



NEWSLETTER

April 2020- September 2020



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Dear Readers,

We are delighted to re-connect with all of you! Even as people have found ways of dealing with the the new 'normal' of social distancing and working online, the pandemic has helped us to value our relationships, respect nature, conserve scarce resources and tap into our latent capabilities.

Children under our programs and their families have shown resilience and courage, as they battled this unprecedented crisis. Even as our social workers and staff adapted to the new way of functioning, they did their best to support and motivate the children and families in different ways.

During this period, declaration of SSC and HSC results brought a ray of sunshine, with many of our students scoring very well. We are happy to share their success stories with you. A Career Guidance Session provided better clarity and direction to their dreams and aspirations.

An adoptive parent has shared her heartfelt experience of motherhood when her daughter entered her life. All this and more is covered in this issue of the Newsletter and we hope that you enjoy reading it. As always we look forward to your feedback on 'iapacw1970@gmail.com'

With Best Wishes,
Team IAPA

OBITUARY

Ms. Ashraf Macchiwalla, member and office-bearer of IAPA's executive committee, passed away to peace eternal, on March 7, 2020. Her contribution to the growth and development of IAPA was exceptional. A quiet, balanced person of many talents, her gentle, modest, and pleasant demeanor endeared her to colleagues and staff alike. She painstakingly managed the Voluntary Coordinating Agency (VCA) initiated by IAPA to facilitate speedy placement of children in adoption. Her excellent English language skills stood her in good stead in the preparation of IAPA documents, Proposals and Appeals. She never let pass a social issue in public communications that would harm the cause of children and immediately penned IAPA's strong reaction to it. She will always be fondly remembered for her dedication, meticulous approach, and promptness in attending to her tasks.

May her Soul Rest in Peace



Proud to Present Our

SECONDARY SCHOOL (SSC) ACHIEVERS !!



Ganesh Adhalrao
91%

Despite losing his parents and being cared for by his grandfather, it is Ganesh's strong commitment to enrich his own life and that of his sister's, that has helped him excel in academics. He wants to pursue Commerce stream.

Interested in computers and wanting to opt for B.Tech at a later stage, Ajmatulla's passion for the subject is commendable. He has already researched about how to pursue this course after HSC

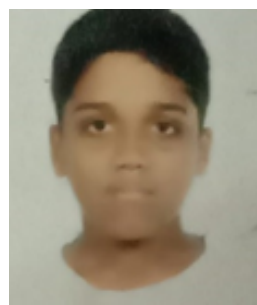


Ajmatulla Shaikh
86.60%



Gabriel Gomes
85%

Son of one of our foster mothers, Gabriel believes, *'It's not only the hard work that matters, it's the student's capability of studying and most importantly, the support and trust of parents'.* Our programs on education and career guidance, have helped him choose Commerce as the most suited stream.



Varun Wadke
90%

Varun is currently seeking admission in the Science stream as he wants to join the National Defence Academy. He is determined to make his family proud by accomplishing his goals.

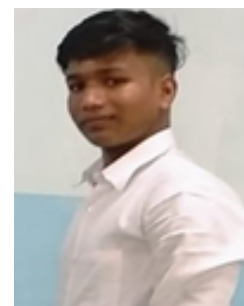
Wanting to become a doctor, Ahmed is now seeking admission in the Science stream. His father's trust in him has helped him dream big and make his father proud.



Ahmed Mansuri
89.60%



Sunil wants to go for Hotel Management course after Higher Secondary. While away from his mother and living with his father in the city, Sunil wishes to support his family financially after completing his education.



Sunil Wod
83.20%

SOME MORE SSC ACHIEVERS !!

The achievers across all the Boards are grateful for the support given by their sponsors and the agency !!



Meet Dodiya
81.20%

Raised by his mother, a single parent working as a domestic worker, she didn't let her own struggles come in the way of educating Meet and his elder brother. Meet is on his way to secure admission in 'Arts' stream, aspiring to be a teacher.



Sheetal Husmani
80.80%

A multi-tasker who achieved this academic feat without any guidance from home, Sheetal also participated in elocution, essay writing, drawing and dance. She is pursuing her studies amidst economic and health challenges faced by her parents.



Mitali Tambe
79.40%

With her drawing skills, Mitali wanted to take up architecture. Her mother working as a domestic help and father's health issues affect his earning capacity, she has instead chosen to take up Commerce and later pursue other creative avenues.



Soundarya is backed by her grand-mother who has been looking after her and her sister, after their father's death and desertion by their mother. She has taken up Commerce Stream, to move towards securing self reliance and supporting her family.



