



IAPA

APRIL 2017

Indian Association for Promotion of Adoption and Child Welfare
NEWSLETTER

Dear Readers,

We are happy to bring out the first newsletter of 2017. A lot has happened in the last 4 months, and we are eager to share news and views with you.

In January we had the Annual Get-together of students at our Khetwadi office, followed with the Annual Adoptive Family Meet. Our fund raising event took place in February. We will report about many other activities that took place at our projects in Mumbai and Terewayangani.

We are happy to report that Sunita* featured in our August 2016 newsletter is rehabilitated with her family in Maharashtra. Regular counseling helped her come to reality and remember her earlier life. She was able to tell about her home and family. The process of tracing the family was undertaken, and after due formalities she was rehabilitated with her family.

We leave you with a poem and an article by a young girl from an adoptive family. We request more such contributions from our readers.

Obituary

In the month of January 2017, we were saddened by the demise of Mrs. Clarice D'Souza, our Founder member. She served as Hon. Secretary and Executive Secretary from inception till 1976. Mrs. D'Souza was with her daughters abroad when she passed away. RIP Mrs. D'Souza.

Our long time well-wisher and sponsor Mr. T J Srinivasan passed away in Coimbatore. Mr. Srinivasan instituted the Meera Srinivasan's Scholars Programme in memory of his wife and IAPA consultant, Late Mrs. Meera Srinivasan. His initiative will be continued by a family member. RIP Mr. Srinivasan.

Annual Get-together at our Khetwadi office

Around 350 student beneficiaries of our Sponsorship, Foster Care & Asmita programmes had a good time at the Annual Get-together on 26th January 2017. It was heartening to meet students who passed their 10th, 12th exams and those who graduated with flying colours. The programme began with an invocation to Goddess Saraswati (goddess of education) and lighting the lamp. Some students narrated stories around India's struggle for independence on the occasion of the Republic day. Rest of the morning witnessed songs, dance and skits by the children, a magic show and mimicry which kept the audience engrossed. After a sumptuous meal, all students enjoyed the fun-fare activities. Every student left with a parting gift. IAPA is grateful to Sanjiv & Priti Kapoor and family who have year on year supported the Annual get-together with equal zeal and fervor!!!



