

NEWSLETTER



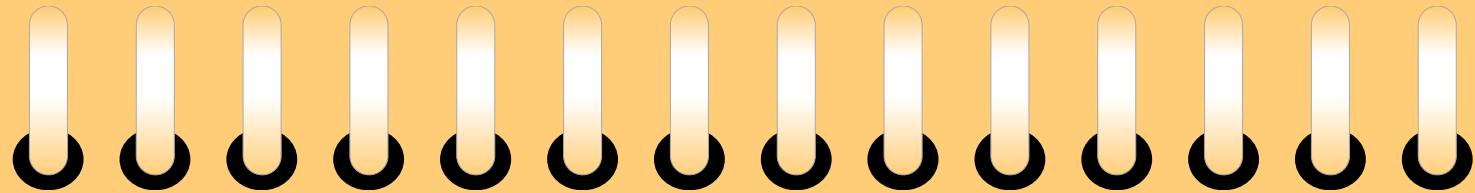
Indian Association for Promotion of
Adoption and Child Welfare (IAPA)

April 2024 - September 2024

AGLIMPSE OF IAPA'S ONGOING ACTIVITIES

In our current Newsletter we bring different happenings, news, and views

- Highlighting few concerns, worries and trepidations faced by the beneficiaries, with a focus on coping mechanisms put into practice;
- Followed with a brief on the Career guidance session
- One of our sponsor's thoughts on the students' felicitation function
- What's happening at Asmita project
- Annual renewal of cases under the Bal Sangopan Yojana
- The forthcoming life skills sessions for the students and their parents and other information.



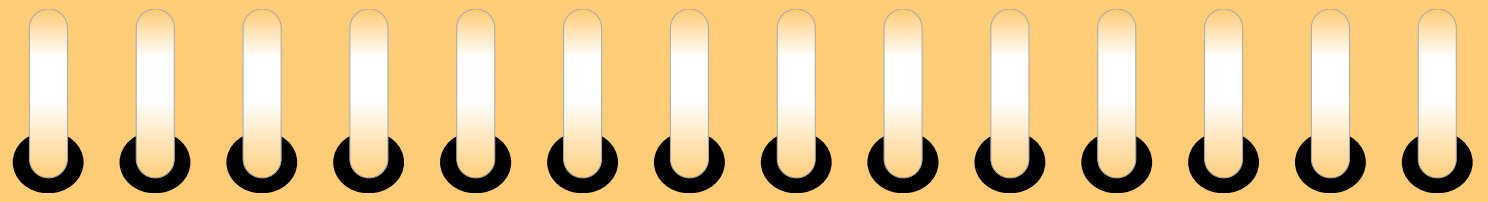
Effect on girl child education -

Talking about the worries of parents, one such is in context of the recent sexual abuse which has shaken the country. As a result of the incidents of children/women sexual abuse in different parts of the country, there is an environment of panic and fear even in villages as regards the safety of the girls. The parents are reluctant to send their daughters for additional classes after school. At our rural programme, our social worker and field assistants personally visited and assured the parents of accompanying the girls to the classes and back to the village. Only then did the parents showed their readiness to send their daughters for the classes. The need for these classes is pressing as most students lack the basics in studies.

This environment is having an adverse effect on education of the girl child. Parents have expressed thoughts such as, “even educated girls like doctors are not safe”, “if the school is not safe place for girls, then how and what can happen”.

The facilitator used every opportunity to talk to parents and the girls trying to instil hope and courage. While addressing high school students in different schools, she insisted that boys too attend the sessions. Her stand - sensitizing boys to gender issues is equally important as talking with girls about self-care, self-defence and alertness.





When challenges are aplenty -

Akash, studying 12th Science stream has seen and experienced far too many challenges since early childhood. His mother affected with a chronic psychiatric issue is on long term treatment started around 12 years back. She is on continuous medications. Due to her condition, she becomes verbally abusive and not in a position to look after or contribute towards the household chores. She frequently visited the police station to lodge complaints against her husband and her mother-in-law. Akash's father comes across as a sensible person, handling his wife's psychiatric issues and running the household simultaneously. Akash's father is doing his best to work in his farm and takes care of all other responsibilities. Akash's grandmother is old and carries on the household chores with difficulty.

