1. ENROLLING A HOMELESS CHILD FOR FORMAL EDUCATION!

Lakshmi Nai, a six year old child resides in a semi-enclosed space, under an over bridge in Naroda, Ahmedabad. Her family struggles to make their ends meet. The father, Omprakash Nai is a construction worker and mother, Kalavati Nai works as a domestic help. The family lives here since over ten years now.

MHT with support of Comic Relief is working towards facilitating dignified life of homeless people in Ahmedabad. This includes: facilitating shelter for urban homeless (SUH), a co-living space, facilitating better sanitation facility, linkage with social security schemes, working towards child nutrition etc for which sensitisation meets are organized in different parts of city.

MHT’s grassroots women leaders, as part of enabling social security to urban/migrant homeless population follow up the needs that appear during these meets. Omprakash Nai was facilitated to get his Identity proof: An Aadhar card. Then, the family was explained on importance of savings and encouraged to start with micro-savings because of which the family agreed to open a bank account as well.

This process made the family dream of a better quality of life. Because of frequent meets and trusted relationship with MHT’s women leaders, the family approached MHT staff to check if there was a possibility to enrol their child for formal education.

This migrant family from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, speaks Hindi and are less comfortable to talk in regional language: Gujarati. MHT’s grassroots women leaders found out a school in nearby vicinity and supported the family to enrol the child in Noble Nagar Hindi shala no 2.

For most homeless population, major challenge is to have an Identity proof followed by problems of a permanent address. The needs of homeless vary as they are in wide continuum of shelter insecurity. At MHT, we aim to drive our outcomes towards a chain of incremental progress- one that allows identified categories to gain support to overcome their most pressing need and improve their current situation in short term and address their underlying vulnerability in long run.

Lakshmi is excited to attend school and flips her book, many times in a day. The family’s future seems to be better than their past and this assures MHT to works towards dignified lives of homeless.