

Community Need Assessment and Field Intervention Programme Inaugurated at Anna Nagar

On 20 June 2026, the Community Need Assessment of the Anna Nagar Community was formally inaugurated by Shri Suresh Khandelwal, General Secretary, in the presence of senior community members, more than ten research interns, and IAEA staff members. The programme was chaired by Prof. Rajesh, Director I/c and convened and coordinated by Dr. Biresh Pachisia.

The initiative commenced with the team departing from the IAEA office and spending nearly two hours in the community. The three-month assessment aims to identify the needs and priorities of the community through participatory engagement and to prepare a comprehensive report that will guide future interventions.

Supported by interns from Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan, the Department of Continuing Education and Extension, University of Delhi, and other collaborating institutions, the team was divided into sub-groups to conduct case studies and in-depth interactions with women, adolescents, youth, senior citizens, caretakers of the Atal Canteen and Asha Society, and other community stakeholders. These interactions provided valuable insights into the community's social, educational, and developmental needs.

The programme also marked the third day of the Community Mapping and Field Intervention Programme, which began with inspiring addresses by Prof. L. Raja, President, Indian Adult Education Association; Prof. Kumar Ashutosh, Head, Department of Continuing Education and Extension, University of Delhi; Prof. Ajay Kumar, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Prof. Nasara Shabnam, Head of the Department. The programme was further supported by Prof. Rajesh, Dr. Biresh Pachisia, Mr. Parbez, and research interns from the University of Delhi and Jamia Millia Islamia.

As part of the field intervention, the team visited Sanjay Amar Colony and Anna Nagar Basti, where they engaged with Anganwadi workers, community leaders, and representatives of local NGOs. The team also shared information about the Indian Adult Education Association's skill development initiatives, including cutting and tailoring and computer literacy programmes. During the discussions, community members expressed a strong interest in additional capacity-building programmes, particularly in financial literacy, digital literacy, and spoken English.

The activity was successfully coordinated with the dedicated support of collaborating institutions and the committed staff of the Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA). The organisers gratefully acknowledged the guidance and visionary leadership of Prof. L. Raja, President, Indian Adult Education Association, whose continuous support, along with the collective efforts of all partners and IAEA staff, made the programme a meaningful step towards community-driven development and sustainable social empowerment.