



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

NEWSLETTER

October 2019 – March 2020



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Dear Readers,

It is wonderful to connect with you at a time when we have reached another significant milestone; our Golden Jubilee Year! Starting our journey with advocacy for adoption of orphaned and abandoned children, this initiative took shape in our intense campaign for policies and legislations in favor of adoption; country-wide development of capacity building, counseling and related promotional undertakings. Our unique practice of entrusting infants awaiting adoption in the personalized care of foster families, has also paid rich dividends.

Our conviction in the alternative of a family, in place of institutional upbringing, found us reaching out to children in need of care and protection, in collaboration with the Government. Simultaneously, our educational sponsorship program gave wings to the aspirations of children deprived of equal opportunities; along with support provided by multifarious free services.

As we geared up to celebrate our eventful and impactful journey of five decades, we had to halt and pay attention to the worldwide distress call given by nature. Even as we pause to heed this call, we are happy to share with you in this issue, several significant endeavors to bring about social changes through our various programs.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as we enjoyed preparing it!

With Best Wishes,
Team IAPA

Alternate Care Services for Children

IAPA has been in the forefront in promoting non-institutional, family based services for children. As one of the recognized agencies for implementing the Maharashtra State's Bal Sangopan Yojana (BSY), our experience shows that these services bring about a considerable change in the lives of the children. Ongoing awareness creation measures continue to promote these alternatives. For further deliberations on this subject, a workshop on 'Alternative Care Services for Children in Need of Care & Protection', was organized, in collaboration with the Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD) Mumbai City, on 5th December 2019.



Workshop Highlights

- Non-institutional services are always preferred in the best interest of the child, keeping a child rights based framework and child centric approach in mind.
- Adoption, foster care, kinship care, night shelters, group homes, sponsorship, counseling and community centres were better alternatives that should be given priority.
- Ultimately there has to be a balance between institutional and non-institutional services, as the institutions cannot be done away with completely.



Panel Members and Participants

- Mr. Milind Bidwai—Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee(CWC)-I, Mr. Vijay Doiphode—Chairperson, CWC-II, Mrs Savita Tosar - Probation Officer, DWCD Mumbai City, Dr. Nilima Mehta—Professor & National Consultant, Child Protection and Ms. Urmila Jadhav – Member, CWC-I
- Representatives from Child Care Institutions, Observation Homes & other NGO's implementing the State Government's BSY scheme

Foster Mothers in Action

Foster mothers who look after our infants in pre-adoption foster care, are an integral part of IAPA's adoption and foster care program. An activities session was organized for them in October 2019, to achieve these program goals.

Program Goals



Promote self-development and encourage team-building

Strengthen the relationship that each one of them shares with the agency

Motivate them to share their emotions of handling the infants in their care - ranging from emotional and sensitive, to happy and joyful



Challenges of Parenthood

Resource Persons Dr. Sulabha Subramaniam-Senior Therapist & Trainer and Dr. Laura Vaz-Psychotherapist, drew upon their vast reserves of experience during an interactive workshop for adoptive parents on 14th December 2019, on 'Challenges of Parenthood in the Fast paced World'. Mr. Vijay Doiphode-Chairperson, CWC-II who had graced the occasion, expressed his encouragement towards such capacity building initiatives. Children often face conflict of values when they get in contact with outside environment. This is the time for social workers to help them find a balance between their limitations and the family values they need to preserve.



Key Take-aways

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Positive parenting is all about well-being of the parents and their child | 2 |
| | Four gifts by parents to children-Rights, Privileges, Potential and Environment | |
| 3 | Parental attitude plays an important part; happy people have positive parental attitude | |
| | Love is an important parental resource to develop identity and transform behavior | 4 |
| 5 | Parents should display emotional openness in talking about adoption with their child | |
| | There are positive, negative & neutral expressions for communicating reality to child | 6 |
| 7 | Warmth, listening and conversing convey the parents' love and care to their child | |
| | Fear develops when the child is ridiculed, neglected, subjected to anger or rejected | 8 |
| 9 | Building resilience in the child is important to make them well-rounded individuals | |
| | Parents need to have a good self-esteem themselves for effective parenting | 10 |

Towards Child Mental Well-being



Panelists of our Child Guidance Centre (CGC) 'Aastha' identify and tackle psychological, learning and behavior issues of children, through referrals made. As part of their endeavor to improve mental health of children, they conducted sessions in two schools in December 2019 - on topics covering adolescent issues, lack of interest in studies, goal setting and importance of education.

Many children under our Project 'Asmita' which strives to develop capacities of students in a municipal school, hail from difficult backgrounds, necessitating CGC intervention. A practical session was conducted with these children, aimed at improving their behavior, concentration and learning abilities. Interactive session was also conducted with the teachers, to help them deal with the challenges faced with these children.

A Healthy Way Forward

Persons living with HIV (PLHIV) require a lot of inner resources and support from the community, to continue to live a life of purpose and dignity. A Support Group Session was organized for them on 18th February 2020. Mr. Ganesh Acharya-Coordinator, PLHIV, Mr. Shailesh Bhukta – Coordinator, Community Investment, United ways and Mrs. Yogita Lande, who assisted the IAPA team, conducted the session.



Program Objectives

- ✓ Impart awareness to the participants about their rights, latest policies and social stigmas
- ✓ The role of medicines, nutrition and diet - especially with a high probability of contracting Multi Drug Resistant-TB infection otherwise, was paramount
- ✓ Regular intake of ART medicines, combined with a healthy lifestyle, can lead to a healthy and long life.



Program Highlights

- ✓ Participants were motivated to raise their voices against discrimination and volunteer for awareness.
- ✓ It was stressed that it was necessary to preserve their and their spouse's documents for ease of registration for availing benefits of policies.
- ✓ The importance of the role of NGOs like IAPA and their counselors was also significant in imparting awareness and support in these matters.

Help me earn my first salary



Tailoring classes for women are regularly conducted under IAPA's Vocational Training Program. Under the guidance of the tailoring teacher, these students displayed their tailoring skills and put up a stall at TISS during their annual event 'Quintessence' on 16th and 17th January 2020. Items included short tops and kurtas. TISS student social workers placed with IAPA, helped in the entire process and managed to sell 83% of the products marketed. Similar stalls had been put up at SNTD University and G Law College during exhibitions held in their premises. Student Social Workers from TISS and SNTD have extended their support during other IAPA programs too.

Further Strength to the Rural Project

The work of facilitating education and Life Skills for students in the rural community in Terewayangani and Agarwayangani, in Dapoli Taluka-Ratnagiri District, and their surrounding villages, continued with further strength. Besides supporting secondary education for children of five neighboring villages, we have been able to take up wide-ranging improvements for the overall development of students and the community.



A felicitation programme was organized in October 2019 for students who had performed well in the Board exams last year



Extra study classes were held for students of Std. X with a view to improve the students' academic performance this year



Visit by Mrs. Rita Steinau, Director- Chance of Life, Germany to our rural project in Terewayangani in January 2020, gladdened the hearts of one and all!

Moments that strengthened our Bonds – Some visual glimpses of events

Annual Family Meet 2020



An event eagerly looked forward to by our adoptive parents and children. Having taken place on 15th February 2020, it brought another chance for them to bond, enact, paint, share and play!

Annual Sponsorship Day 2020



Annual Sponsorship Day 2020
12th January 2020

A much awaited occasion for students covered under our child welfare programs. Held on 12th January 2020, the day was marked by cultural performances, entertainment, felicitation, fun fair, prizes and merriment!



We would like to hear from you



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