Happy times at the annual get-together

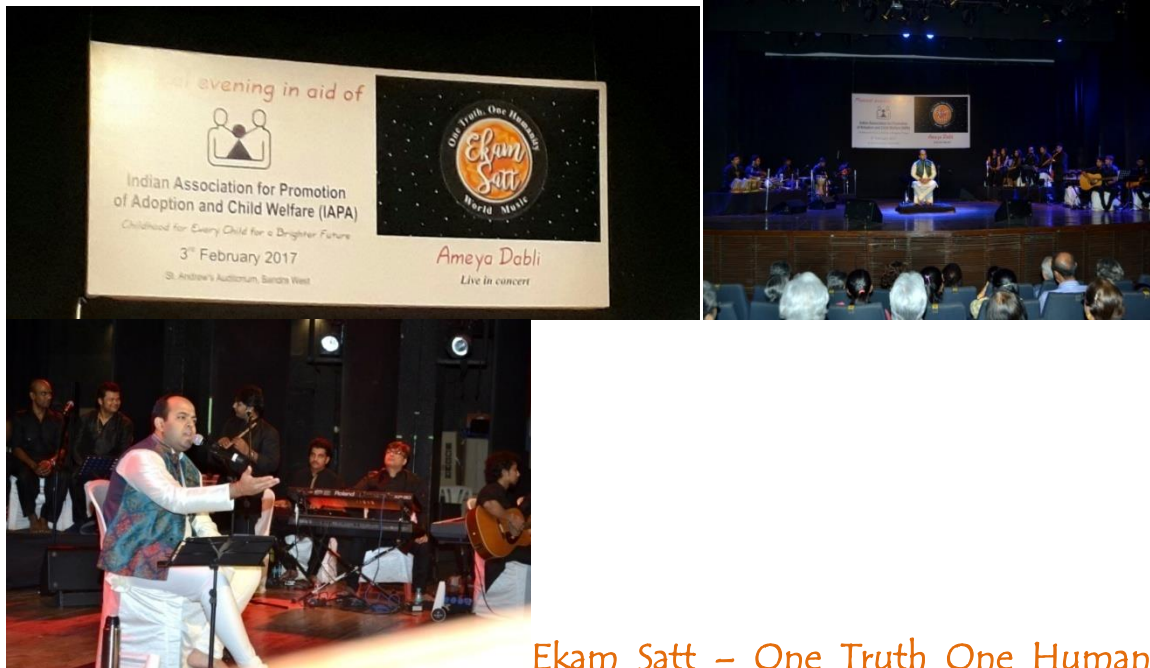
Family Meet 21st January 2017



Kites, balloons, tattoos, games, magic show..... lot of fun!!

While the activities were on, a few parents interacted with each other discussing adoption matters and sharing their experiences. The games and magic show organized with support from Ms. Radhika Padhye was a hit amongst the children and their parents. The evening came to an end with sumptuous refreshments organized by adoptive parents. The evening was supported by The Shamrao Vithal Cooperative Bank Ltd, Matunga branch.

Fund Raiser 3rd February 2017-



Ekam Satt – One Truth One Humanity by Ameya Dabli was an enjoyable musical evening. A soothing experience, the programme left the audience mesmerized! A Souvenir of advertisements was released and distributed to all present.



"The IAPA annual programme "Ekam Satt" by Mr. Ameya Dabli was a great celebration and a huge success.

Enjoyed unanimously by everyone in the auditorium.

Those who could not make it to St. Andrew's auditorium missed out on an excellent performance.

We should congratulate you (IAPA) and the office bearers for the insight, perseverance and level of enthusiasm over 47 years of dedicated work to this noble cause of adoption of children.

The entire Chainani family thank you and your team for organising a meaningful, unique and an enjoyable programme last evening." Regards, Shalini Chainani

Crowd funding campaign

This was a helpful crowd funding campaign started by Rajesh Mathrani, adoptive parent, long time well-wisher and friend of IAPA on ketto.org. Appropriately titled - **IAPA - Improving lives of children in need** the campaign elicited good response motivating IAPA to consider more such campaigns. **Here's requesting all our readers, well-wishers to come forward to carry out such campaigns to support our various programmes.**

Feedback from couple of donors of the campaign-

"God bless the volunteers for this noble cause, thanks for making me a part of this, stay blessed." - jai kumar

"This is brilliant effort being put forward :)"
- Sonakshi



Another well-wisher, Dr. Lav Goyal publicized IAPA's work and raised funds through crowdrise.com by participating in the Mumbai Marathon on 15th January 2017. It was an out of the blue moment when Dr. Goyal from USA contacted us expressing his desire to help! Dr. Goyal presented the donation cheque to our president, Mrs. Najma Goriawalla after completing his marathon run.

More feedback -

"I am aware of the work and services of IAPA and find them very much appreciable and creditable.

It is a great job and I, really, by heart, admire all the people who dedicate & support this mission, in various manner"

- Rachana Kulkarni, donor & well-wisher.

WORKSHOP for PARENTS of ADOLESCENT CHILDREN:

Adolescence can be a trying stage of life for the young; as well, a baffling one for the parents. The workshop organized at our Khetwadi office gave opportunity for the parents to discuss with the team the turmoil experienced by the young; and some troublesome behavior faced by the parents. Appropriate management of this transitory phase of life by the parents is of critical importance for emotional health and wellbeing of the adolescent for now and for the future. The workshop was an experience for all, for mutual learning; and for valuable tips from the Mental Health Experts.



