

APNE AAP WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE



The right to a better life for women and children in red light areas

Annual Report

2007-2008

ABOUT

Target Groups

- a) Women
- b) Daughters of marginalised women between 6 yrs to 21 yrs, whom we refer as "Sparrows"
- c) Children between 2.5 yrs and 6 yrs

Mission

- To make a positive difference in the lives of these women and children by accepting them as they are, including the circumstances of their means of survival and needs
- To prevent trafficking of their daughters and the second generation into prostitution, as they are highly vulnerable in such an atmosphere. Our vision is to give their lives a new meaning by providing them better options and to help them secure a better and dignified future with the commitment of dignity and warmth

Organization

Regular staff working at present are as follows:

- Ms. Manju Vyas as In-Charge
- Ms. Raheen Jummani as Project Coordinator & Counselor
- Mrs. Sangita Satyam as Outreach Supervisor
- Mrs. Harshada as Accountant
- Mrs. Mangala Murale as Outreach and Medical Referral
- Ms. Sarika Kuveskar as Balwadi teacher
- Mrs. Wasanti Jadhav as Office Helper

Honorary Paid Volunteers

- Mrs. Rukhsana Sheikh as tailoring teacher
- Mr. Salahuddin Khan as judo karate teacher
- Mrs. Salma Sheikh as tuition teacher for English
- Ms. Sameer Mayekar as tuition teacher for Math
- 2 Volunteers from Victory Arts Foundation (Shiamak Davar's Institute) to teach dance
- Ms. Yashaswini Raghunandan to write and design quarterly newsletter

PROGRAMMES

With Women

- Membership and identity card of our Resource Centre
- Ration card
- Voting card
- Institutional, rehabilitation, shelter homes placement
- Adult education
- Condom promotion and social marketing, condom vending machines

With Women and Sparrows

- Health and medical referrals
- Microsavings
- Counseling: To deal with various psychological, emotional and growth-related issues
- Entertainment
 - Movies: Hindi & regional
 - Major festivals of all religions
 - Picnics and educational outings
- In-house job skills training
- Job placement assistance
- Sessions / lectures on various issues for awareness and advocacy
- Rehabilitation

With Sparrows (in addition to the above)

- Admissions in school, college and boarding homes
- Formal and non-formal education
- Nutrition
- Skills development classes throughout the year and special vacation batches during summer and other holidays conducted
- Specialized trainings from other institutes

With Children

- Balwadi: AAWC running a Balwadi (Pre-primary preparatory classes) through English Medium to prepare the children to concentrate better during their formative years

ACTIVITIES REPORT

During the year 2007 to 2008 Total 63 no. of girls had benefited through our various in house activities on educational and vocational support.

The details are as follows:

- Approximately 38 girls regularly attended Tuitions Classes for school studies support in the evening from 6pm to 7.30pm on all weekdays.
- Tuitions from nursery to 10th standard are made available in 6 different groups. All the girls are divided into 5 different groups according to their classes. Each group has 1 teacher. 1 separate group is made for all the weaker students.
- 6 no. of Teachers took care of studies through Marathi and Hindi medium.
- 1 Special Tutor hired to conduct English teaching according to textbook curriculum and spoken English.
- 1 Special Tutor for Math and Science took care of special needs of weaker students.
- Special Tutor sponsored by Sterlite Computers to teach once in a week Computers to girls above 10 years.
- Tailoring, Embroidery, Art & Craft, Henna (Mehendi), Karate Classes are conducted in the afternoon on alternate Saturdays as girls are free in the afternoon.
- English classes 4 times in a week and Computer classes once in a week are held.
- Once a week Therapeutic dance and Yoga classes on Saturday's morning are conducted for recreation and for chanelizing their pent up energy.
- Nutrition with fruits is given in the afternoon and evening. Menu is fixed among the girls. Egg and milk is given twice in a week.
- Along with the food, multivitamins tablets are given to deal with undernourishment.
- Every month head lice medicines given to the needy girls. After every 6 months stomach de-worming done for better health.
- Monthly record of their height, weight and age is maintained.
- Girl's eye –sight got checked from nearby eye hospital. 6 girls diagnosed and provided with spectacles.
- A special summer camp cum vacation classes called "Hot mein Cool" arranged for spoken English, puppet show, cooking, baking, embroidery, fabric painting, tile painting, glass painting, greeting card making, blow painting, mirror painting, paper Mache, fashion designing, art and craft, different types of block printing on clothes, beauty care and different types of hair styling etc. Also taught story telling and drama. Camp ended with a visit to Haji ali, Mahalaxmi temple and outing at Girgaon Chowpatty.

