

4th June ' 08

To,
Mrs. Sunanda Mane
Maharashtra Foundation, SUA
New York
USA

Sub: Annual report.

Respected Madam,

We wish you and every one of Maharashtra Foundation SUA, New York a warm season greetings.

We are so happy to present our 2nd yearly report and deeply thankful for your continuation of significant support towards our objectives for the underprivileged girls.

Please find enclosed herewith our Annual report from June' 07 up to May' 08 and photographs.

Please feel free to contact us to know any more information.

We promise to put in our sincerest efforts at all times to keep your belief in us.

We thank you very much.

With regards

Manju Vyas
(Organisation in Charge)

Apne Aap Women's Collective

Programmes / Activities Report

With the assistance of Maharashtra Foundation, SUA from 1st June '07 to 31st May '08.

During the year 2007 to 2008 Total 63 no. of girls had benefited through our various in house activities on educational and vocational support.

The details are as follows:

- Approximately 38 girls regularly attended Tutions Classes for school studies support in the evening from 6pm to 7.30pm on all weekdays.
- Tutions from nursery to 10th standard are made available in 6 different groups. All the girls are divided into 5 different groups according to their classes. Each group has 1 teacher. 1 separate group is made for all the weaker students.
- 6 no. of Teachers took care of studies through Marathi and Hindi medium.
- 1 Special Tutor hired to conduct English teaching according to textbook curriculum and spoken English.
- 1 Special Tutor 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.
- Tailoring, Embroidery, Art & Craft, Henna (Mehendi), Karate Classes are conducted in the afternoon on alternate Saturdays as girls are free in the afternoon.
- English classes 4 times in a week and Computer classes once in a week are held.
- Once a week Therapeutic dance and Yoga classes on Saturday's morning are conducted for recreation and for chanelizing their pent up energy.
- Nutrition with fruits is given in the afternoon and evening. Menu is fixed among the girls. Egg and milk is given twice in a week.

- Along with the food, multivitamins tablets are given to deal with undernourishment.
- 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.
- Girls eye -sight got checked in June'07 from nearby eye hospital. 2 girls diagnosed and provided with spectacles.
- A special summer camp cum vacation classes called "Hot mein Cool" arranged for spoken English, puppet show, cooking, baking, embroidery, fabric painting, tile painting, glass painting, mirror painting, paper Mache, fashion designing, art and craft, different types of block printing on clothes, beauty care and different types of hair styling etc. Also taught story telling and drama. Camp ended with a visit to Haji ali, Mahalaxmi temple and outing at Girgaon Chowpatty.
- Team Building exercises; 4 teams of girls are made and named these teams as - Kalpana Chawla, Kiran Bedi, Savitribai Phule and Jhansi ki Rani. (These women in India are known for their significant performance, achievements and contribution in their respective fields).
- 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. Ever week grades are given according to their performance and at the end of year best team get the Trophy.
- Valedictory Function and prize distribution programme arranged to give away the prizes for different in house competitions arranged at organization level throughout the year.
- Holi festival celebrated with water and different colour in mark of brotherhood and equality.
- Walt Disney arranged Fun-Fair party for underprivileged children and invited our girls also. They enjoyed it thoroughly.

- Arranged "Career Guidance Camp" for a day for all the adolescent boys and girls of all the NGOs working in our Zone.
- 'Independence Day of India' celebrated at organization by flag hoisting, singing patriotic song and heart touching speech by elder girl on "What is real PATRIOTISM is". Then girls were taken to a famous Television singing competition of children called "Indian Idol".
- "She Creates" Film making training workshop: MAM movies organized 18 days film making training workshop for underprivileged girls. They selected 4 NGOs from all over Mumbai. Our NGO was one of them. From each NGO they chose 5 girls. During training each NGO girls had made a movie. Our girls made a movie on girl child foeticide called "Muskarati roshni" (in English it means SMILING SUN-RAYS). This project was a unique project hence it was well acclaimed in all News Papers and Television channels. Our girls got the best movie maker award.
- "Dahi Handi" Celebration: 'Janmashtami' festival celebrated by tying and hanging 'dahi handi' (traditionally an earthen pot is filled with yogurt with) but we simply filled a balloon with water and hanged it with a rope. All our girls made pyramid and youngest of them all stood on top of them and broke it. It was a great fun preparing and breaking it too.
- "Harry Potter -5" Movie shown at PVR Nest Theater at Juhu, Mumbai.
- 'Dandiya' Navratri (Nine nights) Festival and Ramzan Eid Celebration organized together with Dandiya dance.

