

SEPTEMBER 2017



# IAPA

Indian Association for Promotion of Adoption and Child Welfare

NEWSLETTER

Dear Readers,



SEASONS GREETINGS to all of you !! It gives us great pleasure to bring out this edition of the Newsletter for sharing a lot of encouraging news over the last five months, with you.

The period following the Board exams is a time of anticipation and tension, more so for our group of parents and students who have gone through different struggles to reach this level of academic progress. All these efforts have culminated in their clearing the Board exams, that too with flying colours, about which we give you a glimpse in this issue.

Sharing the fact of adoption with the adopted child is a sensitive but essential step that is needed to be taken at the right time for creating better bonding, love and security for both the parent and child. Our ongoing efforts to spread awareness and resolve the queries of the adoptive parents on this subject, resulted in a highly interactive session which we have featured here.

We bring you happy developments in our school based Asmita project which aims at integrated development of the child who is faced with many challenges and is deprived of basic learning opportunities.

We also share further strides made in our Rural Project in Terewayangani whose successful program has now been extended to a Government recognized secondary school in Agarwanyangani.

Our attempts to generate funds for various activities of IAPA is continuing and we have started tapping the option of Crowd Funding on "www.ketto.org" portal. We would like to request all of you to help us take this further.

Please feel free to give your feedback on [iapacw1970@gmail.com](mailto:iapacw1970@gmail.com) with Newsletter as subject line.

Thank you.

Team IAPA



## OUR SSC TOPPERS ALL GIRLS !!

Anita	85.20%
Siddhi	84%
Nikita	82%
Ariba	81.60%
Sakshi	81.40%

## TIME TO CELEBRATE



OUR HSC TOPPERS  
ALSO GIRLS !!  
Vandana 86%(Com)  
Payal 86%(Com)  
Priyanka 81%(Com)  
Prachi 77%(Com)  
Sanjyot 76%(Science)

Nothing is more exhilarating for IAPA team, than to see the children they work with, succeed at their goals. This year, out of the 73 students who appeared for SSC, 52% secured Distinction and First Class. Out of a record number of 63 candidates for HSC, 45% passed with Distinction and First class. This is a major achievement for the students and their families who coped with poverty, ill-health, unemployment, addictions and other setbacks, but continued to persist for bettering their life prospects.

## GRADUATION RESULTS

We are very happy to share that 17 students appeared for their final year graduation exams in this academic year, 1 in Engineering, 2 in Science, 10 in Commerce & 4 in Arts.

Out of these, 59% have scored Distinction or First Class, as per their last semester results of graduation.

We are thankful to the long-standing support of our sponsors TdH (Denmark), Chance of Life (COL), Thackersey & Individual sponsors who helped these students to fulfill their dreams.



## Girl students yet again who successfully cleared Diploma courses:

Shamika, Samiksha AND Anuradha secured 91.84%, 76% and 64% respectively, in Diploma Course in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering

### While

Jyotsna secured 76% in Diploma course in General Nursing (Midwifery)

## Future Plans Of Some Of These Achievers

**Darshana** who secured distinction in her B.Com degree is now working with a reputed Bank as a Finance Service Consultant. In addition to continuing with the Company Secretary course she is already doing, she plans to enroll for M.Com

**Shraddha** who completed Diploma in Education (D.Ed) alongwith B.A. is working as a Teacher and intends to take up M.A. and B.Ed. in the future

While all our above students are achievers in their own way, we share inspiring journeys of two of them:



### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (DISTINCTION)

**Surekha**, who topped the list of our graduates, is an example of effort, perseverance and courage winning over the difficult circumstances of life. Living with an alcoholic and mentally disturbed father, IAPA supported her illiterate mother's efforts to run a home-based food service, besides providing vocational training.

Regular counseling, sponsorship assistance and support for coaching classes, helped Surekha clear her Secondary and Higher Secondary Board exams with excellent marks, besides excelling in drawing and participating in other extra-curricular activities. She also passed a Lab Technician course and started working as a part time compounder, along with pursuing her studies.

Facing a setback in the middle of the academic year after clearing her HSC, when she did not get admission in Medical College, Surekha felt quite dejected. With the encouragement and guidance from the social worker she was able to rework her priorities and took admission for Bachelor of Science degree. With her sincerity and hard work, she has proved her mettle once again by securing Distinction in the last semester!!

Having specialized in Botany, she is now pursuing a diploma course in Landscaping & Interior Designing, to strengthen her prowess in this related field.

### BACHELOR OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING (FIRST CLASS)

**Amey** is another example of mental agility, grit and strength of conviction in overcoming all odds. Hailing from a low socio-economic family, Amey and his brothers were silent witnesses to their mother's struggles to provide a better life to her three sons, after his father distanced himself from the family.