The session in progress

This session on 9th January 2017 was facilitated by Child Guidance Centre (CGC) panelists of IAPA's Mental Health Programme.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM:

Students from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) gave a facelift to our Sustainable Livelihood Tailoring Program for the young girls and women. They gave an impetus to this livelihood programme by guiding the class to design and stitch clothes as per the current market. They further put up a sale of these clothes in February 2017 at TISS as part of Manthan, annual fest of the HR school. Kudos to the students who made the sale a grand success by being involved in the planning, procuring raw material, designing, pricing etc.



IAPA got an opportunity to showcase and sell these products in two more exhibitions organized by Government Law College and SNDT Women's University.

A part of the profits of the sale were given to the girls and the tailoring teacher, recognizing their efforts. The agency plans to support this program on an ongoing basis to create livelihood opportunities for women and girls of the vocational training program.

The costs involved were borne by our valued sponsors – Chance of Life and Hannah Program for Women. **We request you to keep IAPA in mind if there is an opportunity for sale of such goods. Thank you.**

Lots happening at PROJECT ASMITA

We are witnessing good response from our students to sessions in Marathi, Hindi, English, Science, Social Science and Mathematics under the ASMITA project. Each of the subjects now has an enthusiastic teacher making the sessions interesting!

Students enjoy value education, craft, Yoga, dance, and computer.



Glimpse into Yoga and Dance activities!!



A glance into the challenging backgrounds of students who attend ASMITA Project activities –

Majority of these children born to Commercial Sex Workers reside in the red light area, and face the following difficulties

- They live in challenging family set up, most being single parent families
- Quarrels, fights, foul language are common experiences for them
- They are exposed to unhygienic, in-disciplined, and sub-human surroundings
- They are deprived of basic physiological needs, love, attention, safety and protection
- They are from different states of India speaking different languages making communication a challenge
- Their exposure for healthy growth and development is affected

Growing up in such setup, education takes a back seat. This increases the responsibility of the teachers who have to understand the mind set of each student. The teachers have to take on the all-rounder's role to instill discipline, manners, hygiene, humanity, language and much more. Depending on the situation the teacher dons the following hats – coach, guide, facilitator, motivator, care taker, and 'mother'



Balkostav 2017



Balkostav 2017 organised by BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), on 6th January 2017 had enthusiastic participation by students from all 'D' ward Municipal schools. IAPA's 'Asmita' Project students won the first prize in group dance. Big 'thumbs up' to Ms. Ragini Gawde, our dance teacher for her wonderful choreography.

Talent Hunt (K.C. College)

Accolades to our talented students!! for their forte in dancing, singing, elocution and drawing, among many other contestants in 'Talent Hunt' competition, organized by K. C. College, Churchgate on 31st January 2017.

The following students won prizes:



Ms. Prasangi

Rapakka-
first prize in 'Best out of waste'



Anurag Thorat -
second prize in Dancing



Ms.

Khushi Naik -
first prize in Singing

News from the RURAL PROJECT

20 students receiving sponsorship through IAPA appeared for the std. X Board exams. As in the previous years, arrangements were made for these students to stay back in the school for studying during the crucial time nearing the exams. They got to practice solving questions and clarifying doubts from the teachers, where necessary. Adequate arrangements for food, rest and sleep were made. The idea behind such an arrangement is to minimize the commuting time for the students, some of who stay far away.

It is heartening to see our students take up various vocational, professional courses. Our long-time well-wishers and donors - Mr. Shakir Machhiwala and Chance of Life have made this possible. The boys have opted for ITI courses, Arts and Commerce streams. The girls took up certificate / diploma courses in tailoring, fashion designing, nursing, Arts, Commerce streams.

A career guidance programme was organized to introduce the young students to various career options including a career in food and hospitality industry and Pharmaceutical industry.

Students are being encouraged to read newspapers to enhance their knowledge about news on various topics. To strengthen this habit further, a general knowledge quiz is arranged at regular intervals.