- Team Building exercises; 4 teams of girls are made and named these teams as – Kalpana Chawla, Kiran Bedi, Savitribai Phule and Jhansi ki Rani.

It is an exercise for personality development, discipline training, building team spirit and leadership qualities. Every week each group takes the responsibilities of supervising all the ongoing activities of organization. Every week grades are given according to their performance and at the end of year best team get the Trophy.

- Valedictory Function and prize distribution programme arranged to give away the prizes for different in house competitions arranged at organization level throughout the year.
- Holi festival celebrated with water and different colour in mark of brotherhood and equality.
- Walt Disney arranged Fun-Fair party for underprivileged children and invited our girls also. They enjoyed it thoroughly.
- Sidhivinayak Charitable Trust and Manthan Ngo organized an evening of talent exposure called “Swayam” by Physically challenged children for other NGOs children
- Arranged “Career Guidance Camp” for a day for all the adolescent boys and girls of all the NGOs working in our Zone.
- Thai Chi Neck and Head Massage by Antoinette (A well wisher from New York) for the women was arranged for relaxation.
- “She Creates” Film making training workshop: MAM movies organized 18 days film making training workshop for underprivileged girls. They selected 4 NGOs from all over Mumbai. Our NGO was one of them. From each NGO they chose 5 girls. During training each NGO girls had made a movie. Our girls made a movie on girl child foeticide called “Muskarati roshni”. This project was a unique project hence it was well acclaimed in all News Papers and Television channels.
- “Dahi Handi” Celebration: ‘Janmashtami’ festival celebrated by tying and hanging ‘dahi handi’ (traditionally an earthen pot is filled with yogurt with) but we simply filled a balloon with water and hanged it with a rope. All our girls made pyramid and youngest of them all stood on top of them and broke it. It was a great fun preparing and breaking it too.
- “Harry Potter -5” Movie shown at PVR Nest Theater at Juhu, Mumbai.
- Important people like ANZBAI Chairman and Australian Consulate General, Smt. Sharayu Daftary, Smt. Gauri Pohoomul, Smt Kavita Khanna felicitated the Independence Day and Rakhi celebration along with their friends and associates.
- ‘Dandiya’ Navratri (Nine nights) Festival and Ramzan Eid Celebration organized together with Dandiya dance.
- Organization’s annual “Best Group” and “best student” prize distribution also arranged on this day. Best student in elder group won by Ms. Ashwini Shivekar and in younger group Ms. Surekha and Ms. Jyotsana. This year best group trophy is won by Savitri Bai Phule group.

- 'Diwali', 'Rangoli Competition' Celebration done with great fun. Girls were taught different way of Diya painting and Rangoli making to acquaint them its association with our culture and rituals.
- Children's Day Celebration on 14th November celebrated with a very famous inspiring and motivational Hindi movie called "CHAK DE". This movie is based on real theme of Indian girl's hockey team wins over after serious challenges.
- Participated in 'Football Match' organized by Magic Bus organisation and competed against other NGOs on younger and elder group level. Our elder girl got best 'center player' prize.
- Participated in dance Competition organized by PSI NGO and won 1st prize.
- For sparrows 1 day Picnic at Water Park called "Anand Sagar Resort" arranged. This Picnic was planned with idea of imparting skills through various games. All the activities taken had an underlying theme or message to it.

Women were taken to Shirdi Sai Baba temple as they wanted to have some spiritual solace away from this profession.

