



Celebrating 50 Years of Research and Academic Endeavour

How NGOs can transform low-income neighbourhoods

Abstract

- The lack of equity in our cities where a significant population are consigned to live in slums and low-income neighbourhoods. It explains why such inequities arise and how they can be addressed
- The lack of recognition about the role of the informal sector in our cities. How the informal sector enhances the productivity of a city and in the life of its better off citizens, their economic contribution, their living environment, the challenges that they face and how they overcome these challenges.
- The role played by Saath in enhancing the quality of life of the informal sector which mainly lives in slums and low-income neighbourhoods. This includes Saath's approach of Integrated Slum Development which includes addressing issues through innovative approaches related to health, education, shelter, livelihoods, financial inclusion, displacement through various programmes and the impact these have made in the lives of so many people and stories of various people who have been impacted by Saath's work.
- Win-win partnerships and collaborations made by Saath with government, civil society, academic institutions and corporates to pilot and scale up innovative programmes.
- Saath's approach has been based on the understanding that the informal sector and urban poor form a large Base of the Pyramid (BOP) market versus the prevailing view that they require welfare and charity, which does more harm to them.