



Apne Aap Women's Collective

Annual Report 2017-2018



AAWC

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



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FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO



Dear associates,

Greetings from Apne Aap Women's Collective (AAWC)!

I am glad to be back with our Annual report for 2017-2018, and hope that you have had a resourceful and satisfactory association with us in this meantime.

With your unconditional encouragement, AAWC has been able to develop better understanding of the needs of the community, and work towards addressing them in further improved manners this year.

One of the highlights has been the selection of six of our Udaan girls to perform at the esteemed Brave Festival of Poland, and other independent performances in Sweden! Mentored by Mr. Rupesh Tillu and his team of Theatreact, these girls have been selected based on their brilliant performance at our Annual Clowns Without Borders theater event. While talking to one of the mothers of the selected beneficiaries, she confided in me the biggest joy of having seen her daughter perform. 'I always knew my daughter was talented and could make an impression on people, but what I witnessed today...I can't believe she can make people laugh so easily, it almost brought me to tears. What a contradiction!'

In another moment of great joy, we have seen a substantial increase in our Umeed adult literacy enrollments in 2017-18! Which means that more women trapped into trafficking are one-step closer to becoming independent to exit the flesh trade. We are also happy to share that AAWC has assisted almost 11 trafficked women with finding alternative jobs.

Unfortunately though, an unforeseen fire incident hampered our activities at the mid of the year. That affected our equipment and deviated our staff resources, which took a toll on our outreach and programmatic developments.

Despite some of these setbacks, we have been able to regain our pace and have had many successful organizational and programmatic developments.

At the organizational front, AAWC was selected by DHL Global under their CSR campaign for the fourth consecutive year! Along with, we were also chosen by DHL for their 'DHL's Got Heart' campaign, wherein our long-term associate and a DHL employee- Aman Bhalla had advocated and represented AAWC to their CSR panel. In addition, we have continued with our participation in the famous Tata Mumbai Marathon, and even participated in their 'Dream Run' along with the entire AAWC team and some beneficiaries!

Encouraged by all your support and recognition, we have also worked on making our impact better by introducing a further enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) process. Having recognized the need for a stronger M&E in the last year, we have now designed special meetings and report formats to address the challenges and developments at a micro level.

This year, I have also been presented with two esteemed awards by FOGSI (Mumbai) and Otter's Club of Mumbai, respectively, for my involvement with AAWC as an icon of women empowerment.

Despite this year's success, there is more work to be undertaken. We aim to increase our outreach for the coming financial year, initiate newer activities based on the community's needs, and find a separate space for Umang beneficiaries as depending on the funding available.

Once again, we are pleased to share this year's annual report with you, and are incredibly grateful to our dedicated team and supporters who help make our dream possible. Thank you!

Kind Regards,
Manju Vyas
CEO (since 1999)
AAWC

MANAGING COMMITTEE

Ashika Mehta, President



Ashika Mehta has served as the President of the Managing Committee since 2012. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Vassar College and went on to receive a Master of Social Work degree from Columbia University. She currently works as a psychotherapist.

Amruda Nair, Vice President



Amruda Nair has served as Vice President of the Managing Committee since 2012. She has a Master of Management in Hospitality degree. She currently serves as the Head of Corporate Asset Management at The Leela Group and published of The Leela Magazine.

Maneck Davar, General Secretary



Maneck Davar has served as our General Secretary since 2010. He is the sole proprietor of Spenta Multimedia, the largest custom publisher in India. Maneck also serves as Chairman of the Society for the Protection of Children in Western India.

Girish Dand, Treasurer



Girish Dand has served as Treasurer since 2013. He became a chartered accountant and for over 20 years has given his services as an auditor to more than 15 charitable organization. Girish manages G.K. Dand & Co., an accounting firm, and serves on the board of several private companies.

Sudarshan Loyalka, Founder



Sudarshan Loyalka is the original founder of AAWC. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from the University of Washington in Seattle. Today, he is the Managing Director and Board Member of several public companies.

Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat, Committee Member



Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat has been a member of the Managing Committee since 2004. He graduated from the National Defence Academy of India and is a former chief of Naval Staff of India. He has received both AVSM and PVSM medals in honor of his service.

Jagdish Joshi, Committee Member



Jagdish Joshi joined us as a committee member in 2016. A former member of the Indian Administrative Service, he has held important positions in the Government of Maharashtra and Government of India.

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ABOUT AAWC

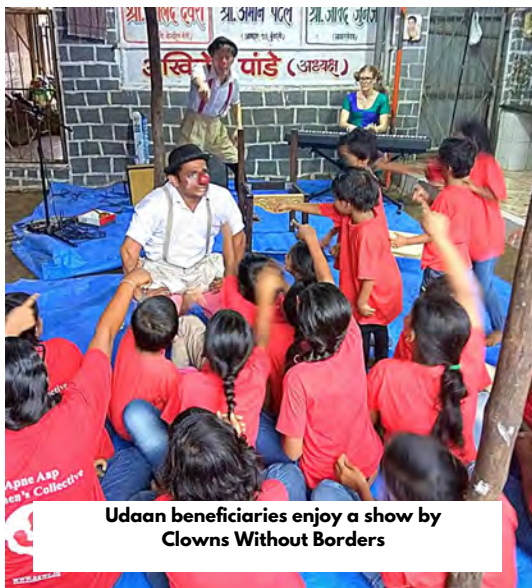


Umeed beneficiaries celebrate Holi

AAWC was established in 1998 in order to work with one of the most underprivileged and isolated sections of Mumbai's society, women in brothel-based prostitution and their children. What began as a one room drop-in center soon developed into a resource center with professional counseling services, medical care, micro-savings, and other services. We have designed three programs: Umeed for women in brothel-based prostitution (18+ years), Udaan for their daughters (5-18 years), and Umang for their toddlers (2.5-5 years). By providing our beneficiaries with the tools and resources to create a better quality of life, we seek to empower those women who have been trafficked into brothel-based prostitution, to prevent the intergenerational cycle of prostitution amongst their daughters, and to assist the toddlers in becoming healthy and responsible citizens. Today AAWC operates two centers, one in Khetwadi and the other in Kamathipura, in one of the largest red light areas in Asia.

MISSION

To provide a caring and supportive platform of wholesome services to help women, girls, and children in the Red Light Area make choices for a dignified and better quality of life.



Udaan beneficiaries enjoy a show by Clowns Without Borders

VISION

To provide the tools and resources for empowerment to trafficked brothel-based prostitutes, their daughters, and children in Mumbai's Red Light District, and to prevent the cycle of inter-generational prostitution.



Umang beneficiaries enjoying Makar Sankranti celebrations

WHO WE SERVE

It is estimated that anywhere between 2000-3000 women have been trafficked into Kamathipura for prostitution, only as of 2012. Some of the predominant causes for this trafficking are economic deprivation, forcible entry by a relative, deception, religious tradition, and trafficking. For many women, especially for those in rural areas, there is a dearth of income-generating opportunities and thus they enter the sex trade out of desperation. There are traditions such as Devadasi which is a form of religious prostitution where women are 'married' and dedicated to a temple of deity. Women are trafficked not only from other states but from neighboring countries, especially Nepal and Bangladesh. AAWC serves those that find themselves in the sex trade, including other marginalized women associated with brothel-based trafficked prostitution.



LIFE IN THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT

The red light district is an unhealthy environment; there are problems with electricity, water, excess trash, and open gutters which serve as breeding grounds for contagious diseases. Unlicensed medical practitioners run rampant in the area and advertise 'special treatments' to cure sexually transmitted infections (STI). The cinema houses and video parlors openly play X-rated movies at all times of the day, and the inner lanes have a constant flow of illegal activities such as gambling and use of narcotics and other drugs.

