



Apne Aap Women's Collective

Newsletter

Issue 18/ April-June 2013

The right to a better life for Women and Children in red light areas.

Editorial

Dear readers,

Ms. Shweta Katti (18 years) was raised in Mumbai's infamous red-light area of Kamathipura. As she stated, two years ago, she was a very ordinary girl, had low self-esteem, an inferiority complex, and was abused by her step father, an alcoholic and drug addict. Recognising her potential and her passion towards education, AAWC placed her in the Kranti rehabilitation centre where she could find a conducive environment for her holistic growth.

Her life took a big turn for the better when she won a scholarship to study at the Bard College in New York for four years of her graduation studies. She has received a full tuition scholarship for her entire education through the college. She was featured in Newsweek's Women in the World: 25 Under-25 Young Women to Watch alongside Malala Yousafzai



Ms. Shweta Katti

and other girls who are seen as the agents of change in the world. Shweta is a very passionate and committed girl. She has charted out her future plans clearly. She plans to run a therapy centre for sex workers and their children after returning to India.

Shweta travelled around Nepal and the tribal areas of Jharkhand for a year,

giving motivational talks to sex workers and their children. She also spoke at eight women's conferences during this time. Shweta now awaits an individual or organisation that would fund her living expenses in the US.

I appeal to everyone out there to support Shweta and make her dream come true; let us help her set an example for the daughters of Kamathipura.

We are glad to share the success of our girls at the 2013 SSC and HSC board exams. Seven of our girls had appeared for the SSC and seven for the HSC board examination. All have passed with good results. Moreover, all primary and secondary school girls passed with good marks and some of them achieved a distinction. 98.5% of the girls have graduated to the next grade.

Ms Manju Vyas
Director, Apne Aap Women's Collective

AAWC Update

Details of training workshops/meetings attended by our staff members:

Workshops	Organised by	Staff
Patients' Rights	AAWC & Rangoonwala Foundation	All and Umeed beneficiaries
Paralegal Training	Justice Ventures International	Pratishtha and Namita
Elementary Counselling	AAWC	All Staff
Malnutrition	AAWC	All Staff
Anti-Sex Trafficking	DASRA	Pratishtha and Namita

> AAWC was appreciated and recognised as the only NGO that keeps a timely and appropriate follow-up of HIV+ patients, at the NGOs meeting conducted by the Community Development Officer (CDO) of Ward E.

> We are very thankful to Dr. Purvish Parikh, an Oncologist and Haematologist at the Indian Cancer Society for conducting a general medical examination of our beneficiaries in the Kamathipura centre.



Dr. Purvish Parikh examining a woman at the medical camp

UDAAN Update



Career Guidance workshop

- > Ms. Savita More (21 years) got selected for an Internship in Hospitality management with Trident Hotels. This programme is called ‘Hunar Se Rozgar’ and is launched by the Ministry of Tourism for creation of employable skills amongst the youth. She aspires to become a chef in a five-star hotel. She is very happy and wants to break the cycle of poverty within her family.
- > Girls were taken to visit Sanmati Balniketan, an orphanage of the most respected and honoured Smt. Sindhutai Sapkal in Pune. It was a two-day, one-night camp. The girls

were happy to get an opportunity to interact with Mai, who has raised more than a thousand orphan children and built their families.

- > Ms. Susan and her dear friend Ms. Cindy voluntarily take activity classes every Tuesday at both the centres.
- > In order to monitor, assess and address the key psychological issues of young girls, we have started “Art-based therapy” sessions that are conducted by Ms. Sarita Ganesh, Faculty, Centre for Art and Craft, School of Social Work, TISS.
- > Workshops on Reproductive Health, Child Rights and a Career

Guidance session were organised for the teenage girls.

Exposure and educational visits organised throughout summer vacations:

- > Nehru Planetarium
- > Reserve Bank of India
- > American Library
- > The Good Shop-Voluntary NGO
- > Local Post Offices
- > J.J. Hospital
- > Local Police Station
- > DSB International School
- > Fish Factory at Taloje

In-house workshops conducted:

- > Storytelling, Drawing, Informal Letter Writing, Puppet Making, Paper Flower Making, Zardosi Work, Keychain Making, Pen Holder Making and Jewellery Making.

