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CareWell Charitable Society®

Changing lives one at a time™

CareWell Completes and Publishes Post Intervention Survey of School Children Benefitting from CareWell's 'School Vision and Hearing Screening & Treatment' Program

Patna, India; July 17, 2009: CareWell completed and published results of the post intervention survey of school children benefitting from CareWell's 'Vision and Hearing Screening & Treatment' program. More than 9,000 school children participated in the vision and hearing screening camps organized by CareWell in various schools in the region. The schools targeted by CareWell mostly include inner city municipal schools where children from families living in slums with limited economic resources attend.

School children who benefitted from these programs of CareWell showed a mean improvement of over 37% in their academic grades. The annual school drop out rates dropped from over 26% to less than 6%. "These results definitively show that undiagnosed vision and hearing impairment is an important factor in poor academic performance and school drop out among children from slums" said Dr. Meena Prasad, President & CEO of CareWell Charitable Society. She further added "The drop in school drop out rates is truly spectacular. The results affirm that our school vision and hearing program is a low cost high impact intervention that truly changes lives. This reaffirms the success of our mission of 'changing lives one at a time'".

CareWell's program is geared towards inner city municipal schools in the region where children from families with limited income attend. There is a high prevalence of vision problems in this group of children. Often these children have no means to access healthcare and are often not able to afford even the simplest of treatment. There is also a lack of awareness about eye disease among parents. Surveys done by CareWell consistently show that children with poor vision often do not achieve good grades and are more likely to end up as drop outs; especially in inner city schools.

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CareWell regularly organizes such vision and hearing camps throughout the year in inner city schools in India. This program of CareWell has been very successful and has been greatly appreciated by children, parents, teachers and state policy makers alike. In this program teachers are also trained to conduct basic eye screening examinations.

About CareWell: Founded in 2002, CareWell Charitable Society is a not-for-profit, non government community-based organization registered with the Government of India. Our mission is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation, financial empowerment and integrated healthcare to the millions of people living a life of poverty and despair in the urban slums of India. CareWell is dedicated to provide all medical services and education support services for free regardless of race, color, creed, origin or religion. All services are free and no one is denied service because of inability to pay. For more information about CareWell visit www.carewell.org.