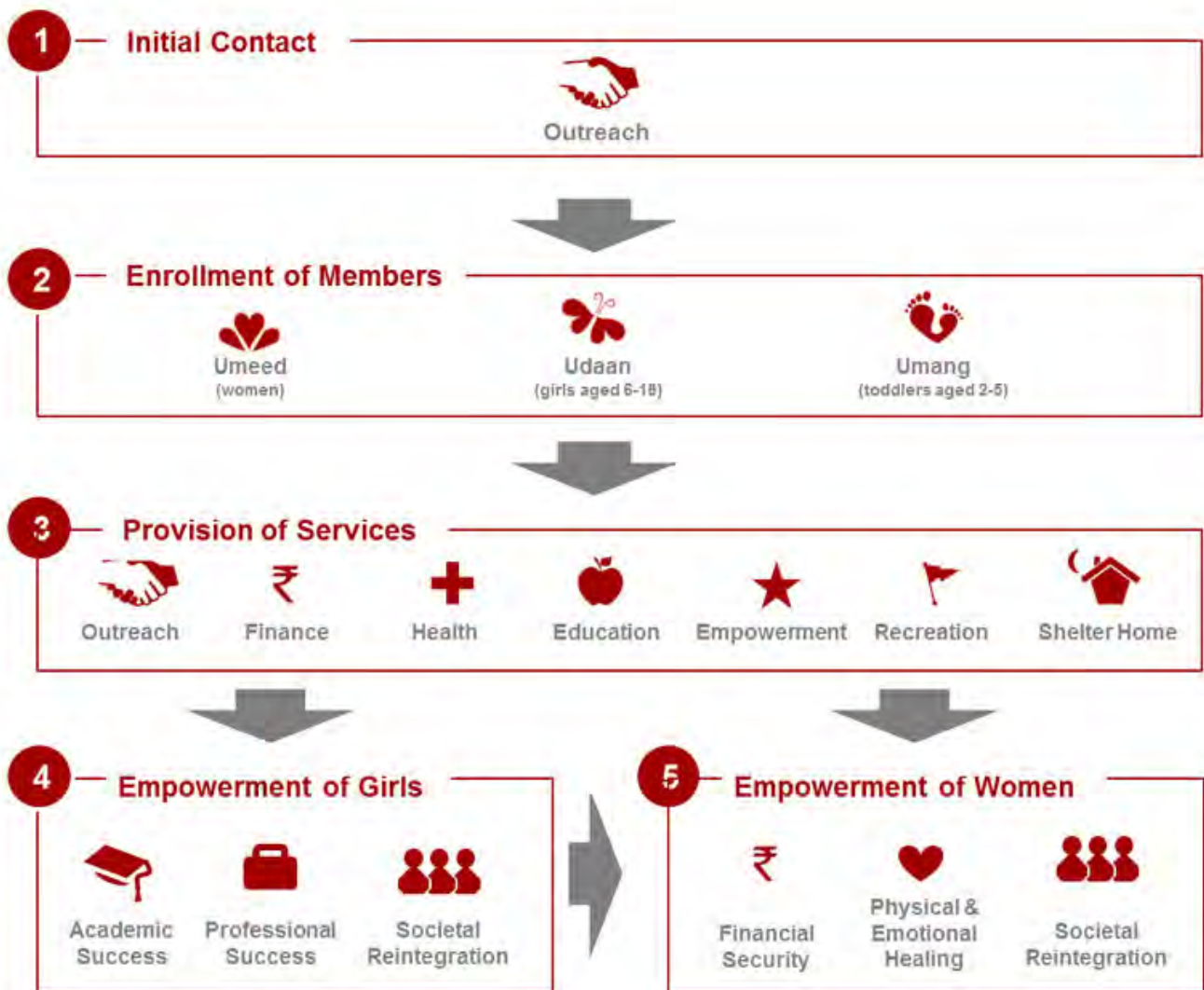
Each brothel is approximately 200 square feet and divided by thin sheets or by plywood into what are known as *pinjaras* (cages). Anywhere from 4-15 sex workers take turns using available rooms to service their customers. Most of these *pinjaras* are rarely cleaned, poorly ventilated, and have broken staircases as their only points of access. Often young children are left unattended or will even sleep under the bed when their mothers are with clients. As the brothels are exclusively used for sexual activities, women must find alternate housing when they are not soliciting sex. The difficulty in finding affordable housing leads many women and their children to live on the streets. Customers that solicit sex are prone to myths like sex with children will cure STIs and HIV/AIDS or that sex without a condom increases sexual potency. Due to this mentality and the absence of appropriate health care, there is a prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the community and the large majority of women will have at least one STI during their lifetime. It is this reality that puts young girls at risk of being forced into the sex trade.

LEGISLATION

In 1956, India imposed the “Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA), which defines a ‘trafficker’ as a “recruiter, transporter, transferer, harbinger, or receiver of a person for the purpose of prostitution” by means of threat, use of force or deception, abuse of power, or giving or receiving of payments or benefits. ITPA seeks to penalize activities incidental to prostitution, but not prostitution itself.

In 2011, India enacted the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act in order to effectively address child sexual abuse and exploitation. The Act identifies penetrative, aggravated penetrative, and non-penetrative sexual assault such as sexual harassment and use of pornographic content as sexual abuse of children.

THEORY OF CHANGE



PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Umeed

The objectives of the Umeed Program are to help women who have been trafficked into prostitution with their physical, mental and economic well-being. Umeed is not a one-time rescue program, but a constant empowerment program for the involved beneficiaries. We provide them with services and long-term skills, so that they can exit prostitution permanently. We aim for their holistic development and overall empowerment through services such as finance, empowerment, education, health, recreation and shelter home placement. Under these, we have activities, Adult Literacy Program, vocational training courses, financial literacy sessions, regular health camps, provision of nutritional supplements, medical aid for HIV+ women, aid with obtaining identity documents (Voter Card, Ration Card, PAN Card) which enables them an access to government benefits and schemes, daily house visits to conduct counseling and awareness programs on topics such as effective parenting, sexual health, hygiene and sanitation, importance of education, etc.

Udaan

While serving the women in brothel-based prostitution, AAWC realized that their daughters were at a greater risk of entering the cycle of inter-generational prostitution due to their close proximity to sex trade. They were normalized to the act of becoming a prostitute, did not have any positive role models, and thus no alternative aspirations for the future. By encouraging these girls to develop a passion for education, and inculcating self confidence in their unique talents. Unlike community programs that rely on vocational training in low-wage positions, we equip our girls to pursue aspirational professions and enable genuine socioeconomic mobility. The services provided to the girls include mentor-mentee programs, after-school tuitions, exposure visits to corporate setups, recreational activities, medical referrals, quarterly medical camps, daily nutritional meals and multivitamin supplements, art and craft activities, therapy, counselling and shelter home services. Through such aid, we help these young girls defy traditional notions of women as providers of sex, childbearing, and housekeeping

Umang

The objective of our Umang Program is to help toddlers (ages 2.5 to 5) develop physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially in preparation for formal schooling. AAWC realized that the children of the women taking up prostitution were often drugged, while their mothers solicited with clients. Otherwise, they were found lurking in the streets, even during night. Due to this, they were exposed to various illicit activities prevalent in the area such as drug peddling and gambling and were used by dealers as couriers. Moreover, they used foul language, and mimicked the violence they witnessed in the area. AAWC aims to provide a safe haven for children who mimic the violence, abusive language, and sexual acts they observe at home by helping them unlearn these harmful behaviors and form healthy habits in a caring environment.

As a result, AAWC started working with the children in the red light community by providing them with a safe and secure environment through various services such as regular kindergarten classes, e-learning, social and life skills sessions, recreational activities, daily nutritional meals and multivitamin supplements, boarding home placement and medical referrals. These services were designed to develop discipline, communication, Neuro-motor coordination, Basic English and Hindi literacy and numeracy.

As of March 2018, we have directly and indirectly served more than 3300 women and children of Kamathipura- Asia's second largest red light district.

UMEED

Umeed, meaning “hope” in Hindi, is a program that aims to give women in the red light district a better quality of life by addressing their basic rights and needs.