With the support of IAPA, Amey put his best efforts to excel in academics since his early days in a Marathi medium BMC school. Being of studious bent of mind, he cleared his academic milestones with distinction marks.

Amey's strong desire to venture into the challenging professional course of Engineering, over-rode the objections from his relatives as he embarked on his journey. While his mother continued to support his endeavours, his equally bright brother joined a less expensive education course to save on costs. IAPA continued to provide guidance and sought financial assistance through its network of sponsors, to support his efforts.

It was not an easy journey for Amey to learn the difficult subjects taught in English, stay in a place closer to his college and work to earn extra income. But his will to succeed helped to overcome all odds and today he has achieved his dream by securing First Class in Bachelor of (Chemical) Engineering!!

## AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION

### Sharing the Fact of Adoption

A gathering that started out like any other event turned into an extremely meaningful one, as 41 adoptive parents discussed the topic 'Sharing the Fact of Adoption', with IAPA's consulting psychotherapist and guest speaker **Dr Laura Vaz** who shared her sound perspective and expertise during the meeting convened by IAPA on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017



The varied approaches used for breaking the news of adoption to their children ranged from the time tested one of revealing the fact through stories, to talking casually about adoption in front of the child, to celebrating the special event as "home coming day", to taking the child to visit the orphanage and attending IAPA functions with their child. All these were quite acceptable to Dr. Vaz who stressed more on the importance of the **parents' feelings of comfort in their own adoptive status and their sincere intention of sharing the fact of adoption by an appropriate age**, which could be as early as three years.

This subject is best shared as a process and not as a one-time event. Once the topic is initiated, parents should talk about it over the period whenever appropriate opportunities arise, mindful of the child's reactions and their changing perspectives with age. It is also possible that the child may avoid the subject by showing disinterest, either because he or she has picked up on the discomfort of the parents or has own unresolved feelings about it. It is necessary that the adoptive parents are alert and sensitive to the feelings of the child and keep their communication channels open.

It is at a later age that the adoptive their biological parents and are understand and support their search should be conveyed about the The personal experience shared by a inquiring if her adoptive parents biological mother returned to claim they would like to keep her with freedom to choose if she would like to go back to her biological mother.

"The one who protects, nurtures and assumes responsibility of the child is the real parent ...one who gave birth is only a happenstance"

children wish to know about reassured if the adoptive parents for roots. Nothing negative biological parents at such times. parent concerned their child would give her up if her her back. They replied that ideally them but would give her the

The high point of this gathering was the sharing of experience by a 14 year daughter of a single mother about the reality of pain an adopted child may go through in her struggle to find her place among her peer group. She touched the hearts of all when she conveyed that she had achieved ease in her adoptive status due to the support and strong bond that she shared with her mother.

Questions related to sharing the information with school authorities, the child's visit to the orphanage, integration of the adopted child when he or she is the second entrant to the family, parental counseling and the like came up in course of the discussions. Dr. Vaz cautioned the parents against the possibility of the child using adoptive status as a trump card and advised balancing between over-discipline and over-indulgence, as "Ultimately, it is the happy and secure parents who make good parents bringing up children without expecting them to live life according to their views". Parents were informed that they could avail of individual consultation with prior appointment with Dr. Laura Vaz, on Wednesday afternoons. The positive feedback received from the parents included requests to hold such sessions not only for the adoptive parents but also for the adopted children.

### Spreading the Message about Safe Surrender



With the help of **MASTEK FOUNDATION** we were able to produce a set of publicity material for wider dissemination of information on Safe Surrender and availability of the 24 hours Helpline. We are planning to launch these posters and leaflets with the BMC Health Department, in the month of November 2017

IAPA, with cooperation from **BMC Health Department**, holds sensitization talks with staff at the BMC Health Posts for preventing furtive abandonment of children in public places by distressed parents and providing a safer alternative.

Two such meetings held in recent months were at Kherwadi Municipal Maternity Home and at the LTMG (Sion) Hospital. The short audio visuals prepared by IAPA on the subject, help in spreading awareness on the necessity of safe surrender of children.

The health personnel are also cautioned about the presence of unscrupulous elements who even hang around hospitals and maternity homes to take advantage of the vulnerability of the birth parent.



### Mental Health Awareness

IAPA's **Child Guidance Centre (CGC)**'s team, consisting of Psychiatrist, Counsellor, Remedial Therapist and Clinical Psychologist, reached out to teachers and parents once again. On 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017 tips were shared with teachers of our 'Asmita' program on tackling problems in handling students at their level. A workshop held on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017 with parents of Std IX students aimed at making the parents aware about the changes and problems faced by children during their turbulent adolescent age

Ms. Savita Nagpurkar, Adoption-in-Charge, IAPA, spoke on the assessment and preparation of parents for adoption and on the process and its intricacies, as a guest speaker at the Seminar on 10<sup>th</sup> September'17 at Nair Hospital. It was held on the subject '**Family and Mental Health**' by the Bombay Psychiatric Society.

