

No child should be curtailed by the circumstances of their birth and every individual has the right to life and quality health care.

We at Imkaan are overwhelmed with the positive response received from the community in Machar Colony for the setting up of our first Mother and Child Healthcare Centre. Our staff has worked relentlessly the past few months in renovating and equipping the clinic. We could not have been able to begin operations without the support of our donors with a special mention to Sui Southern Gas Company, without whom we would have struggled through the initial days of our work. By interacting with patients on a daily basis and conducting door to door need assessment surveys in the area we are building our relations with the community and are in the process of structuring health related programs based on our evaluations. Imkaan has been fortunate to find people who have believed in its vision and the passion of all those that have been involved with us.

Tahera Hasan
Director. Imkaan

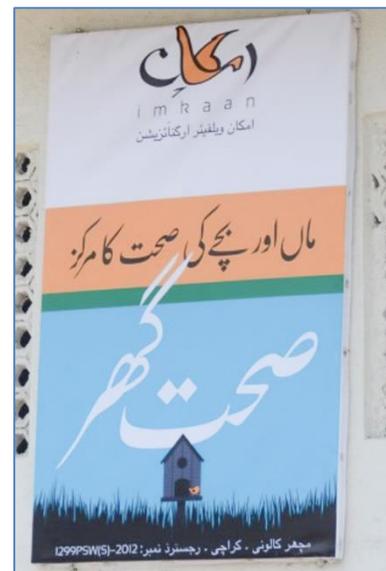
IMKAAAN ESTABLISHES FIRST CLINIC IN MACHAR COLONY



Imkaan Welfare Organization has recently expanded the ambit of its work and services and has established a new program titled Sehat Ghar. As the name suggests, Sehat Ghar is providing health care services to underprivileged communities, focusing more on prenatal and neonatal care. A low-to-no cost clinic also envisions to help in educating the community, especially women enabling them to make informed decisions about their lives, health, and families during pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood.

The first clinic has been established in Machar Colony with a total population estimated at over 700,000 people; the majority of them being children between ages 5 – 15. The clinic is providing health care to around 1700 – 2100 families and 65 patients per day. In the first ten days of the clinic, Imkaan has provided treatment to more than 635 patients. The most common diseases in the area are Hepatitis, Hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, water-borne diseases, scabies, and respiratory disorders. The three room clinic will soon have an ultrasound facility and a running labor room for expectant mothers.

In an area which has no hospitals nearby and a general lack of health care facilities, Imkaan's presence in providing health care services to an underprivileged area has been welcomed by the community.



MEDICAL CAMP COMMENCES CLINIC AT MACHAR COLONY

In order to create awareness and introduce the newly established mother and child health clinic in Machar Colony, Imkaan Welfare Organization in collaboration with Sui Southern Gas Company Limited held a free general medical camp on 18 May, 2014.

A team of five doctors and three paramedics saw patients and treatment was provided to almost 500 patients suffering from various diseases such as coughs and colds, chest and lung infections, stomach infections, Hepatitis and various skin diseases. Patients were provided with free medicines.

Residents of the community praised the efforts of Imkaan in establishing a clinic in an neglected community that is in a dire need of health intervention specifically for pre-natal and post-natal care. We at Imkaan were overwhelmed with the response. We would also like to thank Sui Southern Gas Company Limited for helping us in organizing the medical camp.



IMKAAAN'S OUTREACH TEAM CONDUCTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

For any project to be launched, a research based survey is very necessary to gauge the issues in the community. Imkaan's outreach team conducted a needs assessment survey in Machar Colony to understand the community issues, especially in the area where the clinic is operating. The door to door surveys also helped in building relations and trust with the community.

The survey suggested that the Burmese and Bengali settlements have near to no NGOs or government run clinics. Residents find it hard to travel to nearby hospitals, especially expectant mothers. The survey also showed that family incomes are higher if all members of the family, even children, are employed. The biggest business in the area is fishery and most children aged five and above are hired in shrimp peeling factories. An average family spends about Rs. 24,000 a year on healthcare while average monthly income is Rs. 10,000.

When it comes to ailments and diseases prevalent in the community, the survey showed that skin diseases were widespread due to lack of water, hygiene and sanitation. The most common illness plaguing younger children was found to be scabies. Many women were suffering from diabetes and other post-natal disorders. The community has major sanitation issues and does not have access to a clean supply of water. It is hoped that awareness about water-borne diseases such as Hepatitis A, stomach flu, worms, etc. will alleviate most of these common illnesses which people of Machar Colony suffer from.

IN OTHER NEWS...

- A meeting with the Machar Colony community elders was recently conducted at the clinic. The agenda of the meeting included introduction to Imkaan's program Sehat Ghar and the establishment of the clinic. The community elders showed interest in the clinic and mentioned the dire need of a maternity home in the area.
- Imkaan has continued to join children and parents to make their forever families through the successful placement of a baby with a loving family in the past month.
- Imkaan has lobbied over the years for the change in laws governing the registration of orphans with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). In a landmark move, NADRA has a new policy to deal with the registration of parentless or abandoned children.
- Imkaan is now officially on Facebook. Like our page www.facebook.com/imkaanwelfareorganization for more updates.