



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

NEWSLETTER



Dear Readers,

We are happy to get back in touch with you !! We share in this issue several encouraging developments during the period April to September 2018.

Our students have again cleared their crucial Board exams with flying colours, with their grit and determination, overcoming all challenges along the way. We share their happy tidings here !!

A first hand account from our sponsored girl who has re-connected with us as a student social worker, validates our work with sponsored students.

Some snippets of other events that took place, give us a view of various capacity building measures taken by us for our beneficiaries.

An article on foster motherhood printed in Loksatta brought about a widespread awareness on fostering, through the heartfelt narration of foster mothers' experiences in caring for orphans.

Some more encouraging news about the growing awareness on adoption, being spread amongst the wider public.

Finally, a heartwarming poem penned by a student, showcasing her understanding and sensitivity to the subject of adoption, in the short period spent with us.

Please feel free to give your feedback on iapacw1970@gmail.com with Newsletter as subject line.

Thank You
Team IAPA





CONGRATULATIONS and CELEBRATIONS

As our students cross yet another milestone in their lives !!

Team IAPA is happiest when the students they work with, achieve their goals. Many did that, with flying colours !! *Out of the 69 students who appeared for SSC during academic year 2017-18, 39% secured Distinction and First Class, which is no mean achievement. Out of 55 candidates for HSC, 35% passed with Distinction and First class.* All these students and their families have bravely faced several challenges along the way, and persisted. The fact that all the toppers for SSC and most of the toppers for HSC are girls, is reflective of the strides taken by girls and shows that given the same opportunity as boys, girls can perform as well or much more !!

We were very happy to have 20 students appear for their final year graduation exams in the last academic year, to aspire for degrees in Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS), Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Finance (BAF), besides the conventional ones like Bachelor of Science, Commerce and Arts. *It is most heartening to have 52% of these students graduate with Distinction or First Class. They haven't stopped there and 50% of them are now pursuing post graduation studies, while most of the remaining students have secured good jobs.* We are thankful to the invaluable support of our group and individual sponsors, as also our social workers, who helped these students to succeed in their pursuit of higher education.

Our SSC Toppers

Smita Channe	91%
Khushi Naik	89%
Pooja Suryavanshi	88%
Priyanka Sakpal	86%
Sonali Shinde	86%
Noorsaba Shaikh	83%
Iram Qureshi	83%
Samiksha Mandavkar	82%

Our HSC Toppers

Mamta Jadhav	91%
Aayushi Chauhan	84%
Preeti Mohite	81%
Ankita Gholap	72%
Vanita Kumbhar	71%
Madhuri Shilwan	71%
Sahil Tanel	70%
Pranita Bhovad	70%

Our Graduate Toppers

Kamal More	78%	BAF
Aarti Kamble	75%	BCom
Vrishali Satope	75%	BCom
Sana Shaikh	72%	BA
Hiren Patil	67%	BCom
Namrata Dhumal	65%	BSc
Sanjog Morvekar	62%	BCom
Mamta Jagdale	62%	BA
Sonal Salunke	62%	BCom



YOU HAVE DONE US PROUD !!



Komal graduated with 78% marks in TY BAF (Third Year Bachelor in Accounting Finance) which is a major achievement for this bright and determined girl, whose parents could barely support her and her brother's educational expenses. Sponsorship support, motivation and counseling helped Komal to tap her potential and shine in her chosen stream. She has now taken admission for Post graduation in Applied Finance and Accounts with GST from NIIT.

Aarti, from a migrant family background has come a long way in her journey, keeping her sight firmly on her goal. Counseling and various supports at crucial junctures, have been of utmost help in fulfilling her ambition. Overcoming the hurdles of language, family tragedy and lack of resources, this smiling and courageous girl cleared her Std. X & XII with above 80% results. She has now secured 75% in her TY B Com exams.