Akash's father was able to sense the impact of the happenings on Akash, and approached the social worker for guidance. One such impact was a decline in Akash's food intake. Social worker talked to Akash about eating food such as eggs, bananas and other healthy ready to eat options. She gave him an example of his own classmate, who in the absence of her mother has learned to manage the house with her father. Akash was guided to develop a timetable for himself. Social worker is keen on continued encouragement and support to Akash.

Namrata's achievement

Namrata is a studious, career oriented young person. While studying for Bachelors in Commerce, she successfully also completed a Diploma in Hospitality, Travel Management and Customer Service (HTCS) from a private academy.

Namrata's mother, a domestic worker takes care of her 5 daughters singlehandedly. Namrata lost her father to cardiac arrest at a young age. Namrata's elder sister's job as a computer operator in private office contributes to the family income. Her three younger sisters are studying. The financial aid provided to Namrata towards the course fees enabled her to complete the diploma. Alongside her graduation studies, Namrata has started working. Post her successful completion of the diploma, the academy has selected her as Passenger Service Executive and she is undergoing in house training currently. Namrata is keen on completing the training successfully which will help her earn steady income. This will certainly go towards reducing the family's financial stress.

Exploring career paths -

Career guidance is a crucial need for students in today's times with multiple professional and vocational options available. Two Career Guidance sessions were conducted for students of Std. 10th and 12th in April and June 2024 respectively. Social workers noticed that the students generally opt for streams without appropriate thought. As they start attending classes, they find it difficult to cope and tend to drop out of the education system. There are times when they complete graduation out of compulsion, but face the challenge of getting a suitable job. The sessions helped students understand the different streams they could opt for considering their interest and strengths. Where required the counsellor provided one to one guidance. Students gave positive feedback about the sessions stating that their doubts got clarified.



Felicitation of students -

Generally, 10th and 12th standard results are declared in the months of June. Soon thereafter graduation and post-graduation results also are announced. This calls for appreciating the students' achievements. This year we felicitated 23 students on 27th July. In addition to a cash prize, the students received books, pen, and steel bottles



Asmita Project -

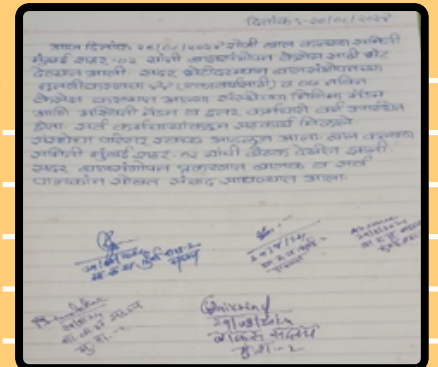
Asmita project focussing on developing basic learning skills of students studying in the Mumbai Public School West Khetwadi Marathi now has a teacher to teach Maths in addition to a teacher for all subjects and Physical training. Students who generally have a fear of the subject and often run away from it, are seen to concentrate on the subject and learn with interest. These sessions are conducted for students from stds. 4th to 8th.



Our funding for Asmita project is depleting. We are looking for donors who would be able to support IAPA's mission of firm foundation of education for students from the school.

Bal Sangopan Yojana (BSY) -

Bal Sangopan Yojana (BSY) - Annual renewal and sanction of cases is mandatory under the Government of Maharashtra's Bal Sangopan Yojana. IAPA has been processing the allocated number of 85 cases since 1995 under the Bal Sangopan Yojana. The annual renewal and sanction this year took place on 29th August, attended by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Chairperson and 4 members. It was a satisfying moment when all the cases were renewed and sanctioned. Adding to this was the positive feedback received from the CWC members.



Reaching out to the community -

Reaching out to the community - once again, this year, IAPA approached Ganapati mandals to display posters listing IAPA's services in Hindi and Marathi. It is hoped that people who had queued for Ganapati darshan read through the same and would avail of our services where required. A thank you to the respective Ganesh Mandals.

