

To,

24th May '07

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 greatly appreciate your significant cooperation towards our objectives for the underprivileged girls.

Please find enclosed herewith our Annual report from June' 06 up to May' 07 and photographs.
We will send Fund Utilization Statement very soon as it is under auditing.

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 May'06 to 30th April'07.

During the year 2006 to 2007 Total 65 no. of girls had benefited through our various in house activities on educational and vocational support.

- Approximately 35 girls regularly attended Tuitions Classes for school studies support in the evening from 6pm to 7.30pm on all weekdays.
- Tuitions 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.
- 5 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 12 years.
- Tailoring, Embroidery, Art & Craft, Henna (Mehendi), Karate Classes are conducted in the afternoon on alternate Saturdays as girls are free in the afternoon. Cooking Class conducted in the vacations
- 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 channelizing their pent up energy.
- Nutrition is given in the afternoon and evening. Menu is fixed among the girls.
- Professional resource person conducted special sessions on various issues time to time.

- Team Building exercises; we have made teams of girls 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.** Grades are given according to their performance and at the end of year best team would get the Trophy.
- Rakhi Celebration – Film actor Mr. Shahjad Khan was invited as Chief Guest with few other guests for Celebrating brotherhood and progressing humanity. One of our girls compered the entire programme with great poise.
- ‘Celebration of Independence Day of India’ by Singing Competition – In house Singing competition kept on 15th August for Polishing the talent of music and voice with the essence of “patriotism” with spirit of freedom. Savitri Bai Phule group won the competition.
- “Dahi Handi” Celebration: ‘Janmashtami’ festival celebrated by tying and hanging ‘dahi handi’ with a rope. All our girls made pyramid and youngest of them all stood on top of them and broke the ‘handi’. It was a great fun preparing and breaking it too.
- 6 elder girls selected and attended national campaign against “Child Labour” at PVR Nest Theater at Juhu, Mumbai. Many other NGO’s children participated along with prominent film and music personalities.
- ‘Dandiya’ Navratri (Nine nights) Festival Celebration and ‘Awareness of Girls rights’ campaign organized together as a part of CDE Ward NGO Forum. (CDE Ward NGO Forum is a group of NGO’S coming under the C, D and E ward. Its objectives are providing different services with rights based approach for the underprivileged children, coming from different communities).
- ‘Diwali’, ‘Rangoli Competition’ and ‘Ramzan Eid’ Festivals Celebration done together for inculcating the spirit of secularism, unity, togetherness and spreading love to one and all. The theme of the programme was to share and celebrate every festival together with

equal respect. Rangoli Competition organized to acquaint them its association with our culture and rituals. Kiran Bedi team won the Rangoli competition.

- Visit to the Zee TV Channel's famous live show "Sare Ga Ma Pa Little Champs". The intention was to make our girls aware about talents which can take us to different heights, if anybody accordingly polishes it and utilizes it in right approach with full confidence and efforts. (A blind boy came third in final round in all India.)
- Dance performance at 'Martial Arts Annual Function', providing them all possible platforms to exhibit their talents. This programme was organized by the 'Martial Arts Association' whose member teaches Karate to our girls. He invited our girls to Annual Function seeing their confidence in dance performance.
- Dance performance for "Haath Se Haath Mila" a programme by National TV Channel for spreading AIDS Awareness in collaboration with other NGOs and film celebrities.
- Children's Day Celebration on 14th November celebrated with a small significant speech and by distributing notebooks, pen and pencils with a paper rose.
- Visit to "INS VIKRANT", a naval war ship which participated in China War and now Indian Govt. has declared it as National Monument. It was an educational excursion filled with fun and enjoyment as they have not seen any water ships and naval dockyard ever.
- Participated in 'Football Match' organized by Magic Bus organisation and competed against other NGOs on younger and elder group level.
- Participated in "Drawing Competition" organized by Action Aid (Funding agency working for women and girl rights). The topic of Drawing Competition campaign was "Violence against Girl Child". **Our girls won all the prizes i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and even the consolation prize.** This clearly reveals our girl's efforts and dedication to make the best use of the opportunities.
- Participated in the Cultural Program organized by Navjeevan Centre (NGO working for marginalised children) and done a Dance Performance there.

