



## Economic and Social Council

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**Statement submitted by All India Movement for Seva, a  
non-governmental organization in consultative status with the  
Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



## Statement

The aim of the organization is to work tirelessly in India to help children in rural and tribal areas to access education and use education as an enabler of socioeconomic development. The organization is fully funded by donors in India and overseas and in the last decade over 14,000 children have benefited in 96 locations in 14 states of India. This was achieved through an innovative approach of creating free student homes close to the community and existing schools. This way, two structural bottlenecks in the Indian education system have been overcome: first, making education more accessible to children, and second, as a consequence, reducing dropout rates (1 per cent in our homes compared to 60 per cent at the national level).

Imbibing cultural values in children is a crucial component of our free student homes, where, through an after school programme, children are given value-added education, taught moral science and extracurricular activities to make them valuable members of society. It is necessary to create a sense of strong cultural values to bring about lasting change in the children. An art-for-development project has helped to sensitize children to environmental protection through the creative medium of art.

We have also been able to integrate environment sustainability into the project. In many homes, a concept of zero waste is practised, where organic and biological by-products are converted to energy use, for lighting and cooking.

We would like to submit to the United Nations consultative committee our organizations key findings on education.

- Innovative solutions should be developed that are replicable and sustainable and that do not duplicate what Government and other bodies are doing;
- The need to integrate environmentally sound practices in the functioning of educational activity in rural and tribal areas so the fragile ecosystem is not disturbed;
- To support an overarching programme of cultural orientation for children, including value systems, integrity, gender equality and respect for the environment to make them responsible citizens of their community and nation.