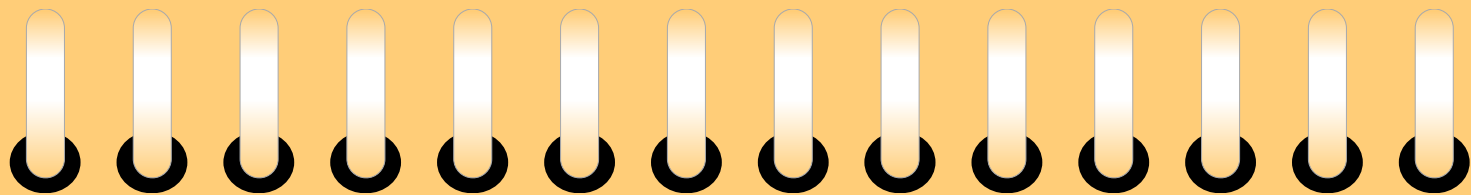


Adoption Awareness Week -



We are completing 30 years of initiating the Adoption Awareness week coinciding with Children's Day (14th November). Over the years we have conducted numerous adoption promotional programmes and activities. We designed a logo for the same signifying happiness and brightness in the child's life via adoption!

Our plans for celebrating the AAW – 2024 are taking shape. Do call us to know more.



Networking - Our efforts at networking with well-wishers continued. We received donation of computers from Parveen Industries and Datamatics for our computer classes and for students supported under our different programmes. One of our donors expressed his wish to donate computers for school students. We arranged for the same at the Mumbai Public School West Khetwadi Marathi where IAPA office is located.

Pragati - our tailoring classes received good quality cloth pieces and a new tailoring machine from Sanjeevani Trust and Foundation for Humanist Society respectively. Our tailoring teacher is looking forward to using these to stitch lovely products along with her students. We appeal to our readers to promote these products among your friends. The same are available against a donation which is used to cover the expenses incurred in running the tailoring classes.

Workshop on Foster Care with Child Protection Functionaries and Stakeholders— Amongst the different presentations, IAPA representative was invited as a panel member to talk on the current practices and future possibilities of foster care. The participants took keen interest in knowing about the pre-adoption foster care model used by IAPA. They were informed about the current regulations under the Vatsalya scheme, which have resulted in stopping the pre-adoption foster care. The participants were told about the Alternative family care programme IAPA operates. The need for re-looking at the family foster care programme was felt strongly.

Capacity building for Team IAPA –

After an effective session on stress management by Ms. Lamika Karunakaran, soft skills and language trainer, team IAPA was keen on learning the nuances of anger management. The team learnt the basics of acknowledging one's anger and managing it in a healthy manner through various interactive activities on Saturday, 28th September. The team has expressed more such sessions in the forthcoming months.



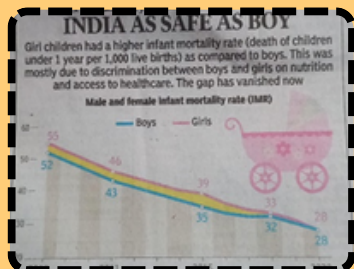
Upcoming activities -

Starting October 2024, IAPA will be conducting Life skill sessions for parents of school going children (4th to 9th std.) supported under Educational Sponsorship and Alternative Family Care Programmes. The programme aims to enable the parents appreciate the need for the holistic progress of their children and facilitate appropriate parenting skills to support the development of their children. Sessions for children too will be conducted subsequently.



In order to ensure the successful implementation of the sessions, comprehensive training was provided to the social workers of IAPA in August. The training focused on equipping social workers with the necessary knowledge, teaching methods and resources to effectively deliver life skills education for both children and their parents. The sessions will be engaging and interactive and topics as well as resources will be designed to cater to different learning styles and grade levels.

A ray of hope for the girl child



Our different projects -

Unnati, Arshita, Tej, Nandan, Pragati, Sarthak, Samruddhi, Siddhi, Sayali are the names of some of IAPA's Programmes, services, activities.

Please call us on 8879535196 / 8369289856 to know more about these.

A fundraising event is a dire need.

We seek ideas and support from all of you to organise a grand and successful fund raiser!



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The Public Trust Act of 1950. Registration No. -F-2230 | Guidestar India No. 528

Donations to IAPA are available for deduction under Sec 80G of the Income Tax Act.