

# APNE AAP WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE



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

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**Annual Report**

**2009-2010**

# ABOUT

## Target Groups

- a) Women
- b) Daughters of marginalised women between age group of 6yrs. to 21yrs. whom we refer as sparrows.
- c) Children up to age of 2.5 yrs. to 6 yrs.

## Mission

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

## Organization

Regular staff working at present are as follows:

- Mrs. Manju Vyas as Director
- Ms. Deepa Narayanan as Project Coordinator
- Mrs. Sangita Satyam as Outreach Supervisor
- Ms. Ambrita Dhavle as Outreach Worker
- Ms. Pallavi Khudkar as Outreach Worker
- Ms. Arti Choughule as Accountant
- Mrs. Mangala Murale as Outreach and Medical referral
- Ms. Paru Dhanawade as Balwadi teacher
- Mrs. Dilshad Sheikh as office helper

Honorary paid part time staff

- Mrs. Rukhsana Sheikh as tailoring teacher
- Mr. Salahuddin Khan as Judo Karate teacher
- Mrs. Salma Sheikh as tuition teacher for English
- Mr. Sameer Mayekar as tuition teacher for Math
- 2 Volunteers from Victory Arts Foundation ( Shiamak Davar's Institute) to teach Dance
- Mrs. Rita Gandhi as Yoga Teacher

## Time table

Regular Staff

From Monday to Friday - 11am to 7.30pm

- 11am to 11.30 am : report writing and recap
- 11.30 am to 2 pm : field visit
- 2pm to 2.30pm : lunch
- 2.30 pm to 5pm : field visit
- 5pm to 5.30 office work

- 5.30pm to 6pm girls snack time
- 6pm to 7.25pm tuition
- 7.25 to 7.30pm prayer

On Saturday

- 11am to 11.30am recap of weekly reports
- 11.30 am to 2.30pm weekly staff meeting

### **Sparrows (Girls)**

From Monday to Friday

- During the day: to school
- 5.30pm to 6pm: Snack time (at the center)
- 6pm to 7.30pm: Tuitions

On Saturday

- 8.30 am to 9.30 am: Dance class
- 9.30am to 10.30am: Yoga Class
- 10.30 am: Breakfast
- 11 am – 2.30 pm: School
- 3pm to 4.30pm: Tailoring and embroidery on 1st & 3rd Saturday  
Counseling and life skills session 2nd & 4th Saturday
- 4.30pm to 5pm: Snacks time
- 5pm to 6 pm: Computer & Spoken English classes in different batches
- 6pm to 7.30pm: karate on 2nd & 4th Saturday

### **Day Care Centre / Balwadi ( Monday to Saturday)**

9.55a	Prayer
10a – 10.15a	Exercise
10.15a – 10.30a	Breakfast
10.30a – 10.45a	A to Z reading with pictures
10.45a – 11a	Pictures
11 – 11.15p	Coloures & shapes
11.15p – 11.30	Numeric ( 1 to 25) reading & counting
11.30p – 12p	Story telling
12p – 12.30p	Poems
12.30p – 1p	Drawing, sketching
1p – 1.30 p	In- door Games
1.30p – 2p	Lunch
2p – 4p	Rest
4p – 4.30p	Freshen up
4.30 – 5.30p	Snacks
5.30p	Leave for the day

# PROGRAMMES

## **With Women**

- Membership & Identity Card of our Resource Center
- Ration Card
- Voter's Card
- Institutional / Shelter homes placement
- Adult education
- Condom promotion and social marketing, Condom Vending Machines
- Savings A/c opening in Bank of Maharashtra
- PAN Card
- Life Insurance Policy

## **With Women and Sparrows**

- Health and Medical referral
- Micro – Savings
- Counseling: To deal with various psychological, emotional and growth related issues.
- Entertainment:
  - Movies: Hindi & Regional
  - Major festivals of all religion Celebration
  - Picnics and educational outings
- In house job skills training
- Job placement assistance
- Sessions / Lectures on various issues for awareness -creation and advocacy
- Rehabilitation

## **With Sparrows (other than above activities)**

- Admissions in School, College and Boarding Homes
- Formal and Non Formal Education
- Nutrition
- Skill Development Classes throughout the year and special vacation batches during summer and other holidays conducted. Specialized trainings from other Institutes also arranged

## **With Children**

- Day care center and Balwadi: AAWC running a day care center as play school and Balwadi (Pre Primary Preparatory Classes) through English Medium to prepare the children from formative age to concentrate better.