- Picnic cum Boat Party and Christmas Celebration: Christmas tree decoration done with fun followed with a day picnic organized on a boat. The coastal ports, docks and Bombay High were shown during boat ride. Everyone enjoyed Dance, Music, food and games.
- 'Cricket Tournament' organized and participated as a part of CDE Ward NGO Forum with the other NGOs. **Our girls grabbed the Best Team and Best Bowler prize in the Final Match on junior level.** Our girls delivered an excellent performance with just half an hour practice, on the basis of motivation and encouragement on every ball.
- Group counseling and life skills sessions for different age groups girls held thrice a week, on behavioral problems, identifying emotions, expressing them in appropriate ways, conflict resolution, building self-confidence 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'. 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, tolerance and cooperation, motivation and encouragement, time management, positive attitude, acknowledgments of others efforts, physical development, sex and sexuality - its perspective and diseases, personal and environmental cleanliness, health and hygiene, effective communication - effective speaking & effective listening, behavioural problems, responsibility sharing, nagging, leg pulling, how to say no, inculcate positive behavior patterns, develop focused and progressive thinking, imparting knowledge of several aspects, importance of girl child, increase in self confidence and competence in all spheres of life through various activities, games, vocational classes and competitions, Development of Study Skills, HIV\ AIDS- Medium of spreading, Use of condoms – its importance, correct method of using, HIV Testing – its importance, ways of conducting tests, Medicines (A R T), Physical attraction towards opposite sex, Misconducts with Parent, Negative thinking, Inferiority Complex, Effective way of communication, Increasing their Concentration power.
- Question and answer session on movie 'Lage Raho Munnabhai', by Ms. Antoinette (visitor from New York working on the principles of Gandhi) to check the level of

- Talent Evening – In summer vacation an evening dedicated for the girls where they get a platform to present their hidden talents, they planned, organized and managed the whole programme.

Topics Addressed:

Elder Group: Trust Building, Group Coordination, Acknowledging other’s potentials, Love Oneself – accept oneself, polish our strength, work on our weakness, praise and encourage oneself time to time, Increasing Self Confidence, Decreasing stage and social fear - Making them comfortable to face the crowd, Techniques of Drama Presentation, Basics of Music and Singing, Importance of the Present time, Importance of exercises, Importance and Necessity of Expressing oneself – to be able to express our feelings comfortably, Proper ways and means to express our feelings, Review of their daily activities – for building focused thinking and introspection, Behavioral issues, To practice positive way of thinking in their daily life, To maintain hygiene and proper cleanliness of their private parts, Regular Motivation and encouragement, Presentation skills – ways and techniques, Basics of Voice Modulation Planning Skills, Basic Skills of Event Management.

Younger Group: Basic Manners, Acknowledging other’s potentials, Love Oneself – accept oneself, polish our strength, work on our weakness, praise and encourage oneself time to time, Basic Presentation Skills, Developing Team Spirit, Polishing their Language – use of decent and respectful words, To maintain cleanliness of themselves, their house and their surroundings, Importance of exercises, Basics of Drama Presentation and acting, Behavioral issues, Respecting Elders, Channelising their Energy level, developing Positive Attitude, Regular Motivation and Encouragement.

New Sparrows: Introducing them into a new environment, Developing Adjustment level Reducing Social Fear, Inculcating basic ways of Behaviour, Developing Basic mannerisms – they required regular training on this, Self Confidence, Trust Building, Importance of others opinion, Respecting Elders, Team Work – developing “ WE” Feeling, Importance of a well Disciplined Life, Importance of Patience and Tolerance, Importance of Values.

- Boarding Home (residential shelter home) placements of 8 girls arranged. Out of these, one orphan girl is a HIV+. It's an effort to make sure that they are receiving healthy and safe environment away from this highly vulnerable area.

- Health Check – up Camp organized twice (5th Oct '06 and 14th April'07) in a year at the organisation.
- General medicines provided for general ailments at the center all time.
- Medical treatment assistance provided from nearby Government hospitals to all those who needed i.e.; eye checkups, jaundice, typhoid, tuberculosis, tumour, skin allergies and infection, stomach infections, head lice's, worms, etc.
- Small savings system called as 'Apni Bachat' for girls introduced, to educate them to daily save money so that they can utilize these savings when they are in genuine need of it.
- 'Art of Living' Workshop for Staff and Sparrows (daughters of prostitutes) conducted to incorporate the significant outcome of breathing to improve memory, good sleep, digestion and physical benefit in their daily life.
- Sensitization Workshop for staff on topics like women's rights, Govt. Policies for the rights of women and girl child, trafficking, sexual harassments, domestic violence and property rights.
- Training workshop held on Effective way of Communication, Stress management and Relaxation through Yoga by a qualified resource person.
- 6 Days training workshop held for school drop out girls and women on Paper- Bag & envelope Making, Candles, Liquid soap, detergent powder, chalk, perfume spray, Incense sticks (Agarbatti) and Phenyl.
- Girls performed dance at Final Performance of "Dancing Feat Project" by famous Indian Choreographer Mr. Shiamak Davar. The event was at Yogi Sabhagrah, Dadar.
- At Maratha Mandir Cinema Hall, arranged screening of Comedy film "Lage Raho Munnabhai" based on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy. Followed with group counseling session held at organisation on the values of Gandhiji through entertainment reviving the forgotten values and principles of Mahatma Gandhi.