Boarding home follow-up visit:

Follow-up visits were made at various boarding homes by the project coordinator.



Sanmati Balniketan visit



Ms. Sarita Ganesh conducting therapy at Kamathipura Centre



Summer activity classes

“I feel proud of myself when I write my name.”

—Umeed Beneficiary



UMEED Update

- Ms. Kiran Badhe (Founder of Samruddhi Mahila Bachat Gat) and Ms. Pallavi Rane (International Resources for Fairer Trade) were invited to address a group meeting. The objective was to motivate women and make them realise their inborn/subtle skills and think about better life choices.
- A rangoli competition was organised for the women. Fourteen women participated and drew beautiful rangolis. Most of them recalled their childhood days and were happy to relive those days again, even if it was just for a few moments.
- A resource person from Ward D was invited to talk about the TB

and DOT program in the monthly meeting. The meeting was very interactive and informative as all the

women participated and shared their health problems. Four women have been referred for a sputum test.



Above, left: Mrs. Badhe and Ms. Pallavi addressing a monthly meeting. Above, right: Rangoli Competition



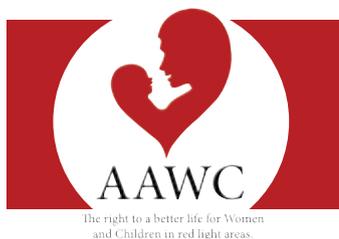
umang

UMANG Update

- Night shelter children's mothers' meetings were conducted regularly. They are all updated on the development of their children.
- The CMD of Premier Ltd. organised a picnic-exposure visit to Nehru Planetarium for all children. They enjoyed seeing the planets.
- Mothers are informed about the Right to Education Act, and also, the necessity of education in life, through a monthly meeting.



Meeting with Mothers on Right to Education



“Once again, I had a really nice time at the AAWC family and I enjoyed the experience, the good atmosphere, the positive energy and the important work that is carried out!”

—Bjorn Eklund (Volunteer)

(April-2013-June 2013)

Statistical updates for this quarter:

Falkland Road Centre Number of New Beneficiaries	
Total new <i>balwadi</i> admissions	12
General Affidavits	5
No. of PAN cards made	3
Home visits (Umang beneficiaries)	114
Total New Udaan admissions	7
Boarding Home Placement	1
Home visits (Udaan beneficiaries)	39
Total no. of new women members	9
Total no. of new savings accounts in Bank	3
Centre visits by women	27
Total medical referrals	28
No. of new HIV/TB-infected women for banana and egg supplement	1
No. of new women under Adult Literacy Program:	3
Women's deaths	1

Kamathipura Centre Number of New Beneficiaries	
Total new <i>balwadi</i> admissions	9
Total school admissions	26
Birth certificates and Affidavits	29
General Affidavits	8
No. of children immunised	36
Home visits (Umang beneficiaries)	231
Total New Udaan admissions	3
Home visits (Udaan beneficiaries)	274
Total no. of new women members	25
No. of Ration cards made	5
No. of PAN cards made	12
Aadhar cards received	21
Total no. of new bank accounts opened	6
Total no. of new savings accounts opened in Post Office	3
Centre visits by women	125
Total Medical referrals	96
No. of new HIV/TB-infected women for banana supplement	5
No. of new women under Adult Literacy Program	17
Women's deaths	2
Death certificate	1

You can sponsor our children through the following sponsorship programs:

Particulars	Amount
Annual educational sponsorship for a child	₹ 5,000
Annual meal sponsorship for a child	₹ 2,000
Annual health sponsorship for a child	₹ 5,000
Art and craft activities sponsorship	₹ 10,000
Educational and exposure visit sponsorship	₹ 25,000

Particulars	Amount
Summer camp sponsorship	₹ 35,000
Sponsor a child	₹ 36,000
Awareness and knowledge oriented workshops and sessions	₹ 40,000

* AAWC runs two centres at Falkland road and Kamathipura with 60 and 75 children at each.
(All cheques should be made in the name of Apne Aap Women's Collective. All donations are exempted from Income Tax u/s 80-G of Income Tax Act 1961)

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