Walking through a dimly-lit and dilapidated building, our outreach team walks up a narrow flight of stairs to finally reach the pinjaras (cages) cramped on the third floor of a brothel. Heaving, they squat so as to be able to communicate with the women sitting around on the cracked floor.

The outreach team starts handing out each of the women a packet of soy milk, protein biscuits and some bananas, along with a sheet of activity paper.

"Here, we are going to learn some basic English today," says one of the outreach members to the women around. Curious and excited, the women almost immediately start scanning through the activity sheets provided to them.

Parvati*, a women trafficked into prostitution at the age 14 asks, "Didi, will we also learn how to hold a proper conversation in English? I want to greet my children in English when they come back from school! I want them to feel proud of their mother."

Outreach

Outreach is an integral part of AAWC's programs and acts as the first point of contact between the organization and the women. Outreach is conducted for almost 6 hours daily by our field team who visits beneficiaries' homes to disseminate information, raise awareness, and provide other necessary support the women may need. Our outreach team faces many challenges: Brothel owners known as gharwalis and pimps (colloquially known as *dalals*) do not want outreach workers to speak to the women. The women themselves also often feel that the time spent with outreach workers interferes with their work. In addition to these challenges, outreach workers also face harassment from male members in the community. As a result, the outreach team assess these challenges and determines the most effective way to mitigate the risks. They visit the women in the mornings when work is slow and take the time to build relationships within the community and gain their trust. Regardless of the challenges to the work, it is an extremely fulfilling endeavor when women and their children become a part of AAWC programs and begin to thrive and succeed in their lives. This year, **103 new Umeed beneficiaries** have enrolled in our program. That brings our total number of registered Umeed beneficiaries to **2097**

"Arre didi everytime I come to the AAWC center, I realize just how liberating this feels. The fact that we're a group of women from the same community and we are sitting together, talking, laughing, sharing our stories - it's this instant connection and sense of a family that I love about this center" said Pooja* with a deep and content smile.



Meeting with beneficiaries



Meeting with beneficiaries

Education

Education is one of the most valuable skills on the road to empowerment. At AAWC, two major curriculum are on adult literacy and financial literacy. Adult literacy classes are conducted with the women of Umeed where they begin by learning to write their names both in Hindi and in English. Education surpasses literacy as awareness meetings are also hosted to discuss important issues that are ongoing in the lives of women. Considering the state of affairs in this area, awareness building sessions on fake doctors, environmental issues, and immunizations are also conducted so that the women can be more informed members of the society.

Financial literacy sessions ensure that all Umeed women are self sustainable and aware of the many ways to manage their finances. From recognizing and differentiating between financial documents, to learning about opening bank accounts, financial literacy classes, this become imperative for women's empowerment. However, our outreach team also faces challenges with conducting education programs. **When asked about the challenges in providing adult literacy on field, our field manager mentioned that the police can disrupt sessions as prostitution is illegal in India and our beneficiaries tend to abandon activities and hide when they are around.** Despite such challenges, our field team has been successful in reaching, educating, and monitoring many beneficiaries.

Health and Nutrition

As the red light district is an unhealthy environment, its residents are more vulnerable to diseases. The trafficked women in particular are at risk due to the nature of their work, lack of proper nutrition, lack of hygiene, and often times development of addiction. AAWC works to help women obtain proper medical services including assisting with medical referrals, escorting women to hospitals to get adequate treatment, preventative awareness sessions, and through a nutrition supplement program. General hygiene, menstruation and ovulation, and contraception education sessions are also conducted as well as sessions that are directly related to the health status of the women. We also serve healthy homemade food to women with chronic illnesses. Recognizing the needs of the community, AAWC also address mental and socio-emotional health. Group and individual counseling sessions are used to explore countless areas including relationships (with partners, children, and other community members), addictions, parenting, living with a serious illness, and other concerns that the women have in their daily lives.

- Highlights:
- 97 new literacy class enrollments
 - Children's education and school admission sessions
 - most beneficiaries can write their names in Hindi and English
 - awareness sessions on quacks/ fake doctors

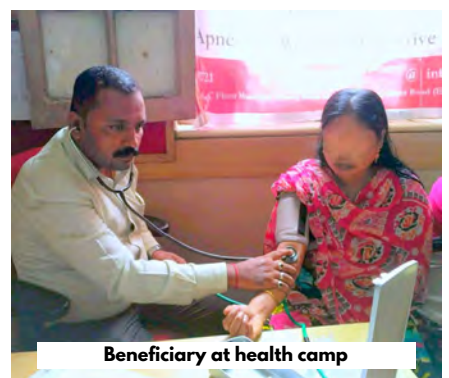


Literacy Lesson



Sexual Health and Hygiene Education Session

- Highlights:
- ART Therapy for HIV+ beneficiaries
 - medical referrals
 - educational sessions on sexual health and hygiene
 - distribution of nutritional supplements



Beneficiary at health camp

Counseling

AAWC understands that women in the red light districts go through both mental and physical traumas, and hence deem it imperative to support them through our mental-health assistance. We conduct regular counseling and therapy sessions with all of our women, along with providing specialized discussions on topics such as sexual and menstrual health, substance abuse, personal relationships, effective parenting, healthcare for chronic illnesses, etc. which may have adverse effect on the mental well-being of our beneficiaries. Counseling takes place both on the field as well as in our centers on an individual and group basis. We also place focus on emotional well-being and spread awareness through performative arts, yoga, and group discussions.



Umeed counseling session on 'idea of a home'



Umeed meeting on child care and safe space

Home Visits

Home visits are an important and fundamental element of our Umeed program. Considering the trade our beneficiaries are employed in, our home visits require utmost sensitivity and planning. Home visits also ensure that we are constantly in touch with our beneficiaries, and available to aid them even in situations where they can't visit us at our centers. During such visits, we try to gain access into the lives of our beneficiaries and support them as required. This is absolutely vital taking into account the dangers of working in prostitution. Without our outreach team's home visits, we would be unable to create such an intimate and positive rapport with all our beneficiaries.

This past year, **53,000 annual visits** were conducted inclusive of repeated visits to the same brothel/*pinjara* (cage, as explained on pg.6) for varied services. Some of the topics raised at home visits are of effective parenting, personal safety, hygiene and sanitation, etc. Parenting and ideas of motherhood are of utmost importance to us given the format of our programs.

As a lot of the enrolled Umeed women are often constricted by finances, time and the agency to make their own choices within a brothel- these circumstances lead them to neglecting or (sometimes) abandoning their children at our centers. To bridge this gap in their relationships, we make sure to discuss the importance of motherhood and positive parenting with our Umeed women on a regular basis.

Empowerment

“The respect that we receive from all the AAWC didis is immensely overwhelming and warm. They treat us like friends, and respect our decisions and circumstances. It is one of the most important reasons why I try my best to attend all their adult literacy classes and vocational training courses...because I realize and appreciate the efforts they’re investing into our welfare,” smiled *Geeta, a young Umeed beneficiary, when asked about the visit to Vajreshwari



Umeed beneficiaries attending basic beauty training

One major form of empowerment is through finance. AAWC aims to help beneficiaries increase their financial literacy and open their own savings accounts. Umeed staff assists them in opening and maintaining a bank account at the Indian Post Office until they have saved enough to open an account in the Bank of Maharashtra. Umeed women are then able to make purchases, not be cheated of the money they make currently, save for their and their children's future, and potentially secure future alternative jobs. This year **50 new** savings accounts were opened by Umeed beneficiaries. Additionally through education in the form of basic literacy, awareness programs, assistance in securing identification documents, and acquisition of various forms of government assistance, the Umeed beneficiaries are empowered to become independent. Over **250 documents** were filed this year alone for our beneficiaries.



Soap and Candle Making Session

Vocational training is also provided to the women, which helps supplement their income and build on their skill-set for the future. Vocational training sessions this year have included candle and soap making, basic beauty training, etc.