Organization's annual "Best Group" and "best student" prize distribution also arranged on this day. Best student in elder group won by Ms. Ashwini Shivekar and in younger group Ms. Surekha and Ms. Jyotsana. This year best group trophy is won by SavitriBai Phule group.

- 'Diwali', 'Rangoli Competition' Celebration done with great fun. Girls were taught different way of Diya painting and Rangoli making to acquaint them its association with our culture and rituals.

- Children's Day Celebration on 14th November celebrated with a very famous inspiring and motivational Hindi movie called "CHAK DE". This movie is based on real theme of Indian girl's hockey team wins over after serious challenges.
- Participated in 'Football Match' organized by Magic Bus organisation and competed against other NGOs on younger and elder group level. Our elder girl got best 'center player' prize.
- Participated in dance Competition organized by PSI NGO and won 1st prize.
- 1 day Picnic at Water Park called "Anand Sagar Resort" arranged. This Picnic was planned with idea of imparting skills through various games. All the activities taken had an underlying theme or message to it
- Christmas Celebration: Christmas tree decoration done with lots of fun, good food , cake and a Teddy Bear as gift.
- Young Presidents Organisation of U S visited our organization to understand the living condition and vulnerability of young girls staying in the red light area.
- Amole Gupte (Director of film "Taare Zamin Par") taken workshop on painting with Music. Also he is helping our girls to write lyrics and give music to make a song on Apne Aap Women's Collective.
- Participated in Mumbai Marathon arranged by Standard Chartered Bank. 4 different races were held according to participants. In which a full marathon of 25 kilometers, half marathon of 12 kms. , 6 kms of dream run and 2.5 kms. for old and handicapped people were held. From our organization 4 people were selected to participate in dream run. Nationally and internationally total 40,000 people participated in it. Many famous Indian film actor and actress also participated in it.
- 1 day general Health Check - up Camp organized at the organisation. 2nd Health check up is coming up in first week of July.
- General medicines and first aid provided all throughout the year for general ailments at the center.

- Other specialized medical treatment assistance provided from nearby Government hospitals and private doctors to all those who needed i.e.; eye checkups, jaundice, typhoid, tuberculosis, pneumonia, skin allergies and infection, stomach infections, etc.
- Small savings system called as 'Apni Bachat' for girls is running smoothly, this is to educate them to save money to utilize it when they are in genuine need.
- Training workshop held for school drop out girls and women on wall hanging, Paper-Bag & envelope Making, Candles, shampoo, Liquid soap, detergent powder, chalk, perfume spray, Incense sticks (Agarbatti) and Phenyl making.
- Thrice in a year girls dance performance by famous Indian Choreographer Mr. Shiamak Davar held, on International Dance Day, summer funk and winter funk. Also performed at "Ashwamedh" Annual function of Sion Medical College on 20th March
- "Talent Show" a day's programme, all the girls prepared / made something in which they feel they are good at and displayed.
- 7 girls did Radio Magazines on "Impact of Domestic Violence on Children" and "I can do it By Self" on F M Radio Gyanwani
- A famous Indian I T Corporate house staff took recreational sessions with girls on Republic day.
- LET'S SHARE a half day programme during Diwali holidays to inculcate the belief of sharing as in today's era it's so difficult for people to be able to share no matter what it is. Whether it is their feelings, or knowledge or anything to be part of their progress, growth and development.
- 2 Girls are sent for 6 months job skills training programme of Hallmark Gold Jewellery designing, 6 girls appeared for 5 star hotel management apprentice training for 2 years. 3 girls sent for basic training of Beautician for 3 months, 1 girl selected for Balwadi teacher training course at Muktangan.
- Job assistance provided to total 5 girls. 2 girls placed with Beauty parlour, 2 girls are placed with Hallmark gold jewellery shop. 1 girl selected for Photoshop training course and then a job.