- Over night Camp to Karjat – 25 girls went for 3 days overnight camp to Karjat by another organization. Different life skills sessions conducted there by exploring the world of adventure and natural beauty and teaching skills related to planning, organizing, self-protection and drama.
- Career Guidance Fair arranged with other NGOs of vicinity for adolescent boys and girls.
- 3 Girls were sent for 6 months job skills training programme of Para Professional Course of Social – Work from Nirmala Niketan College, Mumbai. 1 girl sent for advanced training on personality development of 6 months from CAPS, 1 girl sent for advanced Fashion Designing Course of 6 months from NIFT, 1 girl sent for IATA training for 6 months.
- Job assistance provided to 4 girls. After Paraprofessional training of social work, 2 girls placed with 2 other NGOs working with women on different issues. Third one after personality development training is placed in 'Dominos Pizza' to work as Counter Staff. Fourth one is placed at a small scale industry to work as pottery painter.
2 year back we got 1 of our girl married. She delivered a baby boy in May '06. She always comes to our center now with her baby.
- Four of our girls got married to suitable descent boys. Out of these two of them are daughters of a Devadas - the Falkland road Red light area is compose of a majority of girls supplied through the traditional trafficking route of temple based prostitution found rampant in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh such as the Devadasi and Venkatsani systems where one daughter (mostly the eldest) from each family is offered to goddess. This daughter cannot marry in her life, and has to stay in temple to serve priest and others. Getting them married is supposed to be a big curse as bad luck to the family and society.

Our organization is the first organisation, who has referred and approached with such type (Devadasi's daughters) of case to 'District Women and Child welfare Board of Maharashtra Government' to extend financial benefits of certain schemes to these girls under state govt. policies. As per official say it is first time ever come in light of Maharashtra Government records when a Devadasi daughter is getting married. All the required documents are furnished to the said department by us and after 8 months regular follow up; very soon they will disburse money to the elder daughter. Due to lack of required document (Ration card), they will not be able to provide with similar facility to younger daughter.

Workshops & Training (attended / organized - staff / girls / women);

- Team- building Workshop, special Art & Craft Workshop, 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, Dance Therapy, Nail Art Session, Patent bill of ART drugs, Tomorrows Youth Today, Sensitization Workshop - Violence Against women & girl child, Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act - amendments, effective methods of HIV /AIDS Counselling, Gender Issues in Primary Education, 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, Draft Legislation on HIV / AIDS - Proposed amendments, Indian cooking, paper craft and tie & dye training workshop at Sophia College, drum therapy,

Competitions (In house);

- Hand writing, Karate Competition, Mehendi Competition, Craft Competition, tailoring, Essay writing, subject- chart making, Rangoli, Sports day, theme drawing,

Celebrations;

- Indian New year (Till-Gud) celebration, Gandhi - Commemoration Day, World Women's Day, Anti drug day, AAWC 7th Anniversary Celebration, Children Party on Children's Day, World AIDS day celebration, Women's Day, Independence Day, Birth day celebration of all sparrows on last day of exams,

Health;

- Eye Check up Camp, Session on Health by Doctors on skin, ears, nose, throat and dental.

Picnics and educational outings;

- Fun – Fair for women, Girls Overnight Educational Camp, “Laadli” Media awards function on Gender sensitivity, Walt Disney party.

Meetings;

- Cross site visit to other NGOS for follow up, Meeting with Municipal School's principals to check our girl's progress, Mothers meetings on girls' academics.

CHALLENGES:

Last 8 years have been good educating experience for us. Not only we have been thriving in many achievements but still facing some serious challenges which are as follows:

- Girls coming to center from earlier have developed a bonding with our organisation. They are consistent in attendance. Hence it shows in their performance but many fresher girls are irregular in attendance or absent or latecomers in the class, which directly affects on their interest in studies and other activities.
- Influential Community people are always posing extreme challenges for working with young girls against prostitution.
- Getting professionally qualified and trained staff to work for this community is very-very difficult as they have strong apprehension because of stigma attached.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- This year is the first time in organisation record, when all our girls not only just improved on their grades but also **most of them have secured RANKS in their classes. 1 girl has stood 1st in the whole school.**
 - 11 girls got success in getting Scholarship from other Non Government organization on the grounds of their academic performance.
 - In other standards from 1st to 9th, all the girls passed with remarkable improved results.
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