Soundarya
75.20%

Gaurav, a child with special needs, was brought to IAPA as an infant for care & rehabilitation. Unable to place him in adoption, he was legally adopted by the foster family who looked after him. Family love, therapy, medication and education have helped Gaurav clear this milestone successfully.



Gaurav
65.60%

SUCCESS IN OUR RURAL PROJECT AT TEREWAYANGANI AND AGARWAYANGANI

WONDERFUL RESULTS SECURED BY OUR STUDENTS IN STD XI & SSC!!

Saloni Pande aspires for a suitable career in Science. With sincere efforts to catch up with the change in medium of instruction to English, she managed to secure **73%** in Std XI. Despite the weak economic condition of her family, she remains motivated and has come so far with sheer grit and effort.



Snehal Mahadik secured a seat in B.Sc. (Agriculture) under Konkan Agricultural university and scored a **CGPA** of **7.1** in her first year. She has resolved to move ahead despite socio-economic difficulties. Hostel life has made her more confident and self-reliant, even as she attends online classes and completes her assignments.

Sneha Pande joined Science stream last year as she wants to pursue Nursing. Due to the present Covid-19 scenario, her results were evaluated based on unit tests and midterms, whereby she scored **60%** in Std XI. Despite being situated in a remote area, where mobile network is not stable, self-motivation drives her to overcome the challenges.



Roshani Pulekar, a confident and intelligent girl, secured **85.20%** in SSC boards exams. She wants to pursue Nursing in the future and dreams of becoming a nurse, supporting her family & helping the needy.

Pranay Shigwan, a bright and focused student scored **88.20%** in SSC board exam. Hailing from a very poor family, his father works as a temporary driver in a mining factory while his mother is unable to do heavy work post operation. Pranay has taken admission in Science stream.



Our Higher Senior (HSC) Achievers



Pooja Suryavanshi got an excellent score of **89.38%** in Commerce. Her mother has single-handedly raised four daughters since the last 10 years and struggled to support their educational aspirations, within her meagre earnings. Pooja wishes to become a Chartered Accountant (CA) and has taken her first steps in this direction.



Khushi Naik secured **77.50%** in Commerce. Her father, working as caretaker in a temple and mother as domestic help, have been supportive towards both their daughters' education. While continuing to pursue graduation in Commerce, Khushi is simultaneously tackling Foundation Course in Company Secretary (CS).

Sonali Shinde scored **75.07%** in Commerce. Hailing from the slums of Dharavi, it has been an arduous journey for Sonali and her mother, a domestic help and single parents looking after two children and ailing parents. Sonali intends to pursue Bachelors in Accounting and Finance (BAF) as well as Company Secretary (CS).



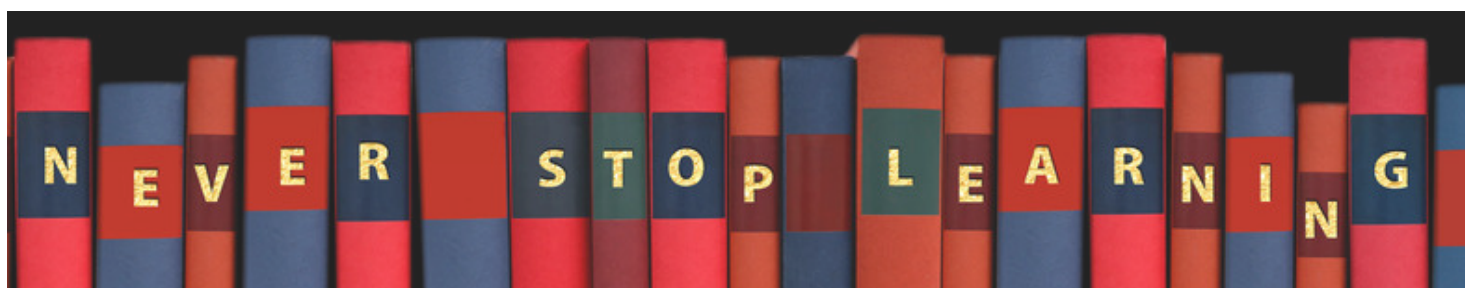
Smita Channe secured **66.46%** in Science stream. While her father does painting jobs and her mother works as a helper taking children to school, both understand the value of education. Smita has taken admission for graduation in Science with Information Technology (IT).



Samiksha Mandavkar passed Science stream scoring **65.50%**. This is particularly creditable as she studied in a vernacular medium school and didn't avail of extra coaching. Her father is the sole earning member due to her mother's ill-health. Samiksha aspires to be an engineer.



