

[1]

Previous Question:

As one of the reasons for such a project, you mention that children need to learn basic social skills to be able to attend classes. And this prevents them from attending government or other schools. What are these social skills?

Humana's clarification:

Social skills/life skills means:

- a. Personal Health and Hygiene (All these children who are working, street children they do not care about personal cleanliness and remain all the time dirty)
- b. Proper Clothing (these children do not have proper clothes and no shoes in their feet)
- c. Social Interaction (These children do have manner of social interaction with other children and teachers in government schools, this the reason other children avoid company with these children and they feel alienated.
- d. How he/she is taking others, how to give respect, and how to get respect, etc.

Further Question:

The current answer only elaborated our question in some sense. The question we really have is how important is this notion (of personal hygiene, behavior, and clothing) in the functioning (formation) of a Humana School? Does Humana think these notions are gating factors for the kids to currently join govt. schools?

Aren't these skills learnt in any form of organized education?

And therefore, shouldn't these notions also be satisfied in the govt. school education itself?

Also, Humana encourages kids who can afford to and are within reach of govt. schools to go and directly join the govt schools. In such cases, does Humana consider these skills when recommending kids to join govt schools? Are there scenarios where they ask kids to come to Humana and go through such training before joining the govt. schools?

Answer:

There is a cultural gab between the rag picker kids and the "normal" society.

Many years of social isolation has deepened the gap.

They are living on the same planet but in another universe.

It does not make sense to tell children or people in general that they should change behavior, and there by adapt to another universe, which they do not know. At least it is our clear experience that it does not change any thing. The Development Instructors can by persistent input over a period of time change behavior and perceptions.

Basically the children enter in the universe of AWC, which over shorter or longer time can bring them in contact with the other side of society.

Children, teachers and parents change in the process.

Intellectual understanding of the concepts is only 10% of the solution.

Habits change with time.

Every day the children put their shoes on a straight line outside AWC.

They have 10 min meditation before teaching starts.

All these small inputs create a change over time.

They get self-confidence with achieved results.

They start to respect themselves, which is a foundation for respecting others.

They get used to interacting with teachers and to work in small, organized groups in the classroom.

These changes in self-perception and behavior cannot be taught in a workshop. It only comes by living in an organized environment like AWC for some time.

We do not have any request from the public schools to teach the children manners or to clean them up.

In the government statistics these children do not exist.

They do not have registration papers, so they are not there.

Our task is to give the children education and identity.

Some will continue in mainstream education, some will not.

Nevertheless we think it is worthwhile to provide a better childhood for these children, that in itself is justification enough for the program.

[2]

New Question: What is the capacity of the govt school nearby?

We ask this question because you mention that there is just one government school near by and we were wondering if over a long course of time that school will be able to absorb all children going out of Humana's school.

Answer:

In the first place they will have capacity to absorb the children from AWC. There are also 6 private schools, of which some only request a marginal fee, payable for the poor families.

We cannot answer the question 100% yet. We will have to develop solutions as we go along.

[3] New Question: Is there a chance of mainstreaming the kids to the private schools themselves?

Answer:

YES.

It depends on if we are able to convince the parents about paying approximately 1.5 \$ pr month for education their child.

This is the amount many adults use on alcohol every day.

From another AWC in Maharajpur we know that this year 4 went to government school and 3 to private school, so it is possible.

Yet all people are different and we will have to work on the matter.

[4]

Previous Question:

Why chairs and tables? And carpet? Shouldn't the VMP high school already have it?

Your Clarification:

During the negotiation meetings in order to get Premise for the academy, the responsible person of VMP told clearly that they will provide premise for the academy not other things like furniture, carpet etc. So the new academy will need chairs, table to teachers and carpet for the children.

Further Question:

Is there any (inadvertently, or otherwise) social discrimination of kids because of no access to private school classrooms? For eg., if the private school (VMP) classrooms have chairs, stools etc. and the Humana kids are not allowed access to that room, while their classes happen on the verandahs, then is there a discrimination of some sort, where the Humana kids will always feel they are secondary citizens? Question is, has Humana thought about this carefully, and do they think this can be an issue, and if yes (or no) what do they think they can or intend to do about this (either in the immediate or in a longer period)?

Answer:

It is a very valid and good question.

It will not be an important issue for the children, as long as the teacher and the children are happy for the setup they have, which also will develop over time. Actually the big thing is that they have started a regular school life. This will overshadow these minor issues.

[5] Previous Question:

Monitoring/Auditing /Technical support have 10% costs? What specifics do this cover?

Your Clarification:

Administrative cost covers the following expenses

1. Continuous capacity building of the staff members of the academy through monthly and quarterly workshops.
2. Medical and Accident insurance of Staff members
3. Mobilization of Local Resources
4. Liaison with local government, community and other stakeholders
5. Supervision from Head office like monthly monitoring visit
6. Quarterly progress report
7. Yearly program assessment Reports
8. Accounting and auditing of funds.

Further Question:

Would it be possible to get accounts/receipts/audit report for the 10% administrative overhead costs of Humana budget? For two reasons, one to ensure things aren't counted twice, and two, to understand how it was spent, and what types of capacity building workshops are organized, etc.?

Ans. Yes Humana People to People India get all accounts audited every year. We can provide you the accounts and accounts audited balance sheet.

[6] New Question:

Is there any value in investing in a longer term, permanent structure, etc.? What is Humana's long-term strategy with respect to this center?

Ans. It is very much needed to have permanent structure for the Academy for Street and working children. We are running at present 18 such academies in rented and mobilized premises. And project faces problem time to time about premises. There is much needed to have a permanent structure to serve that purposes. You know almost all funding partners provide assistance to cover program cost not to solve the problem of having its own structure for serving this meaningful purpose for longer time.

Humana People to People India wants to have its permanent structure for the academy, where Humana will run one academy with all basic infrastructures and from where we will also coordinate all other academies.

[7] New Question:

Does Humana has any permanent structure in other such schools?

Ans: No

8) Why is stationery/communication/maintenance of office given for 12 months? And transport for visits to families by the OWs given only for 9 months?

Clarification:

Humana People to People India's these academy/ies run for 12 months.

Outreach Workers and Head Master have regular family visits to the families of these children for 9 months and for the rest three month they have special focus to have meeting with government schools, getting affidavit for their age proof etc for mainstreaming the children in the formal education along with the regular teaching in the academy.

They also have necessary meetings in these months with parents but mostly focus in these month remains on mainstreaming these children.

I give share one example with you. Humana People to People India is running one such Academy in Chhakarapur Villages in cooperation with E.I. Dupont India Limited where 75 working and street children are studying. This year 37 children got admission in the Government schools in 2nd to 4th grades. There was lot of work to make it success.

9) How many months does the school run for?

Clarification: for 12 months.

10) What happens in the other months if the school is not running? What do OWs do those months?

Clarification: Not Applicable