

Mobile Learning Centre: Butterflies

The mantra of the Mobile Education Programme of Butterflies is: “If the children cannot come to the school, let us take the school to them”. Under the Mobile Education Programme, the *Chalta Firta School* (Mobile Learning Centre) has brought the school to the children’s doorstep. Its objective is to bring out-of-school children, migrant and non-migrant alike, into the education net. This has especially benefitted migrant children, who often cannot attend school because they do not possess school certificates and other proofs of identification. Butterflies’ Mobile Education Programme also facilitates the admission of out-of-school children into formal schools, with the consent and participation of the parents.



The mobile school enhances the learning experience of children in multiple ways: through sports, arts and crafts activities, access to children’s libraries and theatre in education. Innovative teaching methodologies are used to engage creatively with children, such as play methods and age-appropriate learning materials (educational toys like blocks, flash cards and multilingual educational books). Children have access to different types of technology-based tools, like LCD TVs and laptops.

Teachers, who are referred to as ‘child right advocates’, provide computer education to children and share educational software. For each student, personalised lesson plans are developed using innovative teaching and learning methods. To promote holistic development, children are provided with regular sessions of life-skills education. Child right advocates provide additional technical support to children after school hours in completing their homework so that they do not drop out of school.

When migrant families go to their villages (for instance during harvest and Holi festival), a list of children is maintained so that they may be reintegrated once they return. In case parents migrate to new locations, Butterflies facilitates the process of making affidavits so that the children may go to formal schools at their next destination.

Currently Butterflies reaches out to 427 children across 11 project locations in Delhi and 4 project locations in the Haridwar district of Uttarakhand, and is being implemented in close collaboration with State Education Departments in Delhi and Uttarakhand.

Butterflies has helped reintegrate more than 700 out-of-school children into formal schools in Delhi and Uttarakhand, and more than 80 percent of these children have continued to study in the formal school.

Source: Butterflies (www.butterflieschildrights.org)

Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India, UNESCO, 2013