Sankranti Celebration

Empowerment has also translated to activism as well this year, wherein almost 20 Umeed beneficiaries had participated to lobby for usage of viral load testing for HIV+ individuals, in a collaboration with 48 other NGOs of Mumbai.

Celebrations/Recreation

Recreational activities and events are conducted to provide women with much needed respite and enjoyment in their lives and to strengthen the bond of women with AAWC. As a secular organization, AAWC respects the beliefs of its beneficiaries and therefore celebrates festivals and holidays of all religions. Field trips are organized throughout the year as well as the annual day-long picnic.

- Highlights:**
- fun day trip to Vajreshwari
 - Grand Diwali Celebrations
 - Annual Picnic to Prati Shirdi Balaji



UDAAN

Udaan, meaning “flight” in Hindi, is a program for the daughters of women in prostitution as well as other young vulnerable girls between 6-18 years old living in Kamathipura.

This program aims to equip the girls with education, job skills, and support to enable them to pursue a dignified life and choose a career and future away from a life in the brothels.

Vani* and Priya*, both 12 years old, were smiling confidently at their teacher when she had asked them about their knowledge of periods. They had both just returned from school, having changed into their fresh ghar ke kapde (pyjamas) and were about to sit down for homework when their teacher interrupted their routine to ask a simple question: "Do you know about periods?" They nodded a sure yes.

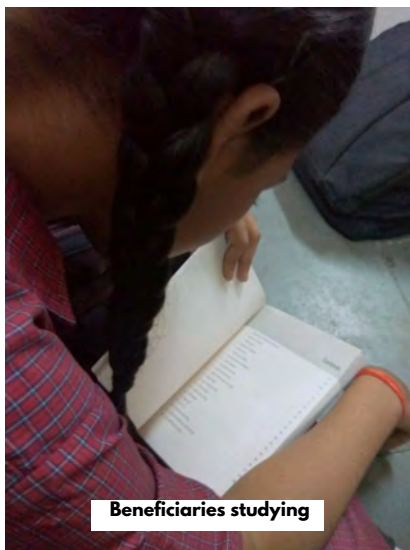
While Priya was a bit shy and probably wary of the teacher's presence, Vani took to the discussion as if she had been waiting for it to happen. She explained the many body parts and sexual organs present in a human figure, and how they interacted with each other - especially during periods.

She talked about possible period pains and the various ways to deal with such pains. Amid this conversation, the girls never once flinched in saying the word ‘periods’ out loud. This came as a pleasant surprise to the teacher as menstruation is still a taboo topic of conversation, and is often treated as a "secret" or an experience of shame.

This confidence in our adolescent beneficiaries could be attributed to the sessions undertaken by our in house therapist on topics involving the body and sexual health. Due to these regular sessions that initiate conversations among our Udaan beneficiaries on themes as diverse as periods and career guidance, our beneficiaries are now growing into much refined and self-assured individuals.

Outreach

Girls in the red light district are at a high risk of being influenced or forced into the sex trade and are often witness to the negative behavior in the area. There is a need to provide a safe and secure shelter to all the girls in the community; however, this becomes a challenge due to the shortage of resources. Those girls who are extremely vulnerable in the community are referred to shelter homes. After the girls are placed, follow-up visits are routinely conducted at the shelter with the young woman and her family. The girls are enrolled in school and attend daily after school tutoring at the AAWC center. This past year has seen an additional enrollment of **51 new Udaan beneficiaries.**



Beneficiaries studying

“I want to be a teacher. I know that people want to be doctors and architects. Those are fascinating professions- of course, but I have always felt like teaching is so much more than a profession.

Every child deserves a great education, just like how I am accessing here at the AAWC center. And this is what I want to continue with: I want the children of coming generations to remember their teachers and childhood with fondness,” smiled a shy Amrita*.

Education

AAWC assists girls in their pursuit for education in multifaceted ways. From providing enrollments to private and government schools, to attending school-meetings and follow up visits with teachers, AAWC ensures an Udaan child's education is wholesome and positive.

We act as mediators between parents and school offices to help families with the school admission process. After-school tutoring and educational counseling are also provided to Udaan beneficiaries. We also conduct daily and weekly meetings with Udaan tuition teachers to check-in about the child's progress, discuss newer methods of teaching, constant betterment of syllabus etc. at our center.

In the case that someone is interested in pursuing higher education whether it is for a diploma, degree program, or junior college, AAWC offers support through the application process. In order to ensure the success and well-being of these students, AAWC works alongside parents. We hold meeting to review each student’s holistic progress with her mother on a monthly basis and evaluate the girls using customized unit tests on a quarterly basis between school exams. As education is not seen as a priority by all parents, AAWC conducts home visits to encourage parents to allow their children to stay in school and help them understand the benefits that a good education provides.



Beneficiaries studying

Highlights:

- 3 beneficiaries were referred to the Udayan Shalini Fellowship, one was selected!
- 34 beneficiaries enrolled into formal schooling
- 100% of Udaan beneficiaries passed their annual exams

Health and Nutrition

The objective of the health program is to create awareness about health, nutrition and sanitation, improve overall physical and mental health, and support in maintaining personal hygiene by providing hygiene products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, and sanitary pads, de-worming and lice treatments etc. In consultation with a doctor, AAWC also daily prepares 5 meals (a day) for all the girls along with multivitamins to ensure they are receiving adequate nutrition and combating incidences of undernourishment.

General health, dental, and eye check-up camps are conducted throughout the year. AAWC also assists with medical referrals to ensure the girls get timely medical help from trusted practitioners. Additionally, staff members accompany the beneficiaries to the appointments if necessary and ensure that they complete any prescribed treatment.

Our beneficiaries took part in the medical camps offered this year and also received health supplements, medical referrals, and health awareness sessions, including on the topic of menstruation, puberty, body literacy etc. Mental and socio-economic health is also addressed through group and individual counseling sessions.



Dental Camp



Medical camp



Medical camp

Counseling

Due to their environment, we recognize susceptibilities within our beneficiaries, who usually do not have a concept of family, are sometimes abandoned or often neglected by their mothers. Growing up in the absence of a sense of belonging, clubbed with the allure of the red-light district (no schooling, free junk food, witnessing explicit sexual acts and easy exposure to entertainment like films, television and make up) – our adolescent beneficiaries are particularly at risk to develop nervous and personality disorders at a younger age.

Acknowledging such a situation, we hold balanced therapy sessions for our Udaan beneficiaries, which include one to one mentoring/Individual sessions, group sessions such as the art therapy, career counseling, and referrals to external experts for aid with mental health issues. This year, our beneficiaries participated in many different sessions and also took part in a career guidance fair to explore options for professional developments. In our group activities, some of the topics that were covered include building self esteem, good and bad touch, long term personal goals, healthy relationships, and emotional stability through the art therapy classes by a regular volunteer. We have also collaborated with external mentoring organizations like, the Light House project and Mentor-Me India who conduct weekly, monthly and quarterly activities of various forms to target the various needs of adolescents, and develop one-on-one mentor mentee relationship.

Night Shelter

Our night shelter program targets the most vulnerable children – who are at risk of being trafficked, sexually and emotionally assaulted, and fall prey to the other forms of violence in the community. Our night shelter has a capacity for almost 35 adolescent girls and approximately 25 toddlers who participate in all our educational, health, empowerment, extra-curricular, recreational, and celebratory activities held at the center.

This year, **47 Udaan beneficiaries** were enrolled in internal and external night shelter programs and boarding homes thus preventing them from getting trapped into the dangers and vulnerabilities of the community.



Udaan-Umang session

Meetings

Adolescence is a complex phase, wherein a lot of external parties often have the scope to affect the process and further development into adulthood. Recognizing these intersections between the individual, familial and societal expectations and yardsticks – we hold regular meetings like the mother’s meeting, tuition teachers’ meetings, meeting with Udaan girls, and Udaan-Umang sessions. It is a cyclical design, which is aimed at providing a holistic support system to our adolescent Udaan girls. We also work towards creating Udaan-Umang sessions, which tackle specific issues, led by the Udaan girls towards the Umang toddlers. Mother’s meetings are imperative to keep the mothers in loop with their children’s developments and lifestyle.



