



## Professor Gayatri Spivak visits Machar Colony

An Indian literary theorist, philosopher and University Professor at Columbia University, Professor Spivak was recently invited by Habib University as a keynote speaker for their Postcolonial Higher Education Conference. During her visit in Karachi she visited Sehat Ghar at Machar Colony.

Professor Spivak is also the founder of The Pares Chandra Chakravorty Memorial Literacy Project Inc., an NGO set up in 1997, to provide primary education of quality for children in some of the poorest regions of the globe, continuing work that Spivak had started doing in 1986. The Project currently operates schools in rural areas of West Bengal, India by giving sustained training to local teachers who operate them with the help of local supervisors, the Project seeks to offer children in these areas the resources to enter the mainstream education system for high school and beyond. The Project is committed to using the existing state curriculum and textbooks to train teachers, in the belief that by using these materials they can better enable their students to enter the national education system on equal terms with others.

During her visit to Sehat Ghar she visited the shrimp peeling factories and a school that comes under Sehat Ghars School Healthcare Project. She spent time talking to and interacting with students from the ages of 7 to 15. The issues that are faced by school and students in the katchi abadis were highlighted and her insight and ideas with regard to the possible changes that can be brought about in the existing system were discussed. We look forward to implementing her suggestions in Imkaans work and helping one underprivileged community at a time.

## Directors Note

We have had a very active month with the first aid training, Professor Spivaks visit and our regular projects. We are very excited at the prospects of additional projects that we have been working on. We also look forward to having structured volunteer program for students during their vacations. We are expanding our clinic and hopefully will be adding more to our medical services. A big thank you to SSGC from everyone at Imkaan and the community for believing in our work and for their generous donation and their continuing support along with all our other friends and supports who have donated towards Sehat Ghar.

Tahera Hasan



# NEWSLETTER

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## The Community Voice

Born in Karachi, Pakistan to parents who migrated from Bangladesh, Feroza w/o Ghulam Muhammad has been living in Machar Colony since birth.

**Where in Bangladesh does your parents hail from?** My parents used to live in Chittagong. My grandparents moved to Pakistan before my parents did. They came to Pakistan by sea and settled in Machar Colony. My parents have always lived in this area. I was born here, got married here and have settled here with my husband and children.

**When were you born, got married and how many children do you have?** You see my date of birth is unknown to me. Only my mother would know, but I was told I was born in October. At the age of 9 I got married and I have been married for 30 years. I have 11 kids, 4 boys and 6 daughters. I am also a grandmother of 3 children.

**Do you work or earn on your own?** By profession I am a midwife, I started learning this when I got married. My mother in law has taught me everything I know about birthing who learnt it from her grandmother. Since I started working on my own I have helped in giving birth to 3000 kids including my own grandchildren and have taught my own sister everything I have learnt. Before we used to have at least 2-3 childbirths a day but now days women are more conscious and prefer going to the hospital especially if they have more than 6 kids. I used to peel shrimps at home too and earn Rs. 600 a day but lately have stopped doing so.

**What issues prevail in this community?** There are major health issues. We don't have clean drinking water and if we get clean drinking water through tankers we have to pay Rs. 2200/-. Cough, flu, skin diseases are very common and nowadays hepatitis C. Thanks to Sehat Ghar, I found out early that I am suffering from HEP C and now I am getting treated for it. We also find it difficult to marry our daughters off in good families as they ask for dowry ranging from 2lakhs to 3lakhs. Only people whose son is



A strong opinionated women Feroza has helped the outreach team spread word about the clinic in the community.

a drug addict or a gangster do not ask for dowry as they know they won't find anyone willing to get their daughters married off to them. We are Bengalis and are not considered citizens of Pakistan. Getting a CNIC was also difficult, my husband had to bribe a lot of officials to do so.

**Since you have been diagnosed with Hepatitis C have you faced any difficulty?** I thought I won't be accepted in our community as they are many taboos. Thanks to Sehat Ghar I learned how this disease spreads and the necessary precautions. The clinic team explained to me very clearly what I need to do and when I started taking care of such things my family and friends noticed and they learnt from me and accepted me. I now wear gloves and take necessary precautions when helping women give birth. I have also stopped peeling shrimps because if by accident my fingers are injured I don't want my blood to touch the shrimps and infect others.

**Has Sehat Ghar helped the community since its establishment?** Can you imagine that at times we wouldn't go to the hospital because it was far. Our children are now treated at the earliest and since the training of midwives I have learned so much especially about cleanliness something that I am teaching my own students who are learning to become midwives.

