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

NEWSLETTER

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Readers,

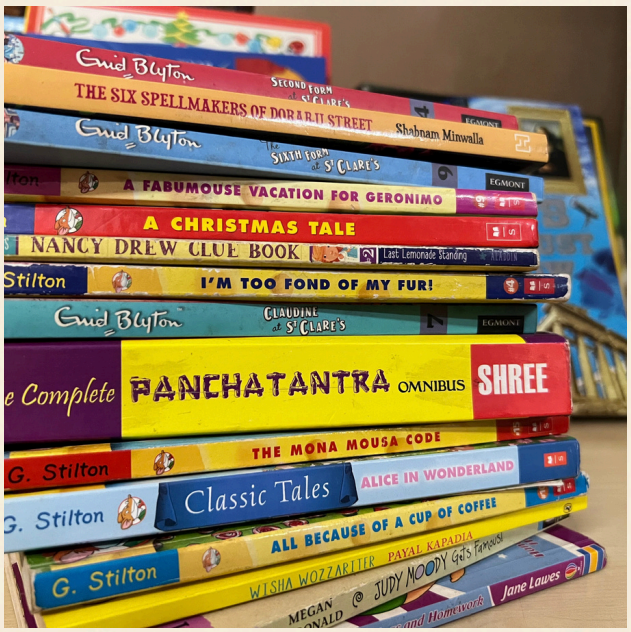
Along with some news from our projects and our services, we are happy to publish our young volunteer's experience with IAPA in this Newsletter. Hope you all continue to enjoy reading these valuable pieces of information.



INCULCATING THE READING HABIT

A book reading initiative started for high school girls of the Educational Sponsorship program, supported by the Chance of Life (CoL) in Dapoli, Maharashtra. Students across five schools received curated sets of books, ranging from inspiring biographies and suspense stories to books focused on science and nature. To promote leadership, the initiative is student-led, with a designated student in each group taking charge of book circulation. This activity is designed to help students strengthen foundational reading and writing skills while expanding their horizons through new ideas, perspectives, and experiences.





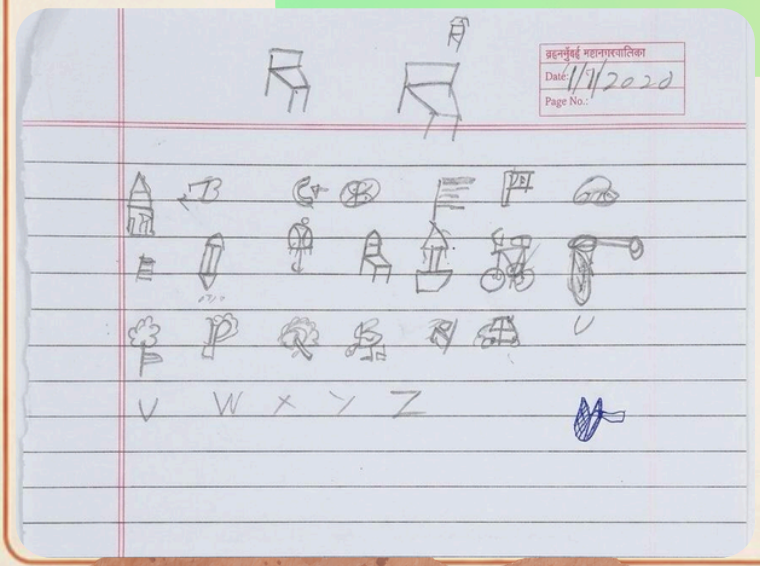
LEARNING ENGLISH THE PHONETICS WAY

Another interesting and innovative learning method for English and Phonetics was initiated for Class 8 students at Terewayangani. The learners have engaged enthusiastically with these cards, assisting significantly improve their textbook reading comprehension and fluency. In addition to phonetics, students actively created educational wall charts mapping key grammar concepts, including figures of speech, prepositions of time and place, and verb conjugations (simple, past, and past participle). Displaying these student-made charts on the classroom walls has successfully transformed the room into a joyful learning environment, making the study of grammar effective.

LEARNING ALPHABETS THE FUN WAY

A young 4th-standard student recently walked into our office and excitedly said, "Today we learned A for house, B for spectacles."
My mind instantly drifted back to my own school days, remembering the classic "A for Apple, B for Ball."
However, she quickly ran to the next room, grabbed her paper, and showed us what she meant. A single notebook page highlighted the clever visual transformations: the letter 'A' became the roof of a home; 'B' turned into spectacles, 'E' provided the rungs of a ladder, and 'M' morphed into a bicycle.

Instead of repeating standard phonetic drills, the students looked past the rigid lines of the script and used letters as building blocks for an illustrated world. It was a unique teaching and learning method. Through this single activity, she not only practiced her alphabet and learned new English words but also developed her fine motor skills through drawing. Best of all, the entire experience filled her with an undeniable sense of achievement, leaving her absolutely lively, alert, and enthusiastic.





