

Abstract

This paper will document and analyze the development of a life skills education program in Bhavnagar, Gujarat. The program was conducted in conjunction with Shaishav, an NGO committed to promoting child rights and bringing an end to child labor in Bhavnagar. The framework of the program is based on various life skills that UNICEF and the WHO espouse as vital for all people to possess. The other skills and values incorporated into the program were chosen based on observations of the target communities and the goals and vision for Shaishav's programs. The target age group for this program was 3 to 14 years and distinct life skills modules were designed for three sub-groups: ages 3-5, 6-10, and 11-14. The intended population for these modules consisted of a cross-section of various socio-economic, religious, and caste communities, ranging from non-school-going children living in slum areas to private school students. The paper will discuss the information gathered from observations and how this was used to develop modules. It will also discuss measure taken to ensure sustainability of the program.