

## **Report on World Class Cities for All Campaign in Kolkatta (April 2010)**

The National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) has been successfully organizing the second phase of world class cities for all campaign in partnership with StreetNet International in India from 22 February 2010. The campaign was flagged off on 22 February 2010 in Kolkatta and was widely organized in nearby cities. The campaign was mainly advocating of protection the livelihood of street vendors through implementation of National Policy for urban street vendors and inclusive city master planning in Kolkatta Municipal Corporation. The campaign heavily criticized the political apathy of West Bengal Government for not implementing the National Policy and pressurized the Government to formulate the State Policy for Street vendors. The campaign demanded a separate policy for railway street vendors. The campaign significantly reached lakhs of street vendors in Kolkatta and West Bengal and stimulated the movement of vendors to struggle for their livelihood rights. The campaign has come up with some meaningful results in terms of awareness on National Policy & vendor's rights, implementation of policy, mobilization of vendor organizations, and extension of social security benefits to street vendors.

### **Demands to Kolkatta Municipal Corporation**

1. Implement the National Policy for urban street vendors in Kolkatta
2. Constitute Town Vending Committee
3. Register all vendors in the city and issue licenses
4. Demarcate vending zones
5. Restructure City Master plans and include vending zones for street vendors

### **Demands to Government of West Bengal & Government of India**

1. Implement the National policy for urban street vendors in West Bengal
2. Formulate State policy/law for street vendors
3. Formulate separate central policy for railway street vendors

## Launch of Campaign

The “world class cities for all” campaign was flagged off on 22 February 2010 at Metro Channel in Kolkatta. The campaign flagged off by Mr. Moulana Qari Mufti Alhaj. S.M. Noorur Rahman barkati Mojeeddadi, Shahi Imam-o-Khatib, Tupu Sultan Masjid, Mr. Ramen Pandey, President, Jai Hind Kolkatta Hawkers’ Union, Idris Ali, Advocate, Mr. Sk.Md. Siddik, President-All India Railway Hawkers Association, West Bengal and Sanjay Kumar, Program Manager, NASVI were also present.



## Media Clip



Source: Kolkatta Jagran, Kolkatta, 23-02-2010

## Campaign Cities

1. Kolkatta
2. Siliguri
3. Howrah
4. Medinapore
5. Hoogly



*Campaign Meeting in Kolkatta*



*Street corner Meeting in Howrah*



*Hoogly*



*Midanpore*



*Siliguri*



*Part of vendors in the meeting*

### **Meeting with Mayor, Kolkatta Municipal Corporation**

On 23 March 2010, Mr.Sanjay Kumar of NASVI met Mr. Fiyaz Ahmed, Mayor of Kolkatta Municipal Corporation and discussed about implementation of National Policy in Kolakkat.The Mayor told that Kolkata Municipal Corporation declared to issue legal licenses to all the hawkers in the city and it is in the process.

### **Closing ceremony of the campaign**

A month long WCCA campaign program was ended with mass meeting on 25 March 2010 at Maruti Building in Kolkatta. There were more than 500 street vendors and activists participated to witness their solidarity towards the implementation of National Policy in Kolkatta and West Bengal.The meeting emphasized on the implementation of National policy in West Bengal. The campaign is believed to bring many policy level changes in Kolkatta to protect the livelihood of street vendors soon.



### **Results of the campaign**

1. More awareness on the National Policy and Vendors rights among the vendors.
2. Hon'ble Minister for Railways Mamata Banerjee announced that the national health insurance plan will be extended to all licensed porters, vendors and hawkers on Railways.
3. The West Bengal Government and Kolkatta Municipal Corporation started the Policy Implementation Process

4. A central committee called “APEX COMMITTEE” was formulated with representation of Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Police Commissioner of Kolkata, three MLCs of Kolkata Municipal Corporation and the representatives of Hawker Union, Association, Federation, and Organization to implement the policy.
5. Many of the political parties included the campaign demands in election manifesto for forthcoming municipal election in Kolkatta
6. Around 300 active street vendors and social activists joined with NASVI to work for street vendors in West Bengal.
7. NASVI has been recognized as an influential street vendor organization in West Bengal.

**Media clips**



Source: Kolkatta Jagran



Source: Jansatta

