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Sponsor A Child



Apne Aap
Women's Collective

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

Success Stories



Rupa Kumar*, 42, left the trade, after encouragement from AAWC, and began working for an NGO helping women in prostitution with HIV. She now has a job sewing bags.



Anju Patel*, 34, from attending daily adult literacy classes to learning from our everyday tuition teachers she dreams of teaching the children of AAWC one day.



Avante Jain*, 24, using the interview and public speaking skills she developed at AAWC she now is a sales representative at the automakers showroom in Worli.



Arohi Poojari*, 17, realized her passion for learning and speaking English after enrolling in a course through King's Learning with AAWC'S help.



Shobha Kale*, 12, once an unruly child who did not follow directions from teachers is now exceling in her studies and enjoys taking guitar lessons.



Mardina Goswami*, 10, arrived with no educational background, now a confident and bright student who loves studying and a role model to the younger girls.



Swati Gupta*, 6, from hanging around clubs and gambling dens in the red light area is now a Udaan beneficiary who enjoys singing and learning at school.



Mohini Das*, 6, from a lineage of Devadasis and discouraged from attending school, today attends school and is happy to have a safe place to play with her friends.



Karan Singh*, 4, from abuse and neglect at home he learned to channel his energy and anger into other activities including art and games.



Sanjay Shinde*, 3, struggled with behavior issues, now demonstrates improvement in his delayed behavioral speech and a very energetic toddler.

* Names have been changed to protect their identities.

About AAWC

Apne Aap Women's Collective (AAWC) was founded in 1998 as an **anti-trafficking** organization for the women and children of Kamathipura, one of the **largest and oldest red light districts in Asia**.

By providing our members with the tools and resources to create a better quality of life, we seek to empower women who have been trafficked into brothel-based prostitution and to prevent the cycle of intergenerational prostitution among their daughters.

As of March 2015, we have served **more than 3087 women and children**. Our alumni have earned vocational skills, Bachelor's and Master's degrees and entered respected professions like accounting, beauty, business process outsourcing, dance, education, hospitality management, luxury cuisine, medical compounding, nursing, photography, retail, and social work.

Programs



Umeed
(Women)



Udaan
(Girls 5-18)



Umang
(Toddlers 2.5-5)

Issue: Sex Trafficking

Of the 4.5 million global trafficking victims, 3 million live in India. In fact, up to 88% of women working in Kamathipura's brothels are trafficking victims, and 1 in 4 are younger than 16 when they begin a life of abuse and despair inside brothels, known as *pinjaras*, or "cages".

Their children also grow up in the red light area, where they face neglect, solicitation, narcotics, gambling, pornography, disease, poor sanitation, sexual abuse, and high risk of entering second-generation prostitution.



Read Office: 1st Lane Khetwadi, 1st Floor Municipal School, Mumbai- 400 004, Ph: 022-23819721
Kamathipura Center: 61-B, Room No. 6, Ground Floor, Shankarrao Pupala Marg, 11th Lane
Kamathipura, Opposite Pochammadevi Temple, Mumbai- 400 008, Ph: 022-23083326
Email: info@aawc.in Website: www.aawc.in



Implementation

AAWC focuses on providing **programming** in the following focus areas:



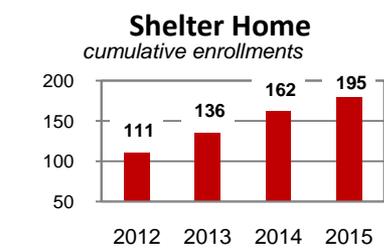
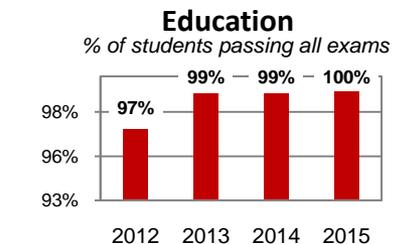
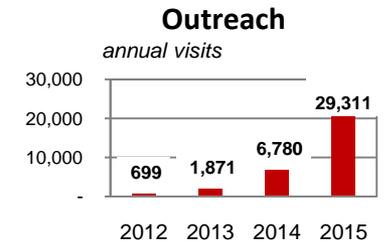
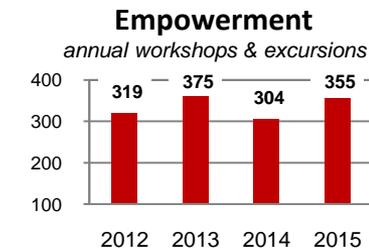
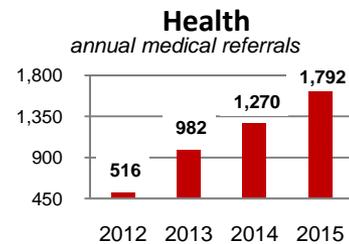
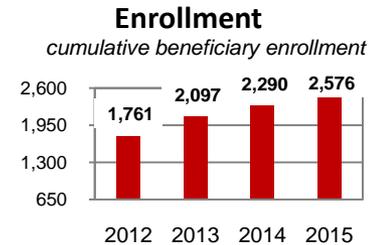
Umeed: Women attend workshops, meetings and sessions on subjects like financial literacy, HIV/AIDS, TB, sex workers' legal rights, superstitions, safe sex and abortion practice and child rights and protection. They open bank accounts and obtain identity documents that gives them access to government schemes and benefits. Many take daily literacy classes in numeracy and Hindi or English language and participate in vocational classes such as the beautician training program. Every month, they enjoy respite from their burdens, by celebrating various Indian festivals and international events like International Women's Day.

Udaan: Girls attend daily after-school tuitions and give quarterly unit test in each school subject. They develop self-esteem, discipline, talent, and leadership skills through positive role models (mentor-mentee program), workshops on art (painting, dance, theatre), life skills (menstrual health, personal finance), professional skills (English, computer literacy, interviewing), and social justice (Human rights) for their empowerment. To monitor their health, they receive monthly checkups and attend quarterly medical camps. In addition, they enjoy regular excursions and exposure visits to places such as NCPA, Radio Station, Price Waterhouse Cooper etc., After 12th standard, they are guided to an internship, job, Bachelors' degree, or even Master's degree.

Umang: Through daily kindergarten classes and e-learning sessions, our toddlers prepare cognitively, physically, emotionally, and socially for enrollment in formal education. They are provided with daily nutritious meals, monthly check-ups, quarterly medical camps, and regular excursions to places such as Hanging Garden, Funky Monkey, Byculla Zoo and Girgaon Chowpatty.

Management: We engage in advocacy and awareness events such as attending MAF meetings for promoting PLHIV rights, conducting anti-trafficking research with Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission, participating in the Mumbai Marathon and program skill workshops for staff capacity building. We also hosted representatives from Maximum Mumbai YPO and students from Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India. To ensure a diverse range of perspectives, we host interns and volunteers from Indian and world-wide institutes such as St. Xaviers, Sophia, Columbia and Cambridge University.

Impact



Accolades