Mamta, a persevering and hardworking girl, has passed HSC with flying colours, scoring 91% marks. Now in First year B.Com, she has simultaneously cleared her Common Proficiency Test (CPT) of Chartered Accountancy and is preparing for second level i.e Integrated Professional competency course (IPCC). Her performance in academics has been consistent despite difficult circumstances at the home front, with both parents struggling to make ends meet but working hard to educate Mamta.



Akash Kamble, an artist, is another student who has done us proud. His family's poor financial condition was the main obstacle in his inability to pursue his talent. IAPA's regular guidance motivated him to hone his talent and start earning income by assisting the sculptors in his area to prepare religious idols. These earnings were effectively used towards his course fees in the prestigious J.J. School of Art. Now in the last year of the course, Akash is getting a lot of offers for sculpting and is extremely happy to have realized his dreams. **Obtaining a gold medal and certificate for his sculpture in a state level competition has added a further feather to his cap !!**





MY JOURNEY WITH IAPA : A Testimony

As Narrated by Prajakta Gambhar

I share a deep connection with IAPA with whom I first came in contact as a sponsored girl, and after nearly a decade, got re-connected with them. Today I am doing my Masters in Social Work (MSW) from SNDT university and destiny brought me back to IAPA's doorsteps, for the practical fieldwork involved in the curriculum. My story goes back to the time when my mother passed away and I was sent to live with my maternal grandparents and my uncle. Faced with a problem of changing my school mid-term, my uncle sent me to a municipal school. Though eager to support my education, my uncle found it quite tough to do so, being the only bread earner. My school teacher Mrs. Patange who heard my story, helped me connect with IAPA as she believed that financial issues shouldn't come in the way of seeking education. Sponsorship through IAPA helped to cover the cost of my stationary material and tuition fees; later the much needed coaching class fees for X & XII Board exams. Support from IAPA changed my life, helped me enhance my personality, become confident and improve my linguistic skills.

Most of all IAPA helped me to dream big and seek higher education. This made me realize that if one has the will to seek education, help arrives in any form to set one on the right path. I kept looking for similar scholarships in college and with the help of aided courses, I completed my education. Inspired by the way educational sponsorship changed my life, I decided to become a social worker and brighten the lives of other students like me.

I am deeply indebted to IAPA for their support in helping me as well as countless number of children like me to unleash our true potential, without letting financial barriers come in the way of our pursuits.



Career Guidance Workshop:

Std. X and XII are decisive years, when students choose their education stream and opt for additional courses related to future career; often without understanding the factors involved or their own aptitude for the same. Hence it is necessary to make them aware of the availability of different courses and various career options, alongwith a better understanding of the needs of the job market.



One such Career Guidance Workshop was conducted on 20th April 2018, for 72 enthusiastic students of Stds. X, XI and XII, by Career Counsellor Ms. Vandana Nagargoje. Simple tips to choose their streams and guidance about governmental and short term courses at economical rates, was imparted. Unconventional options like rangoli designing, window dressing, tattoo making and the like; as well as other

job options like linguist, librarian, yoga or drawing teacher, were shared. Tips for appearing for Competitive exams and chance for clarifying their queries, made this interactive session quite fruitful for the students.



Session on "Goal Setting and Crisis Management" :

This session organized at Matunga office on 4th Sept.2018 for some sponsored students, was an enjoyable and capacity building activity for the group. Conducted by TISS student social workers, screening of the movie "Piper" facilitated a discussion on how to tackle crisis situations that act as a hindrance to one's goals. Reflection and review at the session helped to clarify the participant's understanding of the matter.



AN HEARTFELT EXPRESSION OF MOTHERHOOD



Madhuri Tamhane shared the emotional experiences of foster mothers who look after our pre-adoptive infants, in one of the largest circulating Marathi newspaper Loksatta, dated 01.09.2018. We share some salient matters from the well written article which has received excellent response from well-wishers:

To love orphans like one of their own, to nurture them in the best possible way and later wave them goodbye after they find a permanent family, is the life of a foster mother - akin to Yashoda, the adoptive mother of Lord Krishna-the best example for motherhood and sacrifice. IAPA has been fostering children with care and love in a temporary foster family setting in which a child is placed until he/she is adopted.