- Christmas Celebration: Christmas tree decoration done with lots of fun, good food, cake and a Teddy Bear as gift.
- Young Presidents Organisation of U S visited our organization to understand the living condition and vulnerability of young girls staying in the red light area.
- Women's Day celebrated at the center. An educational movie show was held with good food. During interval a resource person from Rationing Kruti Samiti was called to address a small discussion on yellow Ration Cards for BPL.
- Amole Gupte (Director of film "Taare Zamin Par") taken workshop on painting with Music. Also he helped our girls to write lyrics and give music to make a song on Apne Aap Women's Collective.
- Participated in Mumbai Marathon arranged by Standard Chartered Bank. 4 different races were held according to participants. In which a full marathon of 25 kilometers, half marathon of 12 kms. , 6 kms of dream run and 2.5 kms. for old and handicapped people were held. From our organization 3 people were selected to participate in dream run. Nationally and internationally total 40,000 people participated in it. Many famous Indian film actor and actress also participated in it.
- Twice 1 day general Health Check – up Camp organized at the organisation.
- General medicines and first aid provided all throughout the year for general ailments at the center.
- Other specialized medical treatment assistance provided from nearby Government hospitals and private doctors to all those who needed
- Small savings system called as 'Apni Bachat' is running smoothly, this is to educate them to save money to utilize it when they are in genuine need.

- Training workshop held for school drop out girls and women on wall hanging, Paper- Bag & envelope Making, Candles, shampoo, Liquid soap, detergent powder, chalk, perfume spray, Incense sticks (Agarbatti) and Phenyl making.
- Thrice in a year girls dance performance by famous Indian Choreographer Mr. Shiamak Davar held, on International Dance Day, summer funk and winter funk. Also performed at “Ashwamedh” Annual function of Sion Medical College on 20th March
- “Talent Show” a day’s programme, all the girls prepared / made something in which they feel they are good at and displayed.
- 7 girls did Radio Magazines on “Impact of Domestic Violence on Children” and “I can do it By Self” on F M Radio Gyanwani
- A famous Indian I T Corporate house staff took recreational sessions with girls on Republic day.
- ‘LET’S SHARE’ a half day programme during Diwali holidays to inculcate the belief of sharing as in today’s era it’s so difficult for people to be able to share no matter what it is. Whether it is their feelings, or knowledge or anything to be part of their progress, growth and development.
- 1 Girl was sent for 6 months job skills training programme of Hallmark Gold Jewellery designing, 6 girls appeared for 5 star hotel management apprentice training for 2 years. 3 girls sent for basic training of Beautician for 3 months, 1 girl selected for a year Balwadi teacher training course at Muktangan.
- Job placement assistance provided to 7 women and 5 girls. 2 girls placed with Beauty parlour, 2 girls are placed with Hallmark gold jewellery shop. 1 girl selected for Photoshop training course and then a job.
- Boarding Home (residential shelter home) placements of 10 girls arranged. It’s an effort to provide safe, secured and healthy environment away from this highly vulnerable area. 3 girls are in row to be placed in boarding home. Regular follow up at their respective boarding homes was done to check their progress.
- Sensitization Workshop for staff on topics like women’s and child rights, Govt. Policies for the rights of women and girl child, trafficking, sexual harassments, domestic violence and property rights, social marketing of a branded condoms.
- ‘Art of living’ 6 days sessions held for women on stress management and relaxation by a qualified resource person.
- 14 hours special Art based therapy session taken with girls between the age group of 8 years to 12 years and 12 yrs to 16 yrs. to deal with their inhibitions through different ways of art forms.
- Life skills sessions for different age groups girls held weekly, on building self-confidence, behavioral problems, misunderstandings – impact of choices, identifying emotions, expressing them in appropriate ways, conflict resolution, and importance of studies and evaluating study skills.
- **Group Counseling** Session taken with girls above 11 years for creating awareness about the changes occurring in a growing girl. Helping them to be comfortable, accept,

and adjust to the different kinds of psychological, physical and emotional changes taking place in a girl's body with onset of 'menstruation', sex and sexuality - its perspective and diseases, Individual Counseling session also taken for catharsis and different personal issues.

