

Reports

SOMETIMES the most important things in life are least talked about. For instance, it is hard to think of anything more important than health for human happiness and the quality of life. And yet, health is virtually absent from public debates and democratic politics in India.

This silence would perhaps be tolerable if the Indian population enjoyed good health and adequate health services, but nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, India's health indicators are among the worst in the world. Half of all Indian children are undernourished and half of all adult women suffer from anaemia.

Knowing all these facts S. B. Devi Charity Home is always lending their hands in the improvement from the grass-root level. This is why preventive medicine is one of our aims where we can intervene to root out the cause through knowledge sharing.

Bengal Social Services League:

Awareness camp was held at Bengal Social Services League on 20th November.

This is an organization where Muslim women are empowered through handicraft and other different educational programmes. "There is a need for strong steps to uplift the status of Muslim women through education and livelihood initiatives. ...

Besides health check-up programme in Muslim schools for the first time we did only counselling. Only two to three per cent of the Muslim girls between 7 and 16 years are able to go to school. Most of them go to madarasas only. The statistic is in urban areas, the literacy level of Muslim women is 47 per cent. In rural areas, it is 32 per cent. It was a very good and rare opportunity to conduct such a session.

Our topic of discussion was **mental health, Gynaecology & Paediatric problems, menstrual hygiene, nutrition, healthy habits and personal hygiene**. Our target population was mothers, adolescence and young adults

We divided the women into three groups and all the topics were discussed separately. At last we had a very good interactive session. We were happy to see them conscious about their health and habits.

So we believe that soon they can come out from being called a minority within a minority for their double handicap of gender and faith.