# ACTIVITIES REPORT

## AAWC

- **Outreach extended up to Kamathipura:** Our organisation has completed 10 years in Aug '09. It has been a great learning process. We have learned a lot of lessons through our achievements and mistakes which has guided us in improving and sustaining our services. With this experience in hand, AAWC decided and started to extend and reach out to other underprivileged women of adjoining red light area of Kamathipura.
- **Balwadi to Day Care Center:** observing that many of our children were always left unattended near their homes after our Balwadi got over at 2 p.m. We realized that their mothers are practically not able to look after them physically. That's where we realized the need to start a proper day care center for these children. In accordance our day care centre commenced from 1 September. It involves caring for our younger children from 10am until 5:30pm. In this way, we are able to ensure due attention and care for a longer time as well as provide relief to the mothers.
- **Corporate Teams Run for AAWC at the Mumbai Marathon:** This year three teams from HSBC, Arshiya International and Bharat Serums and Vaccines supported us at the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon.
- Dr. James Levine, Professor of Medicine and Researcher at **Mayo Clinic**, Minnesota visited AAWC to know more about our work. Later kindly donated 5 flat screen computers.
- We participated in a "Women Mean Business Conference" at Hyatt Regency organized by **Cherie Blair Foundation** for Women. The conference was attended by women achievers from all over the world.
- Orientation about AAWC and the Community given to St Xavier's College and Nirmala Niketan College students.
- Siddharth Kara, a well known author, came to visit us along with an American filmmaker. They interviewed our field workers for a **documentary film** they are producing on sex trafficking of women and children in India and Nepal.
- Mrs. Mikiko Okubo and Mrs. Yoshiko Haga, made their yearly visit to AAWC. They held a drawing and **Origami workshop** with the girls.
- We are thankful to **Mr. Shinichi Lida, Consul, Consulate General of Japan** in Mumbai for gracing our organisation with his visit with our Japanese guests.
- The Cuffe Parade Chapter of the **Lions Club** donated AAWC a DVD Player to our organisation for our beneficiaries.
- To create an awareness, **Tata Institute of Social Sciences** gave AAWC an opportunity to present the issue of human trafficking and the work we do at the centre for Labour Studies.
- The workers from the Mizoram Branch of the **Salvation Army** visited us to learn about how we deal with daily outreach issues. Their feedback was that our outreach was very effective.

- **Staff Picnic to Alibaugh:** AAWC took its staff members for a picnic to the Awas Beach and to visit the Birla temple to unwind from the crisis they deal with on a daily basis.

## Staff Training

- Staff attended a day workshop organized by Nice Foundation on **Project Proposal Writing and International Fundraising** at Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
- Staff attended a workshop run by **Nasscom Foundation**. The workshop included discussions about what **IT problems** NGOs were encountering, and what they needed in regard to IT to making their organization more effective and efficient.
- The first International Conference on **Alcohol and HIV in India** was organized by International Institute for Population Sciences at Hotel Taj President, Mumbai. Eminent persons handled sessions on various topics interlinking Alcoholism, HIV, Sexuality and High Risk Behaviour. Also several researches carried out in this regard were discussed.
- Project Coordinator attended Lawyers Collective's Meetings on **“Need for a change in the laws relating to rape and sexual assault”** and **“Understanding Pain: Palliative Care in India”**. The guest speaker was Dr. M. R. Rajagopal, Founder of Pallium India.
- Attended a workshop on **Issues and Scopes of Rehabilitation:** Our Director attended a workshop organized by Prerna, another NGO that also works with the same population.