## GIFTING SMILES TO STUDENTS UNDER RURAL PROJECT

With the generous sponsorship and allied support provided by TdH (D) to the students of the Kamlakar Janardan Tatha Bhai Javkar Vidyamandir in Terewayangani-Dapoli, the students are continuing to fare well in their academics. Night classes for exam preparation had been conducted for the students, three months prior to their Std.X Board exams, with provision for night meals and morning tea. All this bore fruit when the school achieved 84% as its Std X Board Results. **Out of the 32 students who appeared for the Board exams, 5 secured Distinction, 10 First Class and 11 Second Class.**

### Felicitation of Std X students in July 2017



Felicitation of the students of Std X Board exams at a function, goes a long way in encouraging and inspiring students of the school and the village community at large. This year the programme was made possible due to the support of **Mr. Uday Telang and Ms. Manisha Wagale**, who also donated text books. The first three toppers Rohan (88%) , Sanket (85%) and Prathmesh(85%) were rewarded, thanks to the support given by **Ms. Savita Nagpurkar and family**.

### Initiatives for Higher Education

For the boys and girls of the village community, it is a big step forward to go beyond the Std Xth Board Examination. **Mr. Shakir Machhiwala**, with his support for college education, education help to boys and girls of Std.VIII and provision of cost of books under the new syllabus, has smoothed the academic journey of several students. Our individual sponsor **Mr. Noordin Ebrahim's** support will make it possible for further batch of students to take up vocational courses through the Industrial Training Institute (I.T.I.), which is a departure from the standard courses and which qualification will help them secure government jobs.

### Life Skills Education

**Chance of Life (COL), Germany** has been providing Life Skills Education for empowerment of girls and women in Terewayangani since the year 2014, wherein sessions are conducted for girls of Std. IX and X by IAPA's locally based social worker. Since June 2017, this project has been extended to a Government recognized secondary school in Aagarwanyangani; at a distance of 7 to 8km from Terewayangani. COL, Germany is also helping girls for higher education and providing vocational courses for girls who wish to do a short term course, rather than allowing them to drop out of the education stream. This year 14 girls from Terewayangani School and 10 girls from Aagarwanyangani School have taken advantage of this available support.

### Other Helping Hands

Uniforms for students of Std VIII and sponsorship of two students were covered from the donations given by Mr. Parag Telang, Mr. Kiran Telang and Mrs. Sharmila Telang.

### An Encouraging Development

Recognition as an Aided School has been given to the Terewayangani school by the Education Department, Maharashtra Government, as a result of relentless efforts in this direction by the Shivneri Shikshan Sanstha. The school will now be eligible for Government Grant, out of which the salaries of the school teachers will be covered to a great extent. The number of new admissions to the school have also increased after this positive development.

### ASMITA PROGRAM

Our Asmita program is continuing to work with students in the West Khetwadi B.M.C School during the regular school hours, in which five subjects are taught as per school syllabus, by the teachers appointed by IAPA. Since the students belong to families who have migrated from different States and who speak different language at home, they have difficulty adapting to the academic set-up. Hence the teachers' job extends to imparting a sense of discipline, good manners, hygiene and other values to the students. That the teachers have been up to this challenging task, which calls for patience and understanding, is reflected in the improved behavior of the children.

### English Learning is Fun



Thanks to the support extended by **Ion Foundation**, an E - learning program was introduced this year, for teaching English to students of the primary section. The CDs used, cover the English subject as per the school syllabus. Each page of the text book is introduced in an interesting manner, with catchy songs that help to hold the attention of the students. The teacher enacts what is seen on the screen and follows it up with questions, which results in one to one conversation between the teacher and students. Students are also able to visualize the images of objects and retain learning through poems. This has helped the students to develop their interest in study of this language, since it is being experienced as fun learning.

## Help comes through Mutual Exchanges



In the month of June '17 two motivated youngsters who have themselves come up the hard way, celebrated their birthdays with Asmita students by distributing various gifts and sweets and the students reciprocated by gifting personalized Greeting cards to them. **Mr. Anannya Kulkarni**, an adopted child and well wisher of IAPA distributed other attractive gifts, purchased from his own funds and those contributed by his peer group. **The Carnival Group** distributed stationary and other attractive items of utility, which not only thrilled the students but served them well in their school activities. A big THANK YOU to all of them!!

## CROWD FUNDING CAMPAIGN

Another successful crowd funding campaign titled "Support Adoption, Support Education" was initiated and forwarded amongst her contacts, by our well-wisher **Mrs. Smeeta Neogi**. The excellent response received to the campaign has prompted us to encourage others to take up similar initiatives to sustain and give further thrust to IAPA's programs.

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