FELICITATION

On 26th September 2026, we hosted a Felicitation Program bringing together sponsored students, parents, and community members to celebrate academic achievements and inspire future success.

The afternoon commenced with lively ice-breaking activities led by field-work students from the Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work. A key highlight of the event was an interactive Financial Literacy Session conducted by Mr. Anil Zore, founder of Dnyanmandir Highschool, Ghatkopar. Through real-world examples, he guided the youngsters on managing money, distinguishing between 'needs' and 'wants,' understanding assets and liabilities, and planning for a secure future.

The cornerstone of the day was the Felicitation Ceremony, anchored by Ms Disha Tandon, our keen and enthusiastic volunteer. The traditional lamp-lighting by the guests and a soulful rendition of Saraswati Vandana by two students flagged off the Felicitation event.





The Chief Guest, Mrs. Ujjwala Pawar, President, Saraswati Devi Vidya Vikas Trust, presented prizes to board examination high achievers. In her address, Mrs. Pawar urged students to respect the value of time, set clear life goals, and build strong personal values alongside academic excellence. During an emotional experience-sharing segment, parents and students expressed deep gratitude for IAPA's educational sponsorship, showcasing the life-changing impact of the support they received. The memorable event concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Muskan Gupta and the distribution of special tokens of appreciation to every student, leaving all participants motivated, empowered, and future ready.





VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE

Our Lemons, Their Battles: Finding Purpose at IAPA

DISHA TANDON

At the end of December 2025, I found myself escaping a toxic corporate job and needing time to heal. Wanting to remain useful rather than stagnant, I began volunteering at the Indian Association of Promotion of Adoption and Child Welfare (IAPA) on June 2026. I entered with apprehension, carrying the invisible weight of my past work experience. Instead of guarded environments, I found soft-spoken social workers who allowed me to settle and participate.

My work at the office spans five days a week, from supporting education and home visits to psychologist sessions, play-therapy, and workshops. Through this journey, some core experiences transformed my understanding of life, resilience, and purpose.

- Teaching Marathi and Discovering the Secret Lives of Children

I never considered myself fond of children, and the idea of teaching terrified me. Yet, starting with basic swar and vyanjan using a colour-coded drawing-based method I learned patience. Initially, I took their struggles personally, tying my self-worth to their retention abilities. As I let go of that pressure, bonds forged in fire began blossoming. My Marathi sessions started filling with jokes, teasing, and hugs from students who became my favorites.

Beyond the classroom, they shared glimpses of their hidden realities that included growing amidst domestic abuse, instability, and a "dada/bhai" protective persona to protect themselves. Despite carrying invisible burdens far beyond their years, their potential, curiosity, and talent reminded me of the true resilience of childhood.

- Witnessing Suffering and Resilience Through Home Visits

Accompanying social workers on home visits to families seeking sponsorship shifted my perspective on suffering. Meeting a family that lived in a cramped space and had previously slept on a footpath left me devastated and perturbed. Another visit introduced me to a household where a 5 month old child was battling neurological problems and his family were dealing with mounting expenses, and daily survival. Seeing people who do not have the luxury of giving up taught me a profound lesson about suffering. When someone else's immediate concern is paying the next hospital bill or school fee, your own struggles take on a different context. It didn't make my pain imaginary, but it taught me how to stop circling around unnecessary mental spirals and understand true privilege.

- Moving from Complaining to Individual Action

It is easy to point fingers at administrative departments and systemic failures. But my time at IAPA, navigating the unglamorous reality of social work involving paperwork, documentation, follow-ups, and endless travel, taught me the dignity of consistency.

I stopped pointing fingers at others and started asking what I could do at an individual level. The answer was simple: Teach children subjects in which they are weak, support students beyond academic coursework, at times listening to them or their problems might help them get through obstacles, assist with documentation and home visits and simply be present to keep them motivated.

- An Unexpected Education

I came to IAPA thinking I was there to give. Instead, I received an education I had not enrolled for: learning patience through teaching, humility through home visits, and strength from families who continue despite circumstances that could easily break them. Sometimes, you have to step outside your own small corner of the world, zoom out, and look at what others are carrying. Your own lemons may still be sour, but they no longer look quite enormous. Once you see people survive at ground level, you are left with perspective, a determination to see these children rise, and the realization that there is always something, however small, that one person can support someone else carrying their burden for a little while.





Our Gratitude

Always grateful to all our donors, supporters, and well-wishers. The need for funds is ever increasing. Please contact us with more donors and supporters.

Our QR code for quick donation transfers by Indian passport holders -



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

Please drop us a line (stating your PAN and Address) on info@iapacw.org once you donate. Thank you

7, Kanara House, Mogul Lane, Matunga (West), Mumbai-400016
+918879535196 | 8369289856
info@iapacw.org | www.iapacw.org

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