



KHUSHALI PROJECT – DEHLI CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES CENTRES (CACs)

The children of Madanpur Khadar, one of Delhi's most underprivileged areas, have little access to books or organized activities that develop imagination and self expression. To fill this gap, AGRAGAMI INDIA, in collaboration with the INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (IFPD), has set up three Children's Activities Centres (CACs) as part of the current activities of the KHUSHALI project.

Children of any age, up to 14 years, can be members. There is a nominal membership fee of 15 Rupees (0.25 CHF) per month. This fee does not cover the full costs of the Centres. It is designed only to make children value the facilities they are offered. Children who are members spend 1 hour each day at the Centre, 5 days a week. All activities in the Centres are built around reading and story telling. The Centres have a modest collection of illustrated books, which are graded and colour coded by reading ability. The Centres are managed by two specially trained facilitators.



When a child registers as a member, his/her reading ability is assessed and the child is guided to select a book of his/her choice from amongst those suitable for its reading level. Each week, the child reads a story or story book. After reading the story, the child works on an "activity sheet" related to that story. The worksheet actually verifies comprehension and also helps the child to conceptualize what it has read. The facilitators at the Centres play an important role by inviting children to read aloud, to enact or tell the stories they particularly liked, and to draw and make craft items related to these stories. One day per week is devoted to learning how to dance to a popular song. The Centres are very successful among children.

The Children's Activity Centres are among the more expensive of the KHUSHALI programme components, mostly because it requires a dedicated room with electricity and basic hygienic facilities, which cannot be used for other activities since it is set up as a library and activity space. The cost of **setting up a Centre** amounts to **CHF 700**, which includes upgrading the room and its facilities, plastering, painting, installation of safe electricity and sanitary facilities, and basic furniture and storage facilities. The **recurring annual costs** amount to **CHF 1,600**; they include rent and utilities, the stipends for two facilitators, and the purchase of books, arts and craft material.



FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
MS CRISTINA MARICH – CMARICH@IFPD.ORG