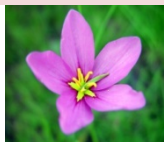




## Indian Association for Promotion of Adoption and Child Welfare (IAPA)

### NEWSLETTER



Dear Readers,

We are happy to re-connect with all of you to share exciting happenings during the period October '18 to March '19, which cover the following, amongst others:

An interesting workshop on Parenting - for adoptive parents who continue to learn and grow with their children. As also an interactive workshop on Communication and Adolescent Issues - for parents and children under our Family Preservation program.

Dental camps organized in our Urban and Rural projects - for oral health and happier smiles of many children !

Continuation of our efforts for outreach on Mental Health issues- for representatives of other NGOs. Also an outreach on Adoption related matters - for nurses.

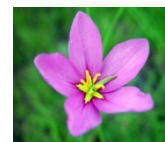
Glimpses of our Annual Programs - Family Meet and Sponsorship Day; looked forward to by all!

A Career Guidance Program for our rural project students - to provide the much needed direction to their aspirations.

And other significant developments related to IAPA's Khetwadi office premises and IAPA's contribution towards drafting the guidelines for Alternative Care for Maharashtra State !

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

Thank You  
Team IAPA





"PARENTING: JOYS AND CHALLENGES"  
On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018



A gathering of adoptive families addressed by psychotherapist Dr. Laura Vaz of IAPA's Post-adoptive Counselling Cell, focused on the ups and downs of parenting, how adoptive parenting is different, if at all, from biological parenting and various issues related to bringing up a child.

Asked to share an important memory with their child - be it happy, sad, frustrating or insightful, many parents, especially mothers, shared their feelings when their child had first come home; or had expressed a sense of acceptance of the parents and family. A child when told by a relative that he was adopted, had asserted, "I know I am adopted and I know she (adoptive mother) is my mother." Communications like these were very motivating and endearing for the audience.

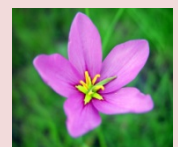


An encouraging address by Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee, Mr. Vijay Doiphode, expressed adoption as being a positive step in child care and decision of parents to adopt as praiseworthy !



To spark off discussion on important topics on parenting, Dr. Vaz tossed certain questions that generated discussions on controversial parenting styles and attitudes. This covered subjects of corporal punishment, discipline, comparison with other children, unconditional acceptance of the child's behaviour, children wanting to meet their birth parents and the like. Use of gadgets, the necessity and method of timely sharing the fact of adoption, were significant matters that arose in this process.

The flood of queries ably answered by Dr.Vaz had to be halted only due to want of further time; with the parents expressing their utmost satisfaction at an afternoon well spent !!



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**ANNUAL ADOPTIVE MEET on 2nd February 2019 at  
SaraswatiVidyamandir School**



**To promote re-connecting and bonding of families -with IAPA and each other !!**



**With items and games for an enthusiastic audience of children and parents !!**



**Getting creative with Clay-Pottery,      Tattoo making      & Sharing Reminiscences**

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# OUTREACH BY CHILD GUIDANCE CENTRE (CGC) on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019



Conducted with the objective of creating awareness about our CGC services and initiating networking amongst NGOs in the vicinity, the CGC outreach workshop was attended by representatives of 18 NGOs. Matters related to sensory and developmental disorders, learning disabilities, cerebral palsy, speech problems and autism, were shared by Remedial Therapist Dr. Hutoshi Bana; who stressed on the importance of environment in shaping the child's mental well-being.

Psychiatrist Dr. Prashant Shah talked about the misconceptions related to mental health. Also about ADHD, behaviour issues, depression, physical-verbal-sexual-substance abuse; and the necessity for parents to accept medication for their child in case of certain issues.

Clinical Psychologist Mrs. Nanda Purohit emphasized the need for testing, avoiding labelling, employing play therapy and providing motivation to the child.

Importance of Emotional Quotient (EQ), involvement of family and counselling as an effective tool to enhance well-being of child and the family, were matters expressed by Counsellor Mrs. Shakti Poddar.



We look forward to enhancing the mental health of more members in the community with this kind of networking !!



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**ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP DAY on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2019 at  
Gilder Lane BMC School**



**A full day event attended by around 300 students under sponsorship & family support programs**



**Providing a platform for showcasing their talents !**



**Felicitating them for their achievements!**

**Enjoying the Fun Fair!**



**Along with a good dose of entertainment, gifts and happy memories!**

## LOTS HAPPENING ON OUR RURAL PROJECT FRONT !!

**DENTAL CAMP** organized for students from Stds. VIII to X at Terewayangani on 24th January 2019

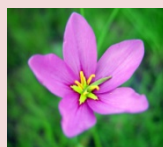


A team of 13 Doctors and 3 supportive staff from Yogita Dental College and Hospital at Khed conducted the camp - which was attended by around 240 students of the Kamlakar Janardan Tatha Bhai Javkar Vidyamandir and students from Zilla Parishad & Anganwadi (Nursery) Schools, with their respective parents. An awareness talk, dental check-ups, demonstrations through posters and dental models, information about disadvantages of using tobacco and cigarettes, were part of the camp.

Doctors also brought HIV kits for the parents to undergo this crucial test.



Regular follow up and availing of services of the hospital by students and their parents was also encouraged !!