How does motherhood blossom? As per **Akshaya Redkar**, a foster mother, "When children are handed over to us by the social workers, the child wraps it's arms around us and places it's head on our shoulders with so much trust. That is the moment when we get a status equivalent to that of their parents. We forget for a while that foster care is our profession and we end up giving care and affection to the child from the bottom of our hearts." The children that are turned in are usually weak and malnourished. So the foster mothers give them extra attention and care to restore their health to get easily adopted in good families.

Another foster mother **Sulabha Surve**, the eldest of nine siblings, says that care giving became a part of her self, right from the beginning. Despite knowing the risks attached to her job, she willingly chose to fulfill her duties. The first child given to her had her skin completely damaged and peeled off. She was so weak that even excretion was a difficult task for her. The child had to be wrapped in a soft cloth and placed on her lap all night long to make her comfortable and cozy. Sulabha continued to do this for the next 3 months till the child's health became much better.

Mrs. Hansa Apparao-Vice President, IAPA shared "It is important that the foster mother has children of her own. Raising one's own child gives a better understanding of children's needs. These mothers need to have a clean home environment. Medical facilities need to be easily accessible and they need to have their secondary education completed. Ability for warmth, understanding and physical agility are qualities we look for in foster mothers."

Sabarmati Barua, another foster mother, expressed, "These children bring positive vibes along with them as they enter the house. We forget our pain while we nurture them and see them giggle playfully in our house. The institution has an annual event where all the adoptive families gather along with their children and these foster mothers get to meet them. The children hardly recognise them but the foster mothers easily recognise every child."Contd.

Contd..... The process of foster care ends when the child has to be handed over to its new adoptive parents. The child is dressed up in new clothes and the house is decorated with lights and all the relatives and neighbours gather to bid farewell to the child and wish it all the happiness of the world. It is at this stage that the temporary motherhood status attached to the foster mothers drops off - that is the moment when she hands over the child to the new parents and becomes an actual mother with her act of sacrifice. These are the women who justify the statement, to love someone enough is to let them go.

We thank all our foster mothers who have worked with us in the past and are working currently with us.



Mrs. Chandrama Bijoor, a resident of Matunga's Kanara Brotherhood Society, went through the experience of motherhood and surrendering one of her children to a close relative. Having written a short novel with Adoption as the central idea, she invited IAPA representative to launch the novel on 27th May 2018. "**Ek Vegali Vaat** " tells the story of an adopted daughter and how she completed the circle by herself adopting an older child. IAPA's Adoption in-charge



Mrs. Savita Nagpurkar, as the Chief Guest, threw light on the current process of adoption, issues related to parenthood, older child adoption and the like. Mrs.Bijoor's spontaneous donation of sale proceeds of her book during the event, added further flavor to the programme, which was very well received in the Society.





SAPLINGS

A Poem On Adoption

How difficult is it to give up a child

It's like growing a plant in your garden; there's this one particular flower that you love. You nurture it, you care for it, you provide it everything for 9 months. But for what ? Only to be plucked and given away to someone else.

And how difficult is it to adopt a child

It's like dreaming for years and years together of growing your own garden, but having to settle for pots with plants that are sown by other people. Don't get me wrong. You see, Fairy lights and sunsets aren't all that same and yet they're beautiful.

Growing your own garden and simply getting home pots aren't all that same and yet, they're both beautiful.

And so,

Let us not forget that there are still little saplings out there, growing in a garden full of other saplings; unattended at most times and not given enough care.

Let's nurture those saplings first.

Let's not let those saplings lose their individuality,

Let's give those saplings the love they deserve, every single one of them,

You never know how beautiful they can turn out to be

And most importantly

Let's not let those saplings die!!



by Shefali Soni
Student-YES Foundation

CROWD FUNDING CAMPAIGN

Another successful crowd funding campaign on Ketto portal, titled “**Help our infant in her fight for a healthy life**” for a three month old infant under our pre-adoptive care, yielded a good response from several well-wishers.



Contact us –



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