Udaan Umeed session

Empowerment

Empowerment and ushering the girls in choosing a life outside the sex trade lies in career readiness. Workshops are conducted by in-house staff and outside organizations on basic interview skills, understanding the job recruitment process, and career guidance. Exposure field trips are planned in order to expose the girls to various careers and vocations of which they may not be aware. When girls express interest in pursuing a specific career, AAWC helps to enroll them in specific vocational training programs that will help expose them to their potential career and gain valuable experience in the field. In addition, Udaan girls develop self-esteem, discipline, talent, and leadership through various workshops on topics such as life skills, professional skills, creativity, fitness, and human rights, alongside careers.

Highlights:

- Mother's meeting on child's health and superstitions
- Udaan-Umang session on storytelling
- Udaan-Umang game session on discipline, morals, and kindness
- tuition teacher's meetings
- Mother's meeting on "safe spaces"



Udaan career exposure session

Extracurricular and Recreational Activities

We hold many extra-curricular activities like theater classes, computer classes, English speaking sessions, life skills sessions and music classes. Though we understand the need to involve our Udaan beneficiaries in these activities, we also realize that overburdening them with the same is not a healthy practice.

As a result, we work with our beneficiaries to determine a set number of extracurriculars to engage in, that are both enjoyable and educational. As the girls spend most of their time at school, AAWC aims to provide them with a chance for recreation as well. Workshops are conducted on creative skills to broaden the minds of the girls and give them an opportunity to freely express themselves, something they often do not have the chance to do.

Highlights:

- Clowns without Borders Annual theater event
- Annual Picnic to EsselWorld
- Guitar, Yoga, and Spanish lessons
- Art sessions on with Ms. Antoinette
- Ganapati Clay Modeling and Immersion
- Outdoor activities and art session with Bjorn Eklund



Ganapati clay modeling workshop followed by immersion



Outdoor activities with volunteer Bjorn



Fire Brigade Exposure Trip

Celebrations

We pride ourselves in being a home and family to all of our beneficiaries, which is visible through simple demonstrations such as when they tie rakhis to us with immense affection or design greeting cards dedicated to our team on Friendship day.

This year, we held celebrations for all religious, cultural and recreational days; some of which were, Holi, Dussehra, Eid-Ul-Fitr, Children’s day, Christmas and New Year’s eve, among other popular and public celebrations. Our Udaan girls also held some activities as part of these celebrations, like ‘crafting lanterns’, ‘poetry/story-telling’, ‘crafting Christmas trees’, ‘making roses and distributing them among Umang beneficiaries’, etc. A lot of the products from these activities were then used as decorations for the same, thus leading to a well-rounded and planned cycle of productivity.

Highlights:

- Friendship Day
- Eid Celebration
- Christmas and New Year's Eve
- Diwali Celebration
- Holi Celebration

UMANG

Umang, meaning “joy” in Hindi, is a program for children in the red light district between 2.5-5 years.

The balwadi and night shelter provide a physical and emotional safe space, that promote healthy growth and prevent toddlers from being exposed to the dangers of the red light district.



This year too, we held our Annual Umang Sports day with immense rigor and passion. From 20 mt races to kangaroo jumps, our beneficiaries had a great time participating in extremely fun and diverse races all day long. Along with the races, the children were treated to a prize distribution ceremony and their favorite snacks at the end of the event.

Considering the harsh realities our children come from, such events support them in channelizing their emotions and energies via positive methods. They also learn of healthy competition, team spirit and leadership through these activities.

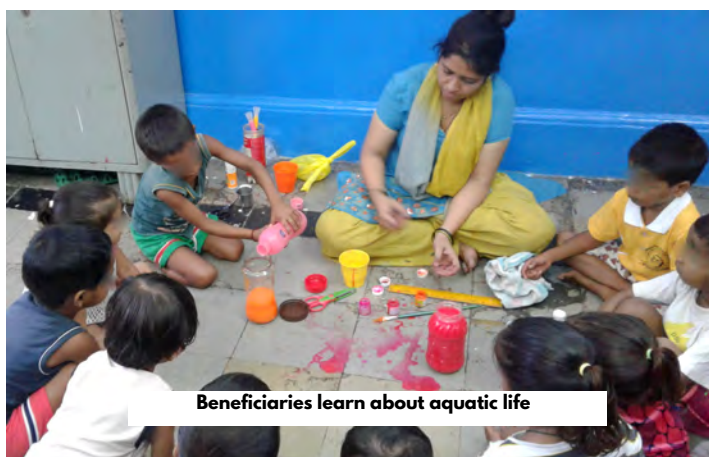
These activities are imperative in supporting our Umang children grow into empathetic and sensitive adults. Most of our Umang children have a tendency to grow up quicker than their counterparts due to early and increased exposure to the negative realities of life. This causes them to skip the small joys and happy moments of being a child, and thus such activities become important in supporting our children unlearn toxic behavior.

“It is simply a deep joy to watch our kids jump and spring and free their energies into sports. These are children who were born into small dingy brothels; they have slept in dark corners of a staircase and under their mothers’ beds while the trade was going on. They have lived their lives crammed into these brothels...for them to finally free themselves and simply run around and make merry. Ah, what a sight of liberation!” smiled our CEO, Manju Vyas during the Annual Sports Day.

Outreach

The toddlers of Kamathipura often live in less than ideal situations where they are exposed to violence and other undesirable circumstances. Some children spend their days and nights loitering in the streets as their mothers either are working or are unable to care for them. These children are also exposed to unsolicited sexual excesses, violence and negative behavior of the community from a very young age.

For the most marginalized of the children, AAWC seeks shelter home placements so the children have a safe place to reside. We conduct daily visits to homes and boarding homes to monitor Umang children. Mothers of Umang children also attend monthly meetings to know about important reports, workshops, and updates. This year, we enrolled **62 new Umang beneficiaries**.



Beneficiaries learn about aquatic life



Beneficiaries learn about healthy foods



Umang beneficiaries learn about human anatomy with volunteer Ms. Marina Dutta

Education

To prepare the children for mainstream education and develop their social and communication skills, preparatory classes are conducted at the AAWC centers. Our Kindergarten/*balwadi* provides a structured environment that teaches discipline and appropriate behavior, helping negate the effects of the home environment. In addition to social and communication skills, they develop discipline, neuromotor skills, they develop discipline, neuromotor coordination, basic English and Hindi literacy, and basic numeracy. The education program is run by qualified teachers trained in early childhood care and education. Every month, we hold meetings to review all children's academic progress with their mothers and evaluate them using a holistic rubric. Once the children reach the age of six, all of them are registered for school. Girls are enrolled in Udaan, and boys are referred to a partner boarding organization.

This year, **3 beneficiaries** of our kindergarten advanced into formal schooling.

Health and Nutrition

AAWC conducts a health program to help the children understand the importance of good health and habits, and to improve the overall physical health of the children. On a micro level, AAWC teaches the children proper hygiene by having them brush their teeth daily at the center as well as checking their nails for cleanliness and instructing them on taking baths. Immunizations and testing for disease is also done during medical camps for the children. The children are provided with 5 daily nutritional meals which they might not otherwise receive as well as being provided with multivitamin and protein supplements daily.



Quarterly Health Camp



beneficiary at a quarterly dental camp



Umang beneficiaries enjoying a healthy meal at our night shelter

Night Shelter

We also run our own rehabilitative night shelter for the most vulnerable toddlers and adolescent girls of women in prostitution. Acting as a safe space away from the disturbances and brutalities of the red-light district, our night shelter provides a home for a lot of young children who have never known the comforts of a family and healthy living. With a capacity of almost 35 adolescent girls and 25 toddlers, the members of the night shelter have access to all the other Umang activities like education, health, empowerment, extra-curricular, recreational and exposure visits, and celebrations held at our centers. This year, **26 Umang beneficiaries** were enrolled in internal and external night shelters and boarding homes.



