

# Annual Report of Sarva Seva Sangh 2017-2018

It is indeed a pleasant task to share the annual report of the activities of Sarva Seva Sangh with well-wishers and those who walk along with our humanitarian endeavors. During the year Sarva Seva Sangh reached out to 899 street and working children and 890 children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. We also provided a year of pre-school education to 220 children from lower middle class and economically poorer families in and around Vadgaonsheri, Pune. Please find the details of our activities below.

## A. Street and Working Children

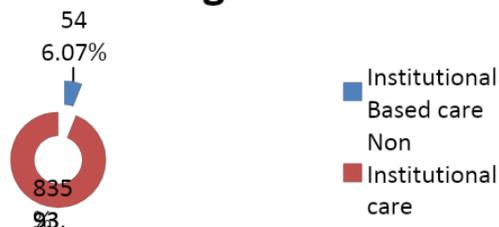
### Developments in environment and external conditions with implications on the project

Street children constitute one of the most vulnerable groups in India. Deprived of adequate and appropriate protection, education and health-care, street children survive in the unsafe environment of city streets. The Children in Street Situations issue is directly related to the quality of the existing relations between these children and the people in their immediate environment. The UNICEF defines a street child as “anyone under the age of 18 years either lives or works on the street for most of the time.” Broadly they comprise of three major categories i.e. Street living Children, Street working children and children of street families.

The twin city of Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad put together, is the sixth largest city in India as per census 2011 and remains the second largest in Maharashtra. Pune has witnessed an accelerated pace of growth during these years and has emerged as a prominent IT hub and manufacturing companies. But hand in hand with the rapid development and industrialization, there is a huge inflow of migrant workers and children from within the state and across the country. As the city expands, the poor are further pushed to the periphery and to the streets. There is huge contingent of children living at the streets, at railway station and slums and who etch their livelihood through begging, collecting scrapes etc. A study on street children conducted by the Pune Municipal Corporation enumerated 10,427 street children in its area. It is in the context of this ever growing number of street children that Sarva Seva Sangh is trying to make creative interventions for their overall rehabilitation and development.

### Project Outreach

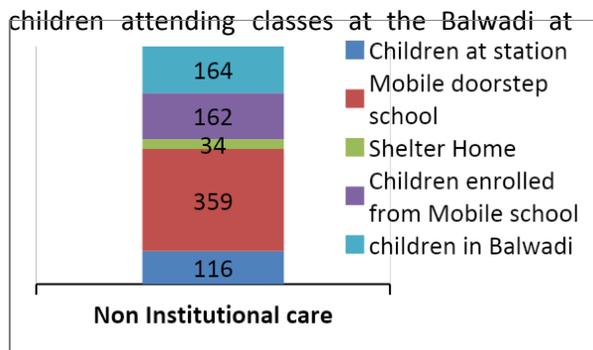
#### Rehabilitation of street and working children



There were 889 children in the project including 54 children placed under institutional based care, pursuing their studies staying in 5 hostels and 835 children under non-institutional care. The eight hundred and thirtyfive children under non-institutional care includes the children attending the mobile doorstep school, street children living at the station, children

enrolled in regular school from the mobile school, children attending classes at the Balwadi at construction sites and the children at the shelter home.

The objective of the whole programme was to provide these children a risk free environment to live and study and thus to empower them and to raise the social consciousness about these children’s rights and their callous violations.



**Progress of the intervention in the reporting period: from activities to objectives**

All our interventions are broadly classified in to three different aspects of the project, namely, rehabilitation, empowerment and advocacy. While rehabilitation aims at providing a safe and risk free environment for children to live and study, the empowerment programmes are aimed at enhancing the growth and over all development of the children and all the advocacy programmes are aimed at raising social awareness and the responsibility of the civil society and the government to address these issues pertaining to the children and people we reach out to.

**3.1 Description of progress on each Sub-Objective**

**a. Rehabilitation – providing a risk free environment and nutritional & medical assistance**

During the reporting year we had 54 children placed in various hostels in and around Pune for formal education. Regular visits are held to these hostels and the needs of these children are attended to. Such visits are also occasions for us to keep track of the progress of these children both in their academics as well as in other fields. Counseling and guidance is given to these children as and when necessary.

**Visit to the Pune railway station & nutritional and Medical assistance**

Sarva Seva Sangh staff has been regularly visiting the Pune railway station on a daily basis and this has helped us to understand and reach out to one hundred and sixteen children whose life and activities are centered on the Pune railway station and the surrounding areas. Our visits have been primarily to motivate these children and their parents to leave the station and pursue alternate ways of earning their livelihood and pursue their education. Priority and special care was given to the identification and rehabilitation of young and new children coming into the street. Monthly gatherings of these children were held at Sarva Seva Sangh, wherein they are provided with new clothes, toilet articles etc.