## Volunteers

- Ms. Emily, from Australia was with us for a month and helped us in designing our promotional materials.
- Mr. Prayank Agrawal and his friend, who are pursuing their MBA in Singapore taught cricket to our girls on the Saturday's evenings.
- Ms. Shanoor Seerwai, from USA volunteered with AAWC for 3 months, and helped in outreach and documentation.
- Ms. Alisha Patel handled English tuition for one of our older sparrows.
- Mrs. Mukeeta Jhaveri and her children taught Chess and other indoor games to our sparrows and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. It was indeed a sight worth watching to see our sparrows sitting in several small groups, each one deeply engrossed in their games.
- Ms. Arshiya Mittal explored the drawing and hand painting skills of our girls (9 older girls and 8 younger girls) through a unique exercise.  
  
Music was played and the girls were told to visualize something related to the music and make drawings. This was a helpful exercise as our girls never got an encouragement to think or visualize since their childhood.
- Ms. Erika from New Zealand joined AAWC for a month to help in activities of women and children.

- Mr. Alan, an Australian National, Teacher with a reputed school in Mumbai, teaches Spoken English to the older sparrows on Saturday evenings.

## Women

- **Women's picnic to Trambakeshwar:** 40 women and 9 staff members went to Nasik to visit the Trambakeshwar Shivji Temple.
- For the past 10 years we have been helping our women secure Yellow Ration Cards, which pertains to people living below the poverty line. At one point, the Government stopped issuing cards in this category, but many women are still in need of help. In this regard, we have requested Rationing Office that in **exchange of ration cards** of our beneficiaries who have passed away, issue the same to the deserving women in the waiting list. Process is going on since last one year.
- Our women celebrated **Raksha Bandhan with Shekhar Kapoor**, acclaimed Director cum Producer, of films like Mr. India, Bandit queen, Elizabeth, etc. Since Mr. Kapoor could visit us only in the evening, we invited only few of our women, unlike other times. But it was nice to see the women tying Rakhi to him and participating and interacting with Mr. Kapoor in a friendly manner.
- We put up a **fun stall** at a **Fun Fair** organized by Prerna, All the stalls had fun and games for the women; gifts and prizes were given too!
- We regularly battle with an issue that's quite rampant amongst the community that we work with – **'Unplanned and Medical Termination of Pregnancy'**. Women beneficiaries are counseled consistently about consequences of unplanned pregnancy, contraceptives and consequences, to help them understand that the unplanned child is vulnerable to all kinds of abuse and always left to suffer.
- Recently we have introduced making **PAN cards** for identity proof of women. However, we are facing difficulty as women are repeatedly changing their residence.
- AAWC have been regularly attending **Rationing Kruti Samiti** meetings which is actively working for Right to Food. They have good network amongst the Rationing Department and other NGOs.
- **Sankranti Celebration:** We had a small get together for the women. They played some fun games and had Haldi Kum – Kum programme.
- **Women's Day Celebration:** The evening kick started with a party that was followed by a presentation made LIC on life insurance plans for the women.
- **AAWC helps beneficiary against harassment:** One of our beneficiaries who had an account at Bank of India was being taken undue advantage of by the bank employee. Instead of depositing her money in the account he would use it for his personal work. She was unable to read and write and could not understand why he did this for several months. Upon approaching AAWC we had the employee re-deposit all her money into her account. We have warned the Bank about such acts in the future.
- **Legal help provided to a woman wrongfully arrested:** The police conducted a raid on a brothel. The brothel owner escaped and instead they arrested an innocent sex worker and put her behind bars. They refused to release her, thinking that the brothel owner would come back for her. However, this did not happen and AAWC helped the innocent women get bail by putting her in touch with the appropriate lawyer.

- **Women's visit to SOS Village:** Our mothers were taken to the Save Our Soul Boarding facility in Alibaugh to see the environment that their children will be placed in.
- **Distribution of Bananas to HIV+ women in the area:** AAWC has identified the need for better nutrition for HIV+ sex workers in the Falkland Road area. In order to supplement their medication and diet, we have started distributing bananas to them on a daily basis.
- **Meetings**
  - We have placed many of our girls in Boarding Homes, which in turn impose strict rules to be followed. These rules have been made to ensure the safe and healthy upbringing of the girls. In this regard, only the mothers are allowed to visit the girls once a month; no male member is allowed to visit or establish any kind of contact. But we got information that many a time our beneficiaries (mothers) are accompanied by male companions.  
  