Udaan-Umang session

Counseling

Acknowledging the fact that most of our beneficiaries are born to single parents, violent or broken family structures- their first contact with society, we recognize the fact that these toddlers may not have formed satisfying relationships or learnt to emote transparently in their early childhood. To combat further development of their emotional instability and prevent any mental health crisis in the future, we hold various therapy sessions with our Umang beneficiaries. These include one-to-one mentoring/Individual sessions, dog therapy, art therapy and referrals to external experts for aid with severe mental health issues. While the dog and art therapy sessions are held weekly, the individual sessions and referrals to external experts are held as per requirements.



Udaan and Umang beneficiaries take a trip to an art museum

Meetings

Similar to our Udaan meetings, we also conduct meetings for our Umang beneficiaries. These take place in the form of Umang Mother's meetings where conversations on the children's upbringing takes place. This year, we have discussed topics from the education system, entering formal schooling, and safe spaces for the children. As a means to reinforce a feeling of family in our Umang beneficiaries, we also conduct Udaan-Umang sessions for the two groups to bond. These sessions include games and other interactive activities to teach ideas of social conduct, discipline, and morality.



Umang beneficiaries enjoying their regular garden visits

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities that are both educational and fun are also part of the Umang schedule. Alongside the Udaan beneficiaries, the Umang beneficiaries also take part in activities like theater class, English speaking sessions, and art sessions that often lead to trips to museums. As such, the children get a balance of the rigor of education in a classroom environment while also learning valuable skills that will make them well rounded citizens.

Recreation

Living in harsh circumstances can cause children to ‘grow up’ early and miss out on their childhood. AAWC aims to give Umang children the opportunity to be children and have fun in their comfort space.

Throughout the year, educational and entertainment activities are planned such as sports day, visits to an aquarium and zoos, playing at a soft play indoor ground, etc. Fun workshops are also conducted such as puppet making and drawing-with-discarded vegetables which encourage art in the children and provides a holistic learning and discovery process for them.

- Highlights:**
- Dog therapy sessions
 - weekly garden visits
 - Annual Sports Day
 - Crawford Market with Ms. Marina Dutta
 - National Gallery of Art trip with Ms. Antoinette
 - reflection drawing session with Ms. Petra Wik



Beneficiaries dressed for Republic Day



teaching outdoor etiquette to Umang beneficiaries

Celebration

We truly support the idea of AAWC being a home to all our beneficiaries, and we embrace and promote each and every beneficiary and their background. Every year we hold celebrations for all religious, cultural, and recreational days. Some celebrations we held this year include Dussehra, Raksha Bandhan, Eid-Ul-Fitr, and Christmas among many others. Our celebrations bring about another bonding experience for our Umang and Udaan beneficiaries as many times, Udaan beneficiaries will lead activities for our Umang beneficiaries to enjoy. We also provide special meals and gifts to the beneficiaries as a token of affection.



Raksha Bandhan festivities

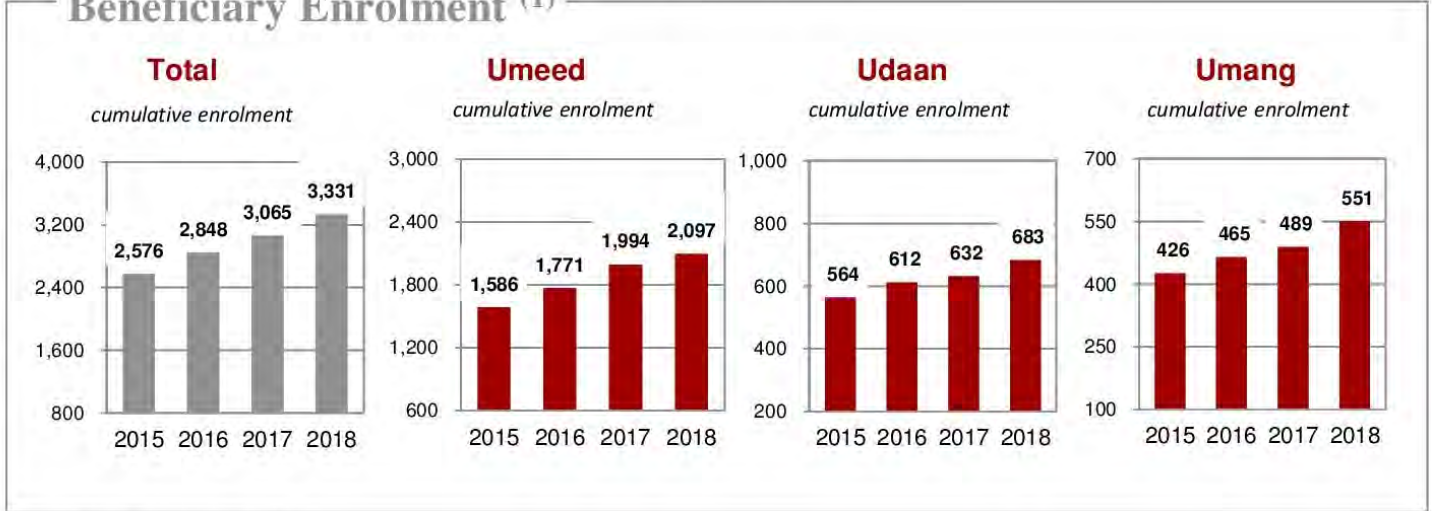


Holi celebration

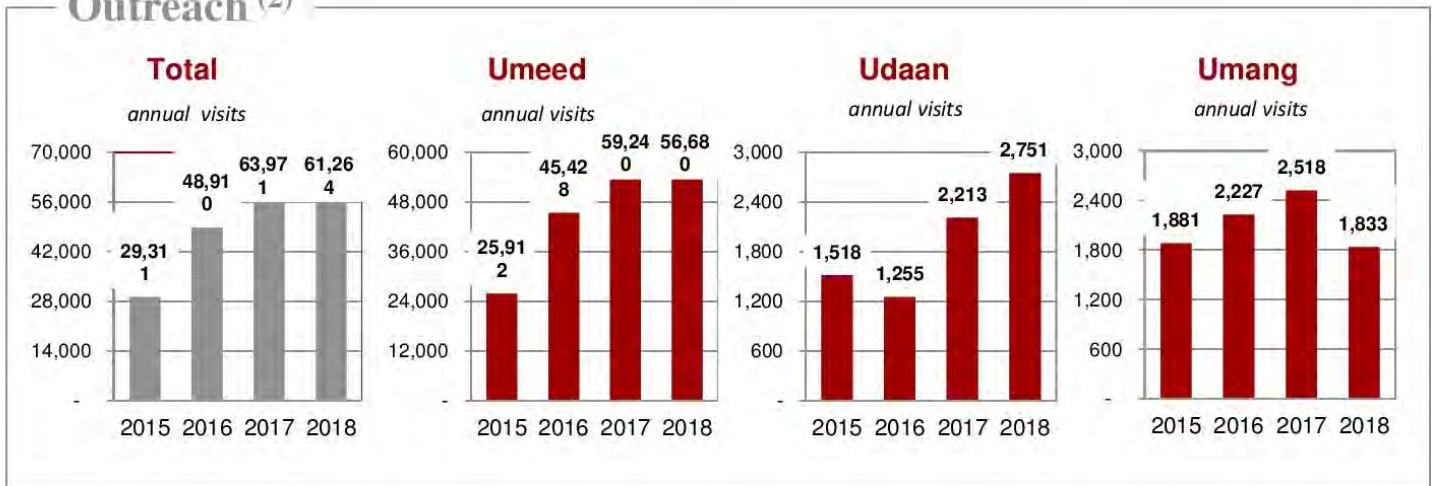
Statistics

For financial year ending 31 March 2018. Please note some statistics may differ slightly from those reported in FY 2017 Annual Report due to an updated monitoring methodology.

