



Apne Aap Women's Collective

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

Issue 20

October – December 2013



AAWC says goodbye to our volunteers, who came from Thomson Reuters offices all around the world.

Dear readers,

Happy 2014 and welcome to the first edition of our e-newsletter! The past quarter has been very exciting:

Website: Please visit our [newly re-designed website](#). Your feedback is most welcome!

Capacity building: We attended a workshop by Arpan on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and concluded a three-month assessment project with Thomson Reuters. Thank you to our volunteers for being a tremendous asset!

Advocacy: We co-organized Mumbai AIDS Forum's flash mob near CST Station to support the immediate passage of the HIV/AIDS Bill and actively supported a signature campaign by Child Rights and You (CRY) for the rights of underprivileged children.

Programming: We organized a general medical camp for 178 women, girls, and toddlers and a vision camp for 112 members.

Fundraising: During the 2013 holiday season, we celebrated our 15th anniversary with an international fundraising campaign. 10% of donations will support former member Shweta Katti's education at Bard College, USA. Thank you for your incredible support!

Enjoy reading,

Manju Vyas
Chief Executive Officer



Udaan Update

Diwali & Navratri: Our girls celebrated with Marathi actor Aditi Sarangdhar, Canadian Consul General Richard Bale, and AAWC volunteers Susan Laidlaw and Cindy Thomas.

DSB International School: The girls enjoyed painting, singing, games, and sports with DSB's international students. Special thanks to DSB for the wonderful Christmas gifts!

Clowns Without Borders: Our girls were entertained by a troupe of Swedish clowns.

Child rights: The girls learned about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Monitoring & evaluation study: Resty Magezi, an intern from Uganda, conducted an intensive study to determine the strengths and development areas of the Udaan program.

Kick-boxing: Anita Hoffmann, an intern from Germany, introduced the girls to the theory of self-defense and basic punching and kicking techniques.



Navratri with Aditi Sarangdhar



Singing Christmas carols



Clowns Without Borders



Arts & crafts with Susan and Cindy



Quotes

Ratna*, Umeed member: Whenever my child is at the AAWC centre, I am sure of her safety, security, and other essential needs.

Alice, Intern from Australia: In an environment of strong, passionate and determined staff, it is evident that AAWC is committed to providing high-quality care and services to the most marginalised women and children in Mumbai's most infamous red light area.

Mallorie, Volunteer from Canada: I am truly blessed to have volunteered at AAWC. Everyone there has changed my life more than I could ever give back. I was not there for long, but was accepted into the community like family. I will miss all of you dearly.

** Name changed to protect identity.*



Umeed Update

Monthly meetings: Women learned about Umang regulations, monthly check-ups, family planning, reproductive health, and physical/sexual/verbal abuse of children.

Tailoring: Women in the Sareelution vocational program for tailoring attended a workshop in Goregaon on creative handicrafts and self-help.

Paper bead necklaces: Resty Magezi, an intern from Uganda, introduced a new vocational class on making environmentally-friendly paper bead necklaces.

Dance: Our women enjoyed the Garba (folk dance), group games, and competitions.



Monthly meeting



Vision camp



Umang Update

Colaba Traffic Park: Premier Ltd. organised an educational excursion on traffic signs.

Sports Day: The toddlers enjoyed a fun-filled Annual Sports Day.

Children's Day: The children celebrated Children's Day with a leaf-printing activity and a "Rose Garden" collage of crepe paper roses, colourful butterflies, and fluffy clouds.

The World Is in Our Hands: Our toddlers enjoyed a range of activities like dancing, colouring, balloon games, blackboard drawing, and hand painting.



Sports Day

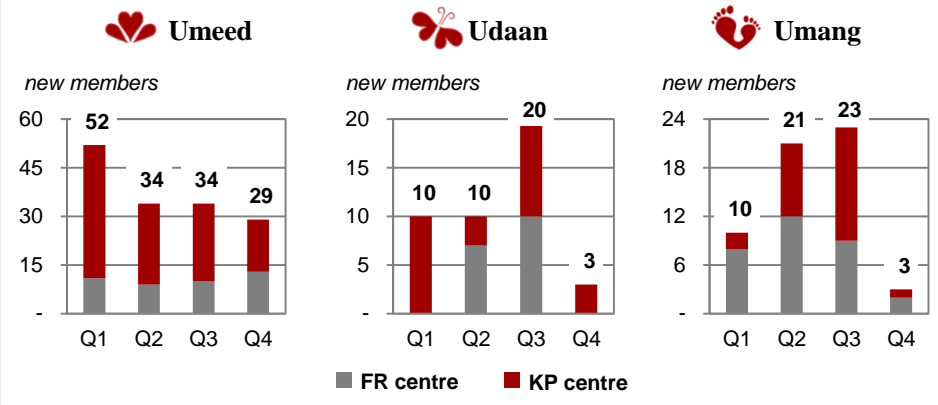


Colaba Traffic Park

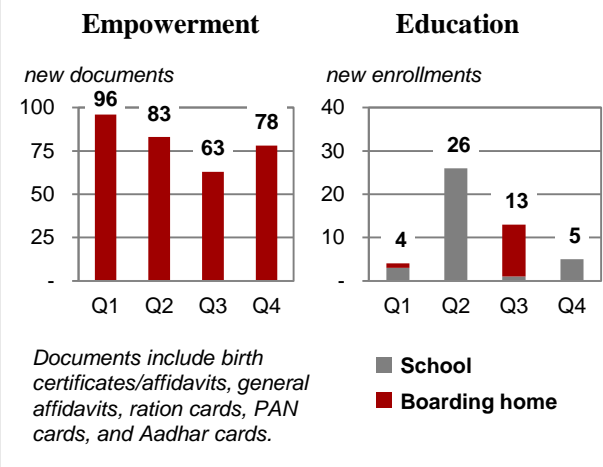


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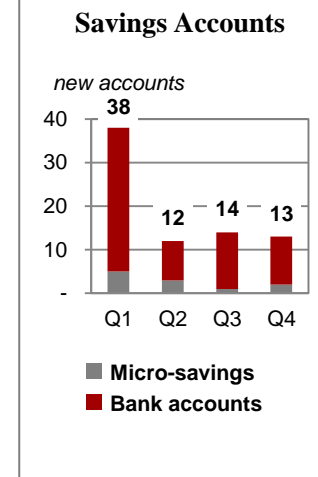
Membership



Education / Empowerment



Finance



Health