To deal with this we held a meeting at our centre with all the women, to make them understand the reasons behind these rules, and how negligence on their part could affect the lives of their daughters.
  - Women's meeting was held for new members to brief them about the various services and support they can avail by becoming a member of AAWC.
  - The mothers of the children, who were identified as urgently requiring boarding home placements, were invited for an orientation about what a boarding home is and what its rules and regulations are. They were also told how it will benefit their children to be there.

## Sparrows

Total 46 no. of girls had benefited through our various in house activities of vocational, formal and non formal educational.

The details are as follows:

- Approximately **42 girls** regularly attended Tuitions Classes for school studies support in the evening from 6pm to 7.30pm on all weekdays and full day vocational classes on Saturdays.
- Tuitions from nursery to 11<sup>th</sup> standard are made available in **7 different groups** by dividing according to their classes. Each group has 1 teacher. 1 separate group is made for all the weaker students.
- 7 no. of **Teachers** took care of studies through Marathi and Hindi medium, in which 1 special Teacher took English teaching according to textbook curriculum and spoken English and 1 special Teacher for Math and Science took care of special needs of weaker students.
- 1 Special Tutor for Computer appointed to **teach Computers** to girls above 10 years.
- Fashion designing and Tailoring, Embroidery, Art & Craft and Karate Classes are conducted on **Saturday's afternoon** as girls are having half day school and come early at the center.
- **English classes** 4 times in a week and Computer classes once in a week are held.
- Once a week **Therapeutic dance classes** by instructors of Shiamak Davar Institute and Yoga classes on Saturday's morning are conducted for recreation and channelizing their pent up energy.



- **'Apni Bachat'** savings system for girls is running smoothly. Further in the process we are opening their accounts in Bank of Maharashtra.
- Nutrition with **fruit** (mostly banana) is given in the afternoon and evening. Menu is fixed by the girls. In the evening along with snacks Egg, Beetroot, lemon juice and milk is given in different combination.
- After the food, **multivitamins tablets** (Calcium, Iron and B complex) are given twice in a week to deal with their undernourishment.
- Everyday girls were made to **brush their teeth** at the center after evening snacks.
- Every month head lice medicines given to the needy girls. Also after every 6 months stomach de-worming done for better health.
- **Monthly record** of their height, weight and age is maintained.
- **General medicines** and first aid provided all throughout the year for general ailments at the centre.
- Twice a year Eye check up camp organized at the center; 7 girls diagnosed and provided with spectacles.
- Twice in year general **Health Check – up Camp** was organized at the organisation. **Dr. Khyati Mehta** a General Practitioner at Breach Candy Hospital examined all the girls and found most of the girl's health has improved. A few of them have been diagnosed with E N & T problems and one girl had skin infection.

We have prepared a **diet chart** for our children in consultation with the doctor, to supplement their nutritional needs.

- Team Building exercises; like every year this year also 4 teams of girls were 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 gets the Trophy. This year **best group trophy** is won by **Kiran Bedi group**.

- **Annual Valedictory Function** and prize distribution programme arranged to give away the prizes for different in house competitions arranged at organization level throughout the year.
- On 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, 20 participants including 09 girls from our organization cheered our 3 corporate sponsors for 6 kms of "Dream run" in **Mumbai Marathon arranged by Standard Chartered Bank**.
- 1 boy and 7 girls **admission** was arranged in **Government and Municipality School**. 3 girls admission was arranged in Junior College. 6 girls were helped in junior college coaching classes.
- **Job assistance** provided to 2 following girls:  
1 girl absorbed as an Account assistant. She is in her B. Com 1<sup>st</sup> year and 1 girl after successful completion of Kindergarten Teachers Training, absorbed as Balwadi / Kindergarten teacher in our organization.

- One of our older sparrows is helped to get a job in **Magic Bus NGO**, to provide football training and life skill sessions for the slum and pavement children.
- We are extremely happy that 2 of our older sparrows doing **5 Star Hotel Apprentice program** have scored 72% and 76% respectively in their second year exams.
- **General medical treatment** assistance provided to girls from nearby Government hospitals and private doctors to all those who needed i.e.; Malaria, Dengue, jaundice, pneumonia, skin allergies and infection, stomach infections, etc.
- One of our sparrows has been sent to **New Life Boarding Home**. It was a Herculean task, as her mother was addicted to Cough Expectorants and other drugs, while the brothel owner considered this girl as a potential for her business. Finally we were successful in rescuing and displacing the girl from a highly vulnerable environment.
- Boarding Home (residential shelter home) **placements** of 4 girls and a boy are arranged for a secured and healthy environment away from this community.