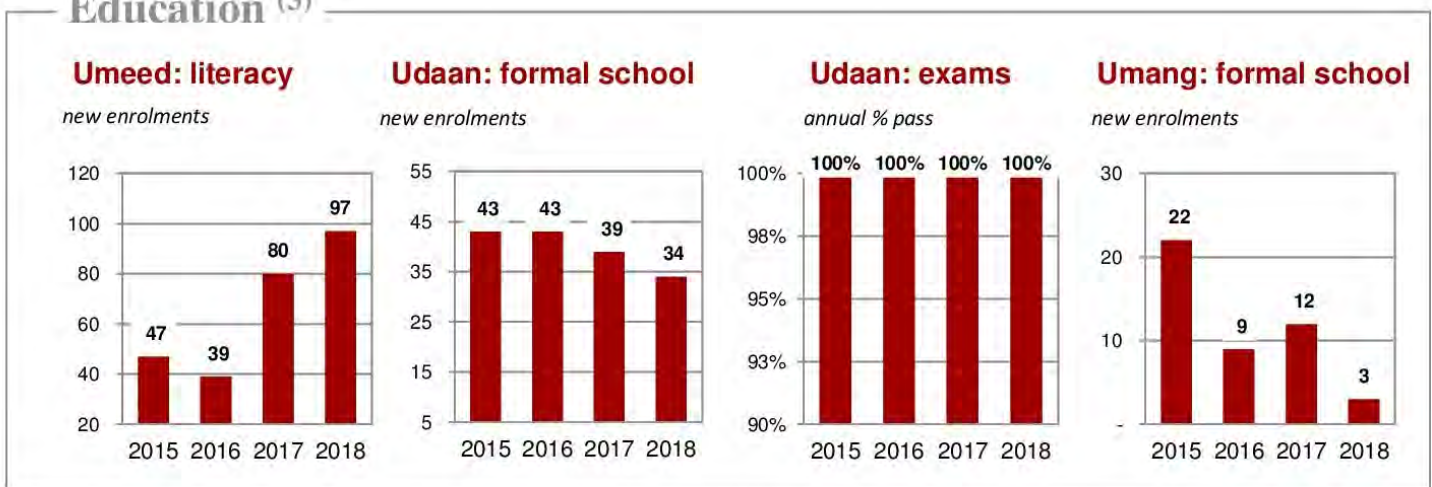
Beneficiary Enrolment (1)



Outreach (2)



Education (3)

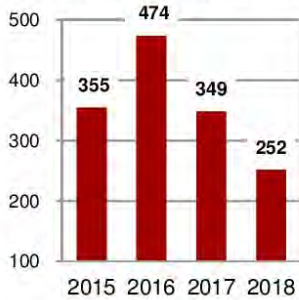


- As of 31 March 2018, AAWC has served more than 3,000 individuals, including non-beneficiaries.
- Includes visits by field team to beneficiaries' homes, boarding homes, as well as visits by beneficiaries to the AAWC centre.
- School year begins in June (second quarter).

Empowerment

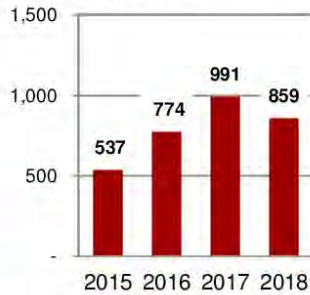
Documents (1)

annual documents filed



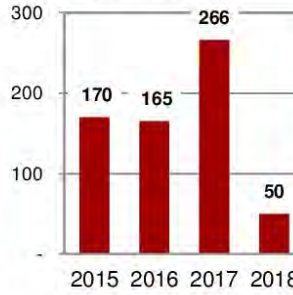
Activities (2)

annual activities



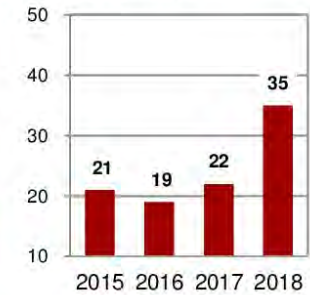
Finance (3)

new savings accounts



Umeed: Vocational Training

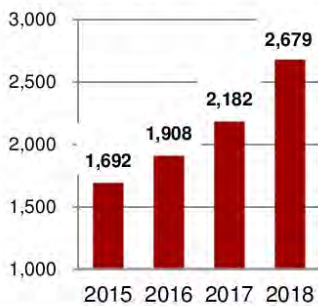
cumulative enrollment



Health

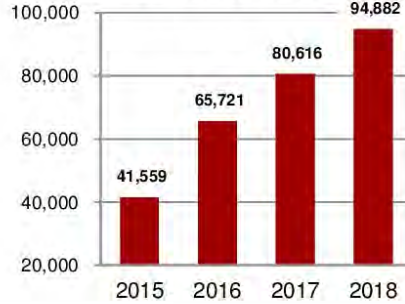
Medical Referrals (4)

annual referrals



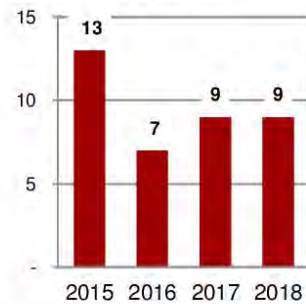
Nutrition (5)

annual meals/snacks distribution



Medical Camps (6)

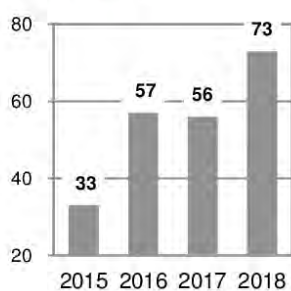
annual camps organized



Shelter (7)

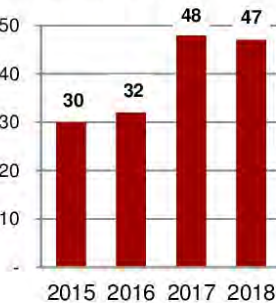
Total

annual enrolment



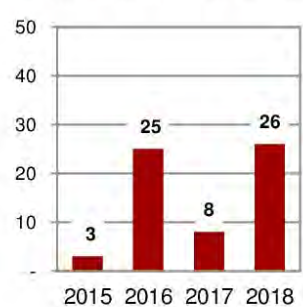
Udaan: Shelter

internal and external shelter enrolment



Umang: Shelter

internal and external shelter enrolment



- Documents include Ration card, PAN card, Aadhar card, gazette filings, health card, voting cards, birth certificates, birth affidavits, general affidavits, and death certificates and other services provided.
- Activities include all workshops and excursions for legal awareness, general health knowledge, reproductive health knowledge, government schemes awareness, creativity development, career exploration, life skills development, professional skills development, physical fitness, human rights awareness, recreation, and other extracurricular purposes.
- Savings accounts include formal bank accounts held at the Bank of Maharashtra.
- Medical referrals are provided to ensure beneficiaries are properly treated at hospitals, where they are often denied service due to discrimination.
- Nutrition is distributed to all HIV/AIDS/TB patients in Umeed and to all beneficiaries of Udaan and Umang.
- Medical camps include general health, dental, vision, and immunisation camps.
- AAWC night shelter for Udaan and Umang Program is located in Kamathipura, while external shelters are located throughout Greater Mumbai.

Fundraising and Communications

Daan Utsav

Daan Utsav's "Joy of Giving Week": In October 2017, we celebrated a global festival of giving and sharing-Daan Utsav, by organizing a community painting workshop with our beneficiaries. Volunteers from all walks of life had participated in this event to mentor our Umang and Udaan beneficiaries on Rangoli-making, painting with watercolors, and other basic crafts for Diwali. This event also saw collection of funds in-kind, plus acted as a space for sharing affection and time with our beneficiaries.

Tata Mumbai Marathon

This year, AAWC once again participated in the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2018. This year, we were represented by Björn Eklund, Shalabh Misra, Avanish Kumar, and Kaushikan Rangrajan.

