



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

### NEWSLETTER



Dear Readers,

A very Happy Diwali to all of you !! This is the time to exchange happy tidings and it gives us great pleasure to share some of our gratifying experiences, from April '19 onwards:

You will be amazed to know about the achievement of some of our students at the Board exams. Despite the many hurdles stacked against them and their marginalized families, they moved ahead with resilience, discipline and self-motivation, that deserves accolades !!

It will touch your hearts to read what happens when an infant is placed with the adoptive family and the family starts the journey of becoming forever parents to the child. We share two such personal experiences here.

Our efforts to empower girls covered under our Rural Project, continued with vigour. You will enjoy viewing glimpses of the same.

Capacity building of our foster mothers is another activity which we are happy to share with you in this issue.

Snippets of other events are also included herein, for your interest and information. We would be really happy to receive your feedback on "iapacw1970@gmail.com" with Newsletter as subject line.



**MAY THIS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS ILLUMINE THE LIVES OF ONE AND ALL !!**

Thank You  
Team IAPA



## TO OUR WINNERS GALORE !!

Once again it's a time to rejoice for many of our enthusiastic students who achieved their aspirations !! Crossing the milestones of Board and University exams with flying colours is a challenging task for most students, and more so for our students and their families who face various challenges in their day to day lives. However they have been able to surmount them valiantly, with backing given by their sponsors, other supporters and our services. Their impressive results speak volumes about their accomplishments. This is particularly true of girl students who have excelled once again and will be an inspiration for others to follow !!



Preeti graduated with 80 % in BBI (Bachelors in Banking and Insurance), a specialized course, which is no mean attainment. In spite of difficult family circumstances, Preeti has come so far with sheer grit and effort. Aspiring for higher studies through distance education in the future, she is currently focussed on making her mark in her new job.

### GRADUATE TOPPERS

Neha Katdare	(B.Com)	92.00 %
Saniya Ansari	(B.Com)	88.80 %
Preeti Maddi	(B.B.I.)	80.00 %
Apurva Gangurde	(B.Com)	79.20 %
Sonali Nirmal	(B.Com)	72.00 %
Reshma Kadam	(B.Com)	78.30 %
Pramod Rode	(B.Com)	76.50 %



Apurva graduated in Commerce with 79.20 % which is really commendable. An orphan, raised by her grandparents, it is her hard work and determination to educate herself that has contributed to her success. Having secured a good job in the purchase department of a metal industry, she is now earning a decent income.



Pramod graduated in BAF (Bachelors in Accounts and Finance), scoring 76.50 % in this specialized course. He had acquired his own vision early, studying in the BMC School that spurred him on to complete his graduation. His parents being unable to help with his education beyond enrolling him in school, it was Pramod's self-motivation that brought him this far. He is currently seeking a suitable job, before contemplating further studies.



Reshma completed graduation in Commerce with 78.30% from Bhavan's college. With a corner under the building stair-case for a home and parents struggling to make ends meet; she had several obstacles to overcome. Working as a teacher in an NGO even while she continued her studies, Reshma is now working in a Chartered Accountant's firm. Maintaining her focus on academics, this persevering girl is now pursuing Masters in Commerce.

## TOPPERS IN



Nikita secured 86% in HSC exams. Her achievements not being restricted to academics, she showcases her multiple talents through participation in various extracurricular activities and sports. Now studying in F.Y.B.Com in Ruparel College, she is keen to pursue higher education in the future.



### HSC

Nikita Khanvilkar	86.00 %
Siddhi Sakpal	82.77 %
Rohan Ghanekar	82.15 %
Sanket Kolambe	81.53 %
Ariba Ansari	75.00 %
Sakshi Shapurkar	74.62 %

### AND

### SSC

Sayli Pawar	85.40 %
Saloni Pande	82.80 %
Sneha Pande	79.60 %
Aditi Durge	79.60 %
Isha Temkar	79.40 %
Pranay Tambat	78.60 %



Sakshi is another achiever who secured 74.62% in HSC, from Elphinstone College. With a firm resolve to move ahead despite socio-economic difficulties, Sakshi has continued her efforts in the right direction.



