care, social skills, responsibility in relationships and sexuality, drugs and substance abuse, health and hygiene, yoga etc.)
- Create a joyful learning environment and provide engaging activities that will excite the children and compel them to pursue their education goals (through games, story telling, theatre etc.)
- Computer education and conversational English
- Emotional and career counseling
- Involvement of multiple partners for synergistic use of best practices in education
- A strong assessment system will be developed to diagnose need and monitor learning and development of individual students.
- Clear mechanisms for mainstreaming children into a formal education system of choice
- A coaching program will provide ongoing support to students pre- and post-mainstreaming.*
- A Buddy program with local youth will provide a system of support to individual students and strengthen bonds in the community.*
- After-school Coaching Centers will be run for neighborhood children to provide remedial education as well as opportunities to participate in sports, arts, cultural evenings, social service initiatives and other activities of the hostel community.*

* These will be part of the second phase of the Campaign.