We are incredibly thankful to these runners and donors who raised funds for our organization and also brought awareness to our cause.



Bank of Baroda donation drive



A group of staff, beneficiaries, and runner for our cause, Björn Eklund, join together at the Tata Mumbai Marathon.

Highlights:

- We Bring Joy's carom fundraiser
- AAWC awarded Transparency Certificate by Guide Star India
- AAWC selected for Snap Deal's New Year stationary kit drive
- Tim Daubach raised funds via a film 'Looking Beyond' based on India
- Health and utility kits fundraised through SmallChange

Deutsche Post DHL Group

For the third consequent time, AAWC was selected by the DHL jury to receive funding under their Living Responsibility campaign after undergoing appropriate and rigorous processes. We were also selected by DHL for their 'DHL's Got Heart' CSR campaign.

Aarambh

Aarambh 2018: Aarambh is a 5km marathan held at Bandstand, Bandra where the city joins together to run for a cause. This year, Aarambh organizers collaborated with Apne Aap Women's Collective to bring awareness to our cause.

Some of our Fundraising Portals:

- Global Giving
- Dana Mojo
- Small Change

(Click on Portal names to learn more)

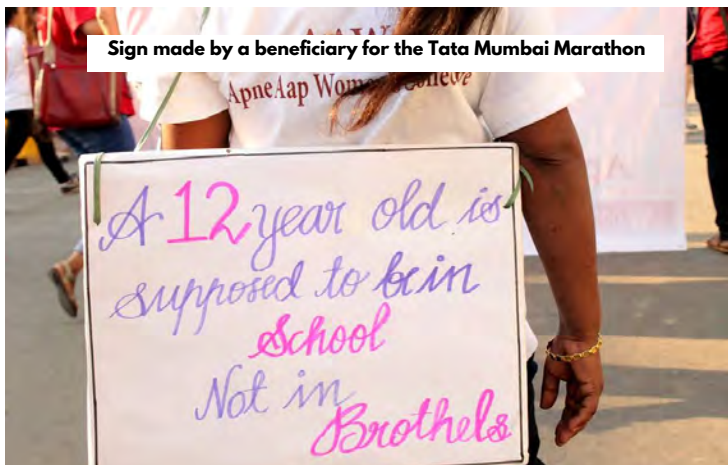


Hexaware donation activity

Challenges

During the 2017-2018 year, AAWC has faced two major challenges that we have had to navigate in order to ensure the success of our programs. A lack of space and infrastructure has led to the inability to provide night shelter services for more of our beneficiaries. The Kamathipura Night Shelter has been reaching close to capacity as per government guidelines. As a result there have been efforts to create a Night Shelter at the Falkland Road Center which is still being processed at the government level. A fire incident in end of May 2017 also hampered our progress as funds and time had to be invested to rectify the situation.

The increasing gentrification of Kamathipura is making our work more difficult as new red light districts are coming up in Mumbai's suburbs, away from our already established centers. There is also a staff crunch which results in a higher workload for existing staff. Due to the nature of our work, we solely hire women in our program team, which is difficult as many women are uncomfortable working in the areas which our centers reside. This makes it difficult for our staff but we are so thankful to have such a committed group that believes in our mission so deeply.



Accolades



Otters Club Mumbai
 Woman Icon Award-Manju Vyas
 2017



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
 World CSR congress Award -
 2017



Global Giving- Top ranked
 certification
 2016



Global Giving- Top ranked
 certification
 2016



GuideStar India – Gold Star
 Certification
 March 2015



Dasra Girl Power
 Awards – Top 5 Finalist
 March 2015



Receiving of Gulabrao
 Ganacharya Award
 November 2015



BASF Connected to Care I
 Shortlisted as top 150
 Global Winners
 June 2015



India NGO Awards –
 Top 10 Small NGOs
 June 2014



UN Women Singapore
 and MasterCard:
 Project Inspire – Top 50
 Projects
 August 2014



AmeriCare India's Spirit
 of Humanity
 Jury's Choice Award
 April 2014



NGO of the Fortnight
 Winner - India
 March 2014

Partners

AAWC's work is made possible by the support of our many partners and advocates.
We thank you for your support!

Non-Profit Partners



Corporate Partners



Associates

Aakar Mumbai
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 Aseema
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 Australian Counsel General
 Bank of Maharashtra
 BASF Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd.
 BYL Nair Charitable Hospital
 CAP
 Capgemini
 Centre for Education and Research in
 Environmental Strategies
 Charities Aid Foundation
 Child Rights & You
 Child Welfare Committee
 Citibank
 Clowns Without Borders
 Colaba Traffic Park
 Connect For
 Columbia University, New York
 Committed Communities Development Trust
 Consulate General of Canada
 Consulate General of the United States
 Coordination Committee for Vulnerable
 Children
 Dasra
 Disha Group
 DSB International School
 DHL
 Dlite India
 Embassy of Canada
 Family Welfare Training & Research Center
 FICCI Flow
 FPAI
 Friends of Society, Pune
 The Foundation
 Fun OK Please
 Gaurabai Hospital
 Give2Asia
 Give India
 GlobalGiving US and UK
 GuideStar
 Harrison Foundation
 HelpYourNGO
 Hexaware Technologies Limited
 ICICI
 Impact International
 India NGO Award
 Indiana Engineering Works
 Indian Post Office
 Indus International
 International Resources for Fairer Trade
 IPCA Laboratories
 Jahangir Art Gallery

Jahangir Art Gallery
 JeevanSach
 J. J. Hospital
 Justice Ventures International
 KBH Bachooali Charitable Ophthalmic
 & ENT Hospital
 Kids Postcard Project
 Kidville India
 Kotak Education Foundation
 The Leela Group
 Life Insurance Corporation
 The Lighthouse Project
 Lions Club
 Médecins Sans Frontières
 Mentor Me India
 Mewsic Foundation
 Mumbai AIDS Forum
 Mumbai District AIDS Control Society
 Mumbai Mobile Creches
 Municipal Corporation of Greater
 Mumbai Ward Office
 MSRLM
 Nair Hospital
 Navjeevan Centre
 Nehru Planetarium
 New Life Medical and Educational Trust
 New Resolution India
 Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work
 Oasis India
 The Oberoi Hotel, Nariman Point
 The Peacemakers
 Pentagon Consultants
 Premier Ltd.
 Prerana
 PricewaterhouseCoopers
 Raheja Universal Pvt. Ltd
 RajaramBapuSurywanshi Garden
 Rangoonwala Foundation
 Rationing KrutiSamiti
 Rawal Charities
 Raymond
 RedFM Radio
 Reliance Foundation
 Reserve Bank of India
 Robinhood Army
 Rooh Wellness
 Rotary Club of Mumbai
 R.S. Nimkar Hospital
 Sahachari Foundation
 Salaam Baalak Trust
 Salvation Army
 Samhita
 Samruddhi Mahila Bachat Gat
 Sanjeevani
 Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust
 Sanmati Balniketan
 Seva Sadan Society
 Sisters of Charity of St. Anne
 Smiles32 Foundation
 SNTD Women's University
 SOS Children's Village Alibaug

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 University of Michigan
 UN International Online Volunteering
 UNICEF (Maharashtra)
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 Young FICCI Ladies Organization
 Yes Foundation and BSE
 Yuva Parivartan
 Zonta Club of Bombay III

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Wishlist

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Phone: +91 22 2381 9721

Address: 1st Lane Khetwadi, 1st Floor Municipal School,
Near Alankar Cinema, Mumbai 400004, India

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 11AM – 7:30PM

Kamathipura Centre

Phone: +91 22 2308 3326

Address: 61-B, Room No. 6, Ground Floor, Shankarrao Pupala Marg,
11th Lane Kamathipura,

Opposite Pochammadevi Temple, Mumbai 400008, India

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 11AM – 7:30PM (day centre), 7PM – 10AM (night shelter)

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