Sarvesh, a Std. XII student of Kirti College, stood 2<sup>nd</sup> in an Elocution Competition, speaking on the topic "Farmers' Suicides". After participating in II level inter-college competition, he was chosen for District Level Competition by the Rajiv Gandhi Krida Sankul. Candidates from 5 Wards participated, from which Sarvesh stood 3<sup>rd</sup> in rank. Out of the 2,50,000 students who participated on All-India basis, 2315 were selected. Sarvesh represented Mumbai Region and his performance was telecast on D.D. Sahyadri Channel. His felicitation by the Government of Maharashtra - District Sports Officer with a cash prize and a Trophy has added another feather in his cap !!



## 'Four Pairs Of Wet Eyes-Munni's Onward Journey'

### On Human Bonds



Children without parents are permanently rehabilitated through adoption. Until this takes place, infants are provided care in Foster Families working with IAPA, who look after them with individual attention and nurturing care. This is often a challenging task because many of these infants are adversely affected by the difficulties attached to the circumstances of their birth. Some infants may need feeding and comforting at intervals through the night; also medical visits need to be made for various requirements related to their health. The devotion of the foster families is seen time and again and they get the rewards of their labour in the form of infants who have regained health to be fit for adoption. Inevitably a strong bond develops and the pangs of separation are experienced by all in the foster family when the child leaves for the adoptive home. Because of the special circumstances, the case story on the right is a dramatic illustration of the complex emotions aroused at the time of separation between the infant and the foster family.

Perched on the lap of her foster parent, little Munni (name changed) was a picture of happiness, cooing and playing peek-a-boo with the European couple who had legally become her parents forever. While documents for her adoption were being exchanged across the continents, they had, through videos and photos, watched her grow; assigned a room in their house and a big place in their heart. They had finally arrived to take her to her new home.

With her special medical challenges, Munni had come into the care of the foster family as a fretful baby with needs that were special. Her thigh bone infection had needed surgery on the 27<sup>th</sup> day after birth. Following that, seven episodes of acute health crisis saw her rushed to the hospital in emergencies of near fatal nature. Consultations arranged amongst a leading Pediatrician, Genetics specialist, and a Dietician, resulted in a medical regime to keep her free from further episodes. Due to the poorly understood anomaly in her genetic inheritance, the prognosis remained uncertain. Thanks to the vigilance and loving care of the foster family, the frail infant attained near normal growth and at 17 months of age, she was now like any other toddler her age.

During the first two days of the new parents' arrival, the child shared a pleasant time with the two sets of parents, in the foster family's home and at the visiting parents' hotel. She also visited the doctors with both sets of parents, besides visiting IAPA. Good long days for mutual acquaintance, but Munni was still not ready to leave the lap of her foster parent. Emotionally charged climate in the foster family had made Munni extra alert on the day she was to leave them for good. At IAPA, she was found clinging to her foster parents. Bawling, Munni had to be parted at last, when it was time to leave. At this point, eyes of all the four parents were flooded with tears. The child's agony for the moment was too charged for anyone around to stay untouched; even knowing she would in no time adopt her new parents.

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*Munni's Well-being: A month after her departure, Munni is reported by her adoptive parents to have quickly adjusted to her new surroundings.*

## REFLECTIONS OF AN ADOPTIVE PARENT



### 'My Journey with My Children'

It literally happened overnight.

One day I was just Nidhi and the next day I was mamma to two little girls 4 1/2 and 2 1/2.

Two little girls who didn't know me before and neither did I... I had seen their picture like they had seen ours...when we met for the first time, it seemed like the two of them couldn't breathe, slowly they relaxed and would look at our faces time and again with some tentative faith and I would look at them thinking, will I be able to do this...will I be able to become their mother...

All the time it seemed like someone will come and tell me what I am supposed to do. Someone will tell me how to handle things, how to soothe them when they cry and what would be the right thing to say. But that never happened. This was going to be between my husband, them and me...

The fact that two little girls took the leap of faith, decided to come home with us and become our children, was motivation enough for us to be there for them...

When we got home I was with them most of the time. I was impatient to win them over, make them feel that this is where they belong.. that I found myself getting annoyed the days it wasn't going according to plan. I thought I was failing every single day.

Slowly with conversations with the kids, especially the older one, with patience, I started to look at each day as it came...handling each day with care...Slowly each day started to get better than the previous one. Of course there were challenges, there were memories from the past that came up now and then, there were meltdowns and then there were several days when the kids made us feel like we meant the world to them. That was the most beautiful feeling. Gradually but steadily we found our rhythm, got used to being with each other and became a family.