Regular follow up at their respective boarding homes was done to check their progress.

- **Training workshop** held for **school dropout girls** on wall hanging, Paper- Bag & envelope Making, Glass painting, cloth lamp making, pillow cover making, cloth-Bag making, different styles of paintings and photo frame making.
- 11 of our girls participated in **Summer Funk 2009** organized by Victory Arts Foundation(Choreographer Shiamak Davar's Dance Institute)
- We screened the Oscar Winning movie "**Slum-dog Millionaire**". Most of sparrows remarked that in life, experiences count more than education and success comes for anybody who strives hard in the right way.
- One of our sparrow, who is residing in New Life Boarding home got operated for Appendicitis, and is doing fine now.
- **Silver Innings Foundation**, an NGO working for the Aged has collaborated with AAWC for an Intergenerational Project.

They conducted a session with our girls, followed by a poster making session. The goal of the workshop was to sensitize the younger generation about the rights of the elderly and the problems suffered by them. Our girls made 32 posters, to spread awareness and put an end to elder abuse. Also the sparrows participated in a fancy dress show where they dressed as aged people.

- 13 sparrows were certified in commercial **Candle Making** Course of 7 days by **Sophia College - Women's Studies Center**.
- 5 sparrows passed 10th standard with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class respectively and have taken **admission in Commerce and Arts**.
- We took our sparrows to visit **Ganpati Mandals** around the Khetwadi area to explore the creative aspects of an artist who creates Ganpati Idols. Also the history behind Ganpati festival started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

- One of our sparrows who successfully completed beautician course from Seva Sadan attended a make-up workshop conducted by Global Fashion Company '**Chanel**'. She has started her career with a reputed beauty parlour.
- On our yearly picnic, girls over 10 years of age went to **Water Kingdom**, and the younger ones went to **Essel - World**. It was great fun and a fantastic day to cherish for long.
- Two of our sparrows got relief after prolonged dental treatment.
- Mrs. Kamal Panju, a sincere well wisher of AAWC conducted art classes for sparrows for a week during their vacation... a different theme was given to them each day...it was lovely to see colours everywhere...
- **Procter & Gamble**, as a part of their community initiatives organized a session for the sparrows on "Menstrual Cycle, Hygiene and Changes in the body and mind". It was an opportunity to clarify many of their doubts.

Later on, there was a session on "Menopause" which was attended by their mothers and other women.

- Mr. Sudarshan Loyalka, Managing Trustee is lovingly called **Sudu Mama** by the sparrows. His birthday was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm as always.
- Our volunteer teacher Mr. Alan Liversidge from Australia, who taught English to our sparrows earlier, now on Saturdays, teaches computers also to our girls.
- This year **Children's Day** was celebrated with lot of fun activities and competitions. It was a great delight to see their team spirit and competitiveness. As a special treat for Children's Day they had pizzas with other food delicacies and Ice Cream.
- Down-To-Earth NGO organized a **cultural evening** for children of different NGOs, in which 6 of our sparrows performed a skit. These girls were selected through auditions and have been practicing for the same since 6 months.
- 3 of our sparrows, who have been undergoing dance training under Victory Arts Foundation, were chosen to perform at "Winter Funk", a dance extravaganza organized by Shiamak Davar.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> December, it was our **Christmas Party** and we gave gifts to all our sparrows. Also it was an important day as we presented the trophies for "**Best House of the year**" "**Best Teacher of the Year**" and "**Best Sparrow in the Elder Group** and **Best Sparrow in Younger Group of the Year**";

It was a proud moment for the 8 sparrows who received trophies for Best House Performance during the year. Best Teacher award won by Sangita Satyam, Best student in elder group won by Ms. Surekha Jadhav and in younger group Ms. Shabnam Shaikh.

We are extremely thankful to Mr. Alan Liversidge, who collected loads of gifts from the children of his school D S B international School, Mumbai and donated to our children as Christmas Gifts... Also, our gratitude to Mikiko from Japan, who sent us soft toys in bulk as Christmas gifts for all our girls and balwadi children...

