

## About Lakshyam

Lakshyam is a social enterprise that uplifts children and women of at-risk communities through education & employment. Established in 2004, Lakshyam is currently functional in 11 states of India with 13 centers.



There are three major programs conducted by Lakshyam. Lakshyam's 'Butterfly: Child Welfare & Education' program offers holistic education to children, 'Lakshyam Toy Library' is a need-based approach and 'Rooh: Awakening Women's Soul' is designed to empower women via awareness, initiation and action. Lakshyam is also involved in a number of activities such as health camps, skill-training workshops and extra-curricular events that are designed to push the envelope and offer a constructive platform.

The community undertaken by Lakshyam includes families inhabiting an area of land near a building site in Sahibabad, New Delhi. This report includes information gathered from thirteen families and approximately 50 people in regards to their living conditions, sanitation, general health, income derivative and family status.

**Location: Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, New Delhi**

**Size: 150m<sup>2</sup> approximate**

### Sahibabad Center Survey

<b>Number of Vicinities</b>	3	a) BL (Main) b) Neelmani c) New Hindon Vihar
<b>No. of Families</b>	1500-1600	
<b>No. of Hindu Households</b>	300-400	
<b>No. of Muslim Households</b>	1200-1300	
<b>No. of Permanent Houses</b>	800	
<b>No. of Rented Houses</b>	300-400	
<b>Houses Accommodating both Owner &amp; Tenants</b>	200	
<b>No. of Children</b>	200	

<b>between 0-12 months</b>		
<b>No. of Children between 12-59 months</b>	1100	

This survey has been conducted by CMCs representing UNICEF and WHO in their respective sectors. The survey in numbers is an approximate and based on the entire community encompassing 3 vicinities.



Following is a data table regarding the households in the community, their children & school attendance, and interest in the program. The survey has been carried out by Lakshyam of the community undertaken in the area.

Name of Family Representative	Age of Father	Age of Mother	Children	Age of Children	Monthly Income (INR)	Religion	Children attending School	Interested in the Program
Sarifa	NDA	19 years	1	3 1/2 years	8,000-10,000	Muslim	No	Yes
Zaharena	NDA	33 years	3	8 years 11 years 11 years	NDA	NDA	No	No
Zumila	NDA	24 years	3	6 years 10 years 11 years	5,000	Muslim	No	Yes
Basruwdil	19 years	16 years	None	None	8,000	NDA	N/A	Yes
Muhammad T.	27 years	25 years	1	6 years	10,000	Muslim	No	Yes
Munmikhanam	23 years	18 years	1	8 years	10,000-12,000	Muslim	No	Yes
Kordi	20-25 years	15-20 years	1	14 years	10,000	Muslim	NDA	NDA
Muhammad A.	30-35 years	20-25	1	6 years	3,000	Muslim	NDA	NDA

		years						
Haseena	30-40 years (3 men in household)	20 years 30 years (2 women in household)	1	3 months	5,000-7,000	Muslim	NDA	NDA
Sameena	30-35 years	20-25 years	2	3 years 5 years	NDA	Muslim	NDA	NDA
Manikjaan	NDA	NDA	7	18 years 16 years 12 years 10 years 7 years 3 years 1 month	10,000	Muslim	NDA	NDA
Tahuran	40 years	30 years	3	2 1/2 years 4 years 6 years	10,000	Muslim	No	Yes

Noted: NDA = No Data Available

The hardships faced by this community are numerous and alarming, as is the case with 65 million others living in slums in India.



## Occupation

All members of the community surveyed earn their living by rag-picking. 'Ragpickers', by definition, are those who rummage through dumped waste in the streets to collect material for salvage. The ragpickers daily rummage through discarded (waste) material from the nearby developed localities, dump it right outside their respective makeshift homes and begin the tedious task of sorting and allotting the material according to need, usage and sale value. The piles are almost always in large quantities and many of the things found in the piles are in a detrimental state, often used by the community members to somehow support them for everyday chores.

There are tentatively 10-15 women interested in employment (related to skill building). Due to lack of awareness, the number of women can only increase with regular empowerment and educational workshops. There are job possibilities of working in a Mall, as a Beautician, a Factory Worker, Stitching work etc.



## Households

The makeshift homes of this community are compromised of little more than what can be found among the waste material. The shelters are constructed directly next to, if not right on, the compost. Cardboard boxes, metal sheets, empty bags of rice, discarded clothing, towels and bed sheets are supported by bamboo and wooden posts. Each home is approximately 4 to 6m<sup>2</sup>, with 3 to 9 people residing in each.

There are no toilets, further contributing to the sanitation crisis in this locality. For a toileting/bathing area, a 4 x 4 ft area is comprised from wood and sticks holding up the cloth that makes an outdoor washroom.

<b>Households using Chulhas</b>	500	1/3rd of Total No. of Families
<b>Households using Gas</b>	500	1/3rd of Total No. of Families
<b>Households using Gas + Chulhas</b>	400	Almost 1/3rd of Total No. of Families



## Electricity & Water

There is no access to electricity in the area. Families of the community attain their water via various wells around the grounds inhabited. The water is source of bathing, clothes washing, drinking and cooking. As is the case in all slum communities throughout India, this water is immensely contaminated with parasites, microbes and chemical particles. This community faces the gastroenterological illnesses associated with consumption of this polluted water.



## **Education**

For the children (those who are in school), must leave the village to attend classes. Most of the children begin rag picking along with their parents to supplement the household income at an early age.

Of the adult inhabitants of this community, none of them have had an education. The average income per household is about 5,000 INR per month. All income is attained from rag picking.

## **Sanitation**

The particular community does not use soap for sanitation of hands and eating materials. Unable to afford soap, dry sand (from next to the drainage) is used for washing hands and bathing, and for cleaning the utensils. Water used to clean dishes and other eating vessels is the same contaminated water riddled with toxic waste. Due to large amounts of waste material kept outside the respective makeshift homes of the members, innumerable flies and mosquitoes surround the area.



## Healthcare

Inhabitants of this area have no access to healthcare. In the event of an illness, the nearest hospital is several kilometers away. An immediate call for help is not answered and during days of sickness, the travel costs to & fro the hospital bears a heavy burden on them.

From the women interviewed in the community with children, 87% gave birth at their home in the slum community. Many of this percentage reported giving birth on a dirt ground, with no sterilization of any kind.

As there is no government funded hospital in the proximity of this area, women are unable to travel to deliver the baby. Therefore, to deliver safely, a trained birth attendant or nurse visits and helps during the delivery.

Fortunately, though medical treatment is difficult to attain, no individual or family member interviewed was found to have a debilitating illness.