## CAREER GUIDANCE PROGRAM organized for Stds. IX to XII students at Terewayangani on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Career Counsellors, Mr. Ajit Chavan and Mr. V. B. Suryavanshi from Chiplun, guided the students about various educational and career options available after Stds. X and XII and clarified their doubts during an interactive discussion. Necessary information was

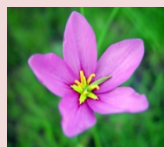


also provided to the school teachers, to help support the students' career choices. Effective components to be considered in selection of careers/vocations were stated as- A) Intellectual ability B) Capability C) Personality D) Interest E) Physical Ability F) Financial resources G) Academic achievement.

Stress was laid on the necessity to undertake Aptitude Testing in order to match one's interest with one's capabilities. Apart from the traditional career options, one could think of becoming a veterinarian, physiotherapist, bio technician, nurse, pharmacist, and the like. Opportunities in various careers related to defence and farming were shared. Attention was drawn to the importance of national level tests of eligibility like NEET, CET, UPSC, MPSC and IBPS.



Students felt equipped with a better sense of direction in their pursuit of vocations and careers !!



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MAKING WAVES ON ALL INDIA RADIO STATION on  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2019



Our sponsored students Sakshi Bhilare, Sahil Ghatavkar, Twinkle Gupta and Nishant Borade happily participated in the Quiz conducted at the All India Radio Station. Questions on general knowledge, English spellings, music and Indian history kept them doing their best. Our thanks to Mr. Santosh Sirur for continuing to provide this wonderful opportunity to our students !!

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OUTREACH TO NURSES UNDER THIRD YEAR TRAINING AT SION HOSPITAL  
on 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019



'Adoption Process and Law', including procedure related to safe surrender of children, was shared with around 96 participants, by Adoption-in-charge Mrs. Savita Nagpurkar. These included the procedures related to freeing the child for adoption and online placement through Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). Focus was drawn on definition of 'child' as per law and the 'rights' of the child as protected by law. Such legal processes and rules are applicable to all who are directly concerned, as well as the general public. Primary responsibility for the child's care is with their birth givers. To give up that responsibility, parents are required by law to go before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) who is the concerned Government authority. Since nurses come in contact with unwed mothers or parents with bias against girl child, it is necessary that they remain alert and sensitive to these matters. Several practical queries by the audience were answered during the sessions.

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## Workshop on "Communication Issues for Foster Parents & Adolescent Issues for Foster Children" on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019



Interactive sessions on this subject, by three different Resource Persons, assisted by TISS student social workers, were well-received by 61 parents and adolescent children under our Family Preservation Program. The objective was to familiarize the participants to pressing issues which lacked a space for discussion and try to find solutions to them together.

Session for girls taken up by Ms. Kavita Nair Bhatia included audio-visuals and dialogues on the reproduction process, menstruation and gender-stereotypes. Various stressors in life, situations related to friendship, infatuation, love, peer pressure, parental conflicts and addiction to social media & cell phones, were dealt with via case stories and role-play. The girls were encouraged to write their vision for their life 20 years from now and base their decisions on the same.



Session for foster parents was conducted by Ms. Smita Zankar through various activities, discussions and role play. It revolved around the subjects of parenting, parents' perspective of their children's future needs, different parenting styles and effective communication. The pros and cons of social media and the need to monitor and minimize its negative effects were also taken up.

Session for boys was conducted by Mr. Avkash Jadhav. Drawings done by pairs of boys were tools used to emphasize the importance of understanding one's partners. Discussion on the difference between boys and girls, infatuation, reproductive organs of both sexes, peer pressure and growth related issues were taken up. Mobile phone addiction was linked with career and other matters.



The sessions ended on a positive note with encouraging feedback received from the participants !!

Dental Camp organized with the support of Nair Hospital Dental College on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018



Ensured happier smiles for 60 children of West Khetwadi Municipal School and children under Bal Sangopan Yojana (BSY) Family Preservation Program

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PARTICIPATION IN SWANUBHAV EXHIBITION on 28<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019



Swanubhav - the annual exhibition of SNDT women's university department of social work is an initiative by their students to give back to society, with involvement of other NGOs. IAPA's stall for selling kurtis, bags and other products of our Vocational (Tailoring) class, manned by SNDT student social workers placed with IAPA, fetched appreciation and good returns.

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PICNIC AT KELVA on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019



Provided a much needed respite and day of fun and frolic for our foster mothers and their children; and a chance to strengthen our relationship with them in an informal atmosphere !

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## SOME SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

### **SURMOUNTING THE CRISIS IN KHETWADI PROJECT OFFICE**

IAPA was shaken up with the unexpected move of the BMC to evict NGOs having offices in Municipal schools. A long struggle had to be undertaken to convince them of the need to allow us to continue using our project office premises at West Khetwadi BMC School. It was only on the strength of our educational and developmental work done with children in 19 BMC schools in wards 'A' to 'E' over the period of time since 1995, that we were allowed to continue using the office premises in the BMC School. We hope to continue our work of facilitating education and development of underprivileged children; and empowering their families, from these premises.



### **GUIDELINES ON ALTERNATIVE CARE FOR MAHARASHTRA STATE**

IAPA was invited to be on the Expert Group formulated by the Maharashtra Government to draft Guidelines on Foster Family Care for Maharashtra State. Mrs. Najma Goriawalla represented IAPA. Promoting Family Based, Non-Institutional services for child protection, IAPA has pioneered in developing an Alternative Foster Care Programme for rehabilitation of children facing neglect and separation from the birth families in crisis. Two meetings were held in Pune on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 and January 21<sup>st</sup> 2019, convened by the State's Child Protection Society. The draft guidelines formulated will be finalized.



Contact us –



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The Public Trust Act of 1950.

Registration No. - F-2230.

Guidestar India No, 528.

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