IAPA plans to begin life skills programme for girls of a Government recognized secondary school in Agarwanyangani (situated 4-5km from the existing school in Terewayangani.) This program will be started in June 2017.



Students at the Rural Sponsorship Project

Adoption Counselling –

Some of you might be aware of the counseling programme at IAPA, where an experienced psychotherapist and social worker provide counseling & guidance on pre- and post-adoption concerns/issues. Some of the concerns dealt with so far are –

Apprehensions over adopting an older child (over 4 years), disciplining the young teenager, relationship & communication issues between parents and the child, excessive exposure to social network with possibility of being exploited, sharing the fact of adoption with the child. Help is available, and is effective when taken on time. **Feel free to meet us on Wednesdays with a prior appointment.**

SOMETHING NEVER TO BE GIVEN UP- LIFE!!!

by Urvi Rao, 16 years

"Life" is like a magic box. No one knows what's gonna come out from the magic box unless and until the magician tells us. Similarly, in life, no one knows what's gonna happen. But yes, here there's no magician to tell a person what's gonna happen next.

I am now in my teen life and it's very usual that teenagers get diverted towards the bad things very easily. But even though there are no magicians to tell what's gonna happen in a child's life when he/she will grow up and enter the teen world, but there are many people who can advise us and stop teenagers from getting diverted and those worried parents of the already diverted teenagers to come back to their beautiful life and awaiting bright future.

Even I had got diverted and my parents brought me to I.A.P.A. who not only brought me back to the right path but also taught me the value of life. Seriously, guys, life is beautiful, amazing and when I think about my life now I just say, "Wow!!! I love it". Frankly, life is beautiful guys. I thank I.A.P.A. from the bottom of my heart for giving me this new life. But most importantly my parents who took me there without which I guess I would never have been able to write this article and get my precious life back. Few days back someone who knew all about me, the way I was and the way I am now asked me, "Urvi, so how do you feel now?" and I just replied with a smile on my face and a sense of satisfaction, affection and love in my heart, "I feel that I am reborn and this is my new, beautiful and a bright life".

So guys just don't freak out when something really bad occurs in your life. Just have a smile on your face and a thought in your mind, "Oh! Come on I am not scared of these problems....you enter into my life and I will kick you out of my life." And am sure it's gonna work. I tried it guys and I was successful. After all problems are a part of our life. It enters and then vanishes from our life.

Just remember one thing, 'God has given us a life to achieve something, enjoy it to the fullest and accept it the way it is. And talking about problemsthey are just like those small little exams which God has prepared for us and want us to win. So let's accept it and win it.'

Guys, never give up.....look what is ahead awaiting for you in your life. And if you are going through any problem just don't keep it in your heart but discuss it especially with your loved ones. Most probably you'll get the solution for it. Life is not just a four letter word but four things which we have to achieve before we diethat's Love, Respect, Trust and Ambitions. If we achieve these four I guess we will be the greatest personality in this whole world.

-Urvi Rao, 16 years.

Poem – APOLOGY by Urvi Rao, 16 years.

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| <p>Oh! Mamma, you are my angel, Yes you are, I am being Frank I have hurt you all the time; But you uttered not a single word I apologise, Mamma , my only angel</p> <p>Oh! Mamma , you are my soul, Yes you are ,I am making it clear. Those sobs and tears from your glittery eyes; But you hid it from me, Everytime you cried I apologise, Mamma ,my only soul</p> | <p>Oh!Mamma , you are my life , Yes you are, that's no lie . That pain in your heart which I gave ; I can feel it every now and then, Which has stung my heart and pricked my conscience , I apologise,Mamma my only life .</p> <p>Oh! Mamma ,you are my love , Yes you are, trust me you are , That love and care which you always gave , But I couldn't give enough in return, Mamma ,you forgive and forget , for all those mistakes I have committed Oh! Mamma , you are the best amongst the rest, I apologise, Mamma , my only love</p> |
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Contact us -



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