- On **Joy of Giving week**, a Dental Camp and Christmas Party was organized for Sparrows at our centre by Victory Arts Foundation of Mr. Shiamak Davar.

- AAWC attended and got lot of praises in a grand event named “Shining Stars” which was a talent hunt with a different motive for the children of different NGOs. On the occasion of Children’s Day, Pragati has organized it.
- **Kala - Ghoda Festival:** 22 sparrows attended the festival, where they participated in several workshops and attended a magic show and wizard.
- **Down to Earth Sports Day:** Participated in a Sports meet where 7 non profits were invited. Games taken included 1) Australia 2) Frisbee 3) Flip 4) Glass tube 5) Memory 6) Electric Shock 7) Pick up the ball
- 3 more **Sparrows receiving Provisional:** We provide groceries and toiletries to some of the girls in the area that come from extreme poverty to prevent them from developing health issues.
- Ms. Beeban Kidron, acclaimed **Hollywood Director and Producer** visited our centre to interview women for a documentary film she is making on the Devdasi system. She usually makes films about offbeat relationships. Her films have been a huge hit, “Oranges are not the only fruit”, “Antonia and Jane”, ‘Shades of fear”, to name a few.
- 6 of our sparrows have been selected through audition for **Down To Earth**, NGO’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Cultural Program. Their main objective was to build confidence of the children through Performing Arts.
- **Miss India World Ms. Pooja Chopra** visited our organisation and our sparrows had the opportunity to interact with her. She inspired our girls to persevere through adversity to reach their goals.
- **Indira Gandhi National Open University** is a well known university for distance education. AAWC is joining hands with IGNOU to have a Special Study Centre for the underprivileged children of society, for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> classes.
- Ms. Antoinette McLachlan visited us for her “**Calendar Project**” with our sparrows. This year she has come out with the theme of “Animals in Indian Mythology”. She raises funds for us from the calendars and post cards made by our sparrows’ drawings.
- **Competitions** (In house); Poem and Song writing, subject-chart making, drama / Skits presentation, Hand writing, Presentations on Special sessions conducted for them, Craft Competition, cooking, Drawing, tailoring, Essay writing, Rangoli, Sports day.
- Following festivals were celebrated:
  - Rakhi – Celebrated with Film Director Shekhar Kapoor
  - Independence Day – Held a Quiz Competition with formal programme
  - Dahi Handi – A balloon (filled with Chocolates and other small usable items) broke by girls who made a small human pyramid.
  - Dandiya – It was pure fun dancing and having a special food.
  - Diwali - lots of fun with crackers and sweets, donated by Mrs. Sharayu Daftary.
  - World AIDS day – Quiz programme organized on Sex and sexuality.
  - Till – Gud – A small programme of Haldi Kumkum with a quiz on Geographical importance of this day.
  - Indian Republic day – Formal programme organized.
  - World Women’s Day – Groups performance on Life history of women leaders they admire the most.
  - Holi – celebrated with fun, colours and sweets.

**Counselling and Life Skill Sessions;** Individual and Group:

- 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, importance of studies and evaluating study skills.
- Special Music and Art based therapy session taken in batches with different age groups girls to deal with their inhibitions.
- Group Counseling Session taken with girls above 11 years for creating awareness about the changes occurring in a growing girls. Helping them to be comfortable, accept, and adjust to the different kinds of psychological, physical and emotional changes, sex and sexuality - its perspective, hygiene and diseases, Emotional and physical relationship, Individual Counseling session also taken for catharsis and different personal issues.
- Special counseling sessions held on values and superstitious beliefs, positive attitude, acknowledgments of others efforts, physical development, gender sensitivity, personal and environmental cleanliness, health and hygiene, Creative and varied thinking ( brain storming), extensive exploration, effective communication - effective speaking & effective listening, effective vocal communication with voice modulation, love and respect for oneself, responsibility sharing, nagging, leg pulling, how to say no, value the present, Effective ways of self studies, stress management (during exams) self esteem, self betrayal, mental relaxation, tolerance and cooperation, motivation and encouragement and time management.
- Special sessions for older girls conducted on Physical & Sex Education, Gender sensitization, importance of a girl child, HIV infection in children, Health-viral and bacterial infections
- Special workshop on Team- building, Dance Therapy, Youth's in high risk behaviour and water born diseases.

