



Welcome to Germany in India

'Waves of Change' - education beyond books for Indian Children

Nov 29, 2012

Urban development and infrastructure development are core areas of cooperation between India and Germany. Continuing cooperation in this endeavor, India's Minister for Human Resource Development, MM Pallam Raju, launched a nationwide education programme for Health, Wellness and Sanitation called 'Waves of Change' on Wednesday, November 28, in the presence of Deputy Chief of Mission of the German Embassy, Cord Meier-Klodt, and cricket legend K. Srikanth, in New Delhi.

With 'Waves of Change,' the Indian government would raise awareness on issues of hygiene and sanitation among the population. The programme aims at facilitating holistic development of the mind, body and soul, learning by doing and encourages the multiple intelligences and capabilities of a student. Special focus is given to the good health of students through proper sanitation and hygiene in schools. It highlights 'education beyond books' and celebrates excellence through scholastic and co-scholastic learning and shaping of life skills.



event (© GIZ New Delhi)

Deputy Chief of Mission Cord Meier-Klodt at the

The programme, funded under the Indo-German Development Cooperation by the GIZ, also saw the conferring of the First National School Sanitation Awards.

In his address, Deputy Chief of Mission Meier-Klodt congratulated the Indian government and also stressed that India must address the challenge of sanitation in the face of rapid population growth, migration and urbanisation. Germany stands as a partner to tackle these problems with experience and technical know-hows. He called on the young people to take up the task with the right attitude.

HRD Minister Pallam Raju also emphasised on the need to 'catch them young.' He said by including sanitation, health and hygiene as part of the curriculum, sustainability can be ensured. He called the initiative a red letter day in the history of school education in India.

Sanitation is one of the basic determinants of the quality of life and human development. In India only 54% of the urban and 21% of the rural population have access to improved sanitation facilities. A survey among school children in India revealed that about half of the ailments school children suffer are related to unsanitary conditions and lack of personal hygiene.

To improve the sanitation situation in urban areas, in October 2008, the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) approved the "National Sanitation policy". The overall goal of this policy is to transform urban India into community driven, totally sanitized, healthy and liveable cities and towns. To make this endeavour a success and foster change, it was recognized that it is necessary to educate citizens when they still young. In 2009, the Central Board of Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Development, initiated the "National School Sanitation Initiative" (NSSI). On behalf of the Indo-German Development Cooperation, GIZ is supporting the NSSI through its programme "Support to the National Urban Sanitation Policy" (SNUSP).

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