Hiram Qureshi scored **64%** in Science stream. Raised by her mother with limited earnings, hasn't stopped Hiram from aiming high. Putting her heart and soul into the preparation for NEET (Entrance exam for MBBS), she is hopeful of realizing her dreams of becoming a doctor.



Impact of Covid - 19



Sudden depletion of funds for food and medical necessities, was the common situation faced by families of children under our programmes. Transfer of funds to **680** families under our urban and rural projects, provided them the much needed relief.

Rice, tea, flour, pulses, oil and savouries also helped to keep up the health and spirits of the children, when their families were finding it difficult to make both ends meet. **225** families availed this assistance, with our ongoing efforts to reach many more.

A big thank you to all those who sent us contributions in cash or kind !!

As the Covid pandemic overwhelmed the world at large, our social workers worked from home, formulating different approaches to deal with the challenges faced by children and their families, under our different programs:

Adoption:

- Meetings of prospective adoptive parents held online, helped pacify their anxiety about their adoption status
- Orientation programs convened with the support of webinars, addressed the queries of more than 25 families
- During the long wait after selecting the child online, a family was kept motivated through communication. The process of uniting them was initiated after lifting of the restrictions on physical movement.
- It was a happy occasion of handing over the child, even though the atmosphere of distancing and the related precautions took away some graces.



Impact of Covid - 19

Foster Family Care for children awaiting adoption:

- Thanks to Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD), Citizens Association for Child Rights (CACR), Childline and several individual donors, who donated in cash or kind, payments were made online and rations were reached to the foster families
- Staying in touch with foster families through calls and messages, it was challenging to support them remotely, when they faced unexpected situations of vulnerability
- For some newborns who could not adapt to changes in climate, emergency private transport to hospital and access to medicines & nutrition was arranged
- Support of our pediatricians at odd hours and joint efforts in handling crisis brought foster mothers and their children, closer to IAPA



Alternative Family Care & Educational Sponsorship:

- With the help of Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD), Seva Sahyog Foundation and several individual donors, online transfer of funds and supply of food provisions helped alleviate the crisis faced by care-givers of these children
- Maintaining social distancing and hygiene in slums, reiterated through phone counseling, alongwith medical support- especially to the HIV positive, helped in better health management
- Annual renewal of cases under Alternative Family Care program were presented online to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)
- Online Career Guidance Session organized for students who cleared SSC and HSC, served to provide direction to their aspirations
- For those unable to purchase new textbooks or join coaching classes, co-ordination for second hand text books and arranging for concession in fees, was made possible
- With domestic violence on the rise, family members were counseled and directed in taking necessary legal steps

We are also happy to share that our new **WEBSITE** started operating during this period. With new content about our various programs and activities, and a Payment Gateway, currently for local donors, we look forward to connecting with many more well-wishers !!

Career Guidance Session

45 students who cleared Std X and XII, participated in an online session on 8th August 8,2020, conducted by **Ms Vandana Nagargoje**. Organised for students under IAPA's programs, its main takeaways were-

- Technology is the keyword today, with related careers being in demand
- Industrial, IT and Science are sectors where more progress is being made
- Careers in Genetic Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, E Commerce, Forensic Science and Archaeology are some contemporary options
- Nine types of Intelligence help in understanding one's skills and the careers suited to the same
- Some points to be taken into consideration before making a career choice: Intelligence Quotient, Aptitude, Marks/ Percentage, Physical Fitness, Interest, Finance, Adjustment



An interactive question and answer session covered the many queries and doubts voiced by the students. Details related to government recognised and job-oriented courses were shared- especially with short term private courses not only being expensive but also unreliable in securing good jobs. Excellent feedback was shared by the students, with doors kept open by the speaker for any future queries raised.



And I Became a Mother

by our adoptive parent, Mrs. Archana Iyer

In a deep dark well
I looked for a hope
There were neither stairs
Nor there was a rope

The night had no end
I waited there all drained
A silent cry within
I felt no one had seen

Then all of a sudden ..
The trees looked so vibrant
The breeze went fragrant
Light from shining moon
Got me message of a boon

Then on a pleasant night..
When the raindrops kissed
The grass beneath
My little angel arrived
With her tiny little feet

The dawn had a new story
Angel wrapped in blanket furry
There her eyes met mine
I was touched by divine

Witnessed it my rolling tears
The moment I had waited for years
God finally granted my wish
Soaked was I in motherhood bliss!



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Adoption and Child Welfare (IAPA)**

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