## Balwadi / Day Care

- Our Balwadi was closed for summer vacation from 1st April to 30th June
- Rest of the year our Day Care Center / Balwadi is always **buzzing with activities**; be it the regular prayer, rhymes, stories, dance class, games or the craft sessions, we find the children having a good time. Individual attention is given to every child. Many a time, children are taught through play-way method, to ensure better understanding.
- It is unfortunate that these children are prone to deficiencies and **skin infections** more often, as they do not live in sanitary conditions or eat healthy food; hence their nutritional and medical needs are the most important needs we are taking care. During noon, the teacher prepares all of them for a nap, by narrating stories. Thus we aim at holistic development of our children.
- This academic year, we have **placed 9 children** in regular Municipal and Govt. schools. Remaining 10 children have gone to village or moved out of the area.
- On **Raksha Bandhan**, our Balwadi teacher introduced them to the tradition of rakhi; the girls of the class tied rakhi to the boys and exchanged sweets.
- On account of **Independence Day**, the children were taught to salute the Indian Flag and sing the National Anthem.
- On the same day, **Dahi Handi** was celebrated. The children had great fun, bursting the balloons filled with water that were hung on a rope.

- Our Balwadi Children had their **picnic at Ranibaug!!** The children were all excited in being taken outside their classroom...more so to see animals, which they have seen only in books!!
- Children received a large quantity of **soft toys** as a Christmas gift from a donor in Japan.
- **Active English:** The Sparrows and Balwadi kids are watching the Active English channel to practice their English during the Summer vacations.
- **Volunteers:** French Psychiatrist, Marie comes once a week to work with the kindergarten children
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- **Renovations:** The Balwadi room was recently renovated. The pantry was retiled and a gate was put so that kids don't run out.

## STATISTICS

- No. of women new beneficiaries - 81
- Apni Bachat - 81
- No. of new beneficiaries in Kindergarten / Day care - 50
- No. of new Bank of Maharashtra account opened for women - 36
- No. of School admission - 5
- No. of women beneficiaries expired - 9
- No. of boarding placement - 9
- No. of Night shelter referrals - 12
- Temporary night & day care referrals - 2
- Tuberculosis treatment provided to women & children - 2
- Anti Retroviral Treatment woman help provided - 1
- No. of Ration Card provided - 6
- No. of LIC member - 25
- No. of Medical case - 98

# CHALLENGES

- We have experienced **great staff change** due to marriages and illness. This has resulted in a temporary cut back in activities and events, as we didn't have the man power to organize programs with the earlier frequency. However, we had overcome this hurdle by approaching professional colleges for new staff recruitment.
- Three sparrows were removed from a Boarding Home by the respective mothers due to some misinformation spread within the community. AAWC were able to reassure the mothers after tireless counseling. The sparrows have since been **re-admitted** to the Boarding Home.
- We experience **serious behavior problems** from the daughters of brothel owners. They feel entitled and have the attitude that they do not have to work or study hard as their mothers are affluent. AAWC works towards counseling the girls to adopt a healthier attitude. Recently, one of the daughters of a brothel owner that we had referred to a boarding home, was asked to leave as despite several warning her behavior was inappropriate. AAWC is making efforts to work more closely with such children, so that these issues do not occur in the future.
- One of the regular problems we face is the **non-consistent** attendance of the children. The reasons behind this are many, i.e., the mothers are not physically able to take care of their children, they are not used to a systematic way of life, etc.

To deal with this challenge our staff who has a very good rapport with the children and their families, pick up the children from their homes and drop them back at noon after the Balwadi classes.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

- 5 girls passed 10<sup>th</sup> standard exam and have taken Commerce and Arts in junior college level.
- A good rapport with older girls has developed into a bonding with our organisation. They are consistent in attendance. Hence it shows in their performance in each activity.
- This year also all our girls not only just improved on their grades but also most of them have secured RANKS in their classes.
- In all other standards from 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, all the girls passed with remarkable improved results.