On Diwali this year it will be six months since they got home and now I find it really difficult to imagine life without them. They have taught us to be patient, to be gentle, to remind ourselves about what is good about life. The blessings are far too many to count. We are complete.

**Nidhi Tuli**

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## CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS FOR FOSTER MOTHERS



Dr. Sangita Jadhav - Pediatrician & International Board Certified Lactation Consultant, conducted a session for foster mothers, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Salient information was shared on nutrition, immunisation, feeding, hygiene and other matters related to promoting health of infants and young children, under their care.



Another session was held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 for a dialogue with foster mothers on the crucial role they played in the lives of the infants under their care. The complementary roles of the agency, the child protection authorities and the foster families was explained. Chairperson of CWC Mumbai II, Mr. Vijay Doifode, was invited to the session. While talking about the role of the CWC, the Rights of the child underlying the whole child protection system was detailed, for information of the foster mothers. Mr. Doifode emphasised the importance of personal touch and warmth in promoting normal growth and development. The positive impact of a secure and caring family environment, on a young child's cognitive development, was also stressed upon. Foster mothers freely shared their experience of mutual strong emotional bonds that form between the child and the families. They also touched upon the grief experienced by the foster families, when the child leaves for adoption; despite their happiness for the child's future in the forever family.

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## EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS



Panelists on our Child Guidance Centre (CGC) held a workshop for 35 primary and secondary school teachers at Safa High School in May 2019. The teachers were guided on the problems faced by children



and how teachers could tackle these at their level; else refer the children for remedial services. Referrals being made thereafter to our CGC, show the understanding and value of the pressing need for addressal of children's psychological, learning and behaviour issues, by the teaching staff.

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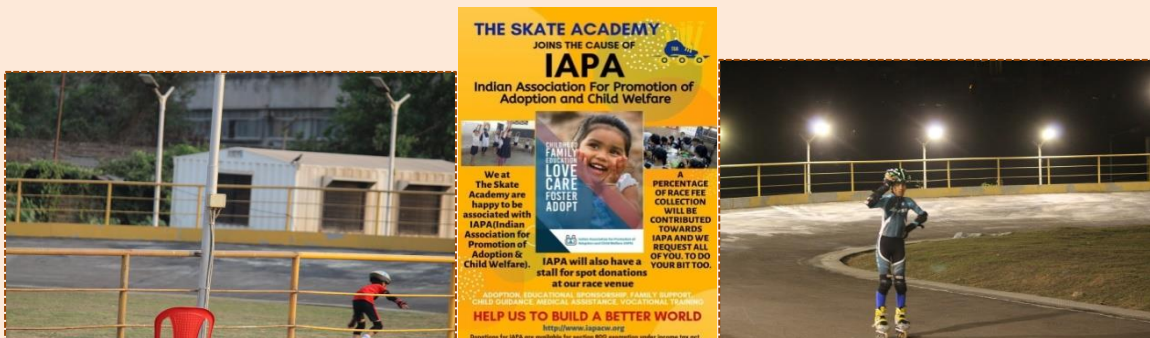
## SPREADING CHEER IN 'ASMITA'

Developing capacities of children studying in West Khetwadi BMC school who attend our Project 'Asmita' is one of our endeavours. Mr. Ananya Kulkarni and his friends are a much awaited group of visitors who bring joy in the day to day schedule of the children in the school. The eye-catching stationery, notebooks and colourful mementos gifted by them, promise to be a much cherished possession for the children.



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## SOME FUN AND FUNDS



The Skate Academy held their annual skating competition on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Somani Grounds, during which they kindly sought support for IAPA. Our stall set up, to reach out to the parents of the participants, provided an opportunity to make the public aware about our programs and generate funds for our activities.

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## RURAL CAMP



Life Skills for girls is an important part of our Rural Project at Terevayangani and Agarvayangani, Ratnagiri District. With a view to promoting the self development, confidence and various skills of Std. X girls, a camp was held at Terevayangani. Several interesting sessions, supported with games, songs and prayers were organised as below-mentioned:

First Aid Training

Vocational and Career choices

Short films on Women Empowerment

Discussion on knowing one's Physical and Emotional Self

Self-defence tricks from different martial arts(taekwondo, judo and karate)

Discussion with Family and Marriage Counselor

Film on Mental Health & Positive Thinking

Film related to common Superstitions

English Speaking Workshop

Home Science

*This was also an opportunity for the girls to interact with each other and for IAPA to find out their interests and plans for further education*





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



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