- Boarding Home (residential shelter home) placements of 10 girls arranged. It's an effort to provide safe, secured and healthy environment away from this highly vulnerable area. 3 girls are in row to be placed in boarding home. Regular follow up at their respective boarding homes was done to check their progress.
- Sensitization Workshop for staff on topics like women's and child rights, Govt. Policies for the rights of women and girl child, trafficking, sexual harassments, domestic violence and property rights, social marketing of a branded condoms.
- Workshop held on Effective way of Communication, Stress management and Relaxation through Yoga by a qualified resource person.
- 14 hours special Art based therapy session taken with girls between the age group of 8 years to 12 years and 12 yrs to 16 yrs. to deal with their inhibitions through different ways of art forms.
- 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, and importance of studies and evaluating study skills.
- Group Counseling Session taken with girls above 11 years for creating awareness about the changes occurring in a growing girl. Helping them to be comfortable, accept, and adjust to the different kinds of psychological, physical and emotional changes taking place in a girl's body with onset of 'menstruation', sex and sexuality - its perspective and diseases, Individual Counseling session also taken for catharsis and different personal issues.
- Special counseling sessions held on Effective ways of self studies, stress management (during exams) self esteem, self betrayal, mental relaxation, tolerance and cooperation, motivation and encouragement, time management, positive attitude, acknowledgments of others efforts, physical development, gender sensitivity, personal and environmental cleanliness, health and hygiene, effective communication - effective speaking & effective listening, Creative and varied thinking (brain storming) , extensive exploration, effective vocal communication with voice modulation, Chakra

Healing, love and respect for oneself, responsibility sharing, nagging, leg pulling, how to say no, value the present, etc.

- 2 of our girls got married to suitable descent boys. 2 girls who married 2 years back delivered baby girls.
- **Workshops & Training (staff/girls)** ; Health right of patients, 2nd line of ART treatment for AIDS patient, Rights of Sexual Minorities, Talk with Women on Health by Doctor on Prevention and cure of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Sessions by elder girl beneficiaries on physical & Sex Education, Gender sensitization, importance of a girl child, side effects of the combination of ART drugs, Campaigning for food right, Child Rights, workshop on HIV infection in children, HIV/ AIDS in India, Juveniles Justice Act, HIV / AIDS - Care & Support services, Health Workshop on water born disease, viral and bacterial infections, immerging issues of children in conflict with law, Team- building Workshop, special Nail Art Session, Art & Craft Workshop, Dance Therapy , Patent bill of ART drugs, Sensitization Workshop-Violence Against women & girl child, Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act - amendments, effective methods of HIV /AIDS Counselling, Gender Issues in Primary Education, Youth's in high risk behaviour.
- Our NGO was invited at In - Orbit Mall (biggest shopping mall in Mumbai) and Crossword Book shop (biggest book store in Mumbai) to have a stall there and talk about our organisation's aims and objectives.
- **Competitions (In house)**; Hand writing, Karate Competition, Mehendi Competition, Craft Competition, tailoring, Essay writing, subject-chart making, Rangoli, Sports day.
- **Celebrations**; Indian New year celebration, Rakhi, Gandhi - Commemoration Day, World Women's Day, Anti drug day, AAWC 8th Anniversary Celebration, Children Party on Children's Day, Indian Republic day, World AIDS day celebration, Women's Day, Independence Day,
- **Meetings**; Special discussion with Chairman of "Children welfare Board of India" regarding child welfare policies of follow ups of Juvenile delinquents, Ngo Directors discussion on issues and special needs faced with HIV + children at rehabilitation homes, Meeting with School's principals to check our girl's progress, Mothers meetings on girls' academics.

Challenges:

Last 9 years have been first-rate refining for us. Along with our achievements, also facing some severe challenges which are as follows:

- Fresher girls are very irregular in attendance or absent or latecomers in the class, which directly affects on their interest in studies. Their mothers doesn't co-operate at all to improve on this. Hence it affects on their long term goals.
- Other NGOs in the vicinity simply duplicate the activities without any proper research and policies planning which affects adversely on other active NGO.
- Progress of NGO suffers due to frequent change of staff.
- Getting professionally qualified and trained staff is still very-very hard. Hence present staff is always loaded with work more than their capacity.

Achievements:

- Older girls have developed a bonding with our organisation. They are consistent in attendance. Hence it shows in their performance.
 - This year also all our girls not only just improved on their grades but also most of them have secured RANKS in their classes.
 - 8 girls got success in getting Scholarship from other Non Government organization on the grounds of their academic performance.
 - In all other standards from 1st to 9th, all the girls passed with remarkable improved results.
 - 2 girls selected for the Apprenticeship program at five star "Four Seasons" Group of Hotels.
-