- **Special counseling sessions** held on Effective ways of self studies, stress management (during exams) self esteem, self betrayal, mental relaxation, tolerance and cooperation, motivation and encouragement, time management, positive attitude, acknowledgments of others efforts, physical development, gender sensitivity, personal and environmental cleanliness, health and hygiene, effective communication - effective speaking & effective listening, Creative and varied thinking (brain storming) , extensive exploration, effective vocal communication with voice modulation, Chakra Healing, love and respect for oneself, responsibility sharing, nagging, leg pulling, how to say no, value the present, etc.
- 2 of our girls got married to suitable descent boys. 2 girls who married 2 years back delivered baby girls.
- **Workshops & Training** (staff/girls) ; Health right of patients, 2nd line of ART treatment for AIDS patient, Rights of Sexual Minorities, Talk with Women on Health by Doctor on Prevention and cure of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Sessions by elder girl beneficiaries on physical & Sex Education, Gender sensitization on equality and importance of a girl child, side effects of the combination of ART drugs, Campaigning for food right, Child Rights, workshop on HIV infection in children, HIV/ AIDS in India, Juveniles Justice Act, HIV / AIDS - Care & Support services, Health Workshop on water born disease, viral and bacterial infections, immersing issues of children in conflict with law, Team- building Workshop, special Nail Art Session, Art & Craft Workshop, Dance Therapy , Patent bill of ART drugs, Sensitization Workshop-Violence Against women & girl child, Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act - amendments, effective methods of HIV /AIDS Counselling, Gender Issues in Primary Education, Youth's in high risk behaviour, gender sensitization for selective abortions, Tuberculosis,
- Our NGO was invited at 'In- Orbit' Mall and Crossword Book shop to have a stall there and speak about our organisation's aims and objectives.
- **Competitions** (In house); Hand writing, Karate Competition, Mehendi Competition, Craft Competition, tailoring, Essay writing, subject-chart making, Rangoli, Sports day.
- **Celebrations;** Till - Gud (Indian New year) celebration, Rakhi, Gandhi - Commemoration Day, World Women's Day, Anti drug day, AAWC 8th Anniversary Celebration, Children Party on Children's Day, Indian Republic day, World AIDS day celebration, Women's Day, Independence Day, Teacher's Day.
- **Meetings;** Special discussion with Chairman of "Children welfare Board of India" regarding child welfare policies of follow ups of Juvenile delinquents, Ngo Directors discussion on issues and special needs faced with HIV + children at rehabilitation homes, Meeting with School's principals to check our girl's progress, Mothers meetings on girls' academics, CDE ward NGOs Forum.

Significant contributions: Mrs. Preeti and Gagan Agrawal helped in renovating kindergarten room. Mrs. Radhika Dayya, Mr. and Mrs. Sondhi helped us in office furniture and renovation.

CHALLENGES

Last 9 years have been first-rate refining for us. Along with our achievements, still facing some severe challenges which are as follows:

- Fresher girls are very irregular in attendance or absent or latecomers in the class, which directly affects on their interest in studies. Their mothers doesn't co-operate at all to improve on this. Hence it affects on their planned long term goals.
- Other NGOs in the vicinity simply duplicate the activities without any proper research and policies planning which affects adversely on other active NGO.
- Progress of NGO as well as children hampers due to frequent change of staff.
- Getting professionally qualified and trained staff is still very-very hard. Hence present staff is always loaded with work more than their capacity.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Older girls have developed a bonding with our organisation. They are consistent in attendance. Hence it shows in their performance.
- This year also all our girls not only just improved on their grades but also most of them have secured RANKS in their classes.
- 4 girls passed 10th board exam. 1 girl with 72% took admission in Science College, remaining 3 with 55 % and above took commerce.
- 8 girls got success in getting Scholarship from other Non Government organization on the grounds of their academic performance.
- In all other standards from 1st to 9th, all the girls passed with remarkable improved results.
- 2 girls selected for the Apprenticeship program at "Four Seasons" a five-star Group of Hotels.