# First Aid training conducted under the School Healthcare Project



Imkaan Welfare Organizations project Sehat Ghar has been providing free healthcare to children under its School Healthcare Project. 9 registered schools and approximately 2500 children are beneficiaries of the project. First aid is essential in emergency cases. Knowing what action needs to be taken to control an emergency can make the difference between life and death. Emergencies occur all around us when this happens, first aid basics will equip anyone around the injured person to reduce the danger posed by the accident.

For example, if a child breaks a limb during play time at school, an attending teacher may perform first aid to help reset the bones and reduce any pain and discomfort the child may be experiencing. In cases where the injury causes profuse bleeding, first aid is necessary to reduce the chances of extensive blood loss. In a community like Machar colony where hospitals are far off and very few clinics are operating first aid makes all the difference in the time it allows the injured to reach a medical practitioner.



A first aid of training of teachers was conducted on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Teachers from the 9 registered schools under the School Healthcare Project were invited at the training. A first aid manual was provided which clearly explains the necessary precautions that one needs to take in cases of emergencies such as trauma, burn, fever, diarrhea, vomiting, nose bleed, choking, epilepsy and unconsciousness. The training was conducted by Dr. Naureen Kazim, the lady health doctor, with support from Ms. Noorbur, lady health worker and Mr. Rawaid Khan, male nurse that comprise the clinic team at Machar colony.



First Aid boxes consisting of items such as gauze pads, band aids, medication for burns, fever and injuries, scissors, gloves etc. was provided to each school. Imkaan's outreach team will be conducting monthly meet up with the school regarding first aid emergencies and refill the first aid box when necessary.

## Pittsburgh University Students supports Imkaan Welfare Organization

Pakistan Students Association at the Pittsburgh University recently held a cultural festival *Dawat-e-Tehzeeb* at the university. The festival conducted on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, represented all things Pakistan. From chai stands to mehndi booths and Pakistani cuisine the festivals main motto was to create awareness regarding Pakistan and to question the taboos foreigners have regarding Pakistani culture.

The students took the opportunity to introduce Imkaan Welfare Organization at the event and creates awareness regarding the social issues plaguing the country and the organizations working towards bring about change. Flyers regarding Imkaan's work were distributed and donation boxes were kept for those willing to donate towards the cause. Learn more about PSA by following them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PittPSA>

## A thank you note to our supporters



Imkaan is a welfare organization and is looking for support from organizations as well as individuals who can help us achieve our goals that is to provide shelter to abandoned kids and free of cost healthcare to women and children in underprivileged communities and working towards other projects that improve the living conditions of the community we are working in.

Our work is impossible if we are not supported by people who believe that *'No child should be curtailed by the circumstances of their birth and that every individual has the right to life and quality healthcare'*.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and a big thank you to Sui Southern Gas

Company Limited who have donated towards Imkaan Welfare Organizations project Sehat Ghar for the second year. This is not the first time SSGC has stepped up and believed in our work. SSGC also helped us in sponsoring a medical camp in May 2014 by providing us with medicines at no cost and sending doctors from their own team to treat 500 patients in one day in addition to the financial assistance that has been given. Your support will help 2100 families in receiving free of cost healthcare in Machar Colony and 2500 children free health care under the School Healthcare Project.

### SUPPORT SEHAT GHAR

We look for support from interested individuals in order to achieve our goals and work efficiently with the community. Your donations will help expectant mothers, young children and the community towards a healthy life and a stable environment. Here is how you can support them:

**Treat one patient: Rs. 300**

**Treat a 1000 patients: Rs. 300,000**

**Support our existing clinic: Rs.650, 000**

Donations can be made directly to our bank account as indicated below:

#### **Imkaan Welfare Organization**

Muslim Commercial Bank,

Khayaban-e-Saadi Branch

Current Account No: 0595026121003100

Branch Code: 1451

Email us at [info@imkaan.org](mailto:info@imkaan.org) for more information

## Imkaan presentation at Habib University

Imkaan Welfare Organizations Director Ms. Tahera Hasan was recently invited by Dr. Hasan Ali Khan, Assistant Professor, School of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences School at Habib University to speak about the roles of NGOs in Pakistan.

A presentation regarding Imkaan's goals and projects was presented to the first batch of Habib University. The group of students have been studying about various projects implemented in Karachi and carrying on work such as the Orangi Pilot Project. It was also discussed as to how NGOs play a vital part in countries where the government is not able to provide necessary support to underprivileged communities.

A question and answer session after the presentation showed the interest level of the students and their understanding of the issues prevailing in the city. It was heartwarming to see young students willing to volunteer and work with organizations who are working with communities in an attempt to bring about positive change.

Follow us on Facebook to learn more about our projects:  
[www.facebook.com/imkaanwelfareorganization](http://www.facebook.com/imkaanwelfareorganization)