During the daily visits to the railway station and the other contact points, the SSS staff provides first aid and primary care to anyone who is sick and takes them to the government or private hospitals for further diagnosis and treatment. A well packed nutritious meal is given to the children at the street on a daily basis.

**Mobile Doorstep School (Manoranjan Shala)**

The Mobile Doorstep School is a school on wheels, reaching out to children in slums and on pavements and children at construction sites. During the year we were reaching out to 6 contact points catering to 359 children in a bid to introduce them to formal education. The objective of this informal education is to inspire both children and parents to enroll their children for formal education. The mini bus converted in to a class room has attractions to the children like DVD player and an LCD TV and with the help of these facilities; the classes are made more and more child friendly and interesting. In addition to classes on reading and writing, the mobile school has a variety of activities like singing, dancing, painting, magic show, picnics and outings. Some nutrition items are also regularly supplied to these children.

### **Children enrolled from Mobile school**

Since the objective of the Mobile doorstep school is to motivate them to pursue formal education, we have made all efforts to follow up the children to get them enrolled in schools. During the year we provided assistance and support to 162 children who were enrolled in regular schools. Additional tuitions are provided to these children to ensure that children are able to cope with their studies and their regular attendance.

### **Balwadis at Construction sites**

In order to reach out to children of the laborers at the construction sites, with the support and collaboration of the builders, we are running a balwadi at a construction site to provide these children a risk free environment and pre-school education. One hundred and sixty four children are benefitting from this balwadi.

### **b. Empowerment**

Much emphasis was laid on assisting the children in their psycho social and emotional growth. In addition to their formal education many activities were carried out for this purpose during the year.

### **Life skill training programmes**

In order to enhance the integral development of the children, in addition to regular schooling, we conducted four life skill training programmes for the children under Institutional care and shelter home, participated by all the children above 3rd standard. These camps were held during the summer and Diwali vacation on the theme, 'Save the Earth' and 'Growing Up' respectively. There was a life skill camp on 'Pollutions' conducted for children enrolled from mobile school, which was participated by 34 children. Most of the sessions were participative and activity based and the children shared that these camps were much interesting and useful.

### **Study Tour to Wax Museum, Nashik and Morachi Chincholi.**

Children from 1st standard to 5th were taken to Wax museum at Lonavala. Children had heard and seen in TV about the wax carvings of famous personalities, but here they got an opportunity to see and understand. Ten children visited the museum, where a guide explained the carvings to them.

We conducted an overnight study tour to Nasik for children from standard VIII to X under Institutional care to Historical places to foster better sense of history. All the high school going children, numbering 16 had the privilege to participate in the study tour. Children visited Gargoti mineral museum, Pachavti, the Kumbh Mela spot, historic Dr. B R Ambedkar's Kalaram Manidir, Panduleni caves, Kalsu Bai mountain, the highest point of Maharashtra, Sandan Valley and Bhandardhara Dam.

Smaller children from standard I to VI were taken to Morachi Chincholi for study tour. Here children had a village experience where they were shown different types of farming, plants, animals, types of houses and also a glance of our Solar System etc. which were very informative.

Children enrolled from Mobile school were taken to War museum and Shinde Chattri in Pune. Seventeen children from standard VIII to X benefitted.

### **Mental health activities/yoga and counseling**

A Yoga meditation each was conducted for children from different programs. These were half day sessions, where in concentration and relaxation techniques were taught and benefitted by 29 children from shelter home, 19 children from institution care and 55 children enrolled from mobile school. Apart from this a dance therapy was conducted for institution based children and a deaddiction session for children enrolled from mobile school. Counsellings are also done by the staff for children individually and in groups time to time.

### **Bal Mela 2017**

A balmela was organized for all our beneficiaries who are school going. It was organized on 17th of October 2017. The event was inaugurated by Fr.Thomas Malippurathu, Rector Divine Word Seminary, Pune. The inaugural address was delivered by Fr. Joy, Manager, Christ College, Pune. There were 10 stalls arranged for the games and many rides installed. Jagdish Mulik, MLA, was the chief guest at the public meeting. The other guests present were Inspector Guhilot from RPF, Mr. Kute , Probationary officer, WCD. Children from the project, 260 of them, enjoyed dancing, singing and playing.

### **Mahila Mela 2018**

International women's day was celebrated as Mahila Mela 2018 on 10<sup>th</sup> March at Vittalanjan Mangal Karyalaya. Fifty eight women from the project participated in the mela. Mr. Narayan Galande inaugurated the Mela. The women enjoyed variety competitive stalls and games. During the informal meeting in the afternoon, several women came forward to share about their struggles of life and how they faced the challenges. The presence of Fr. Richard Mathias, the Provincial Superior and his team of council encouraged women, who live in trying situations. We have observed that women look forward to this day. Many women who live at the railway station participated.

### **Picnics and Outings**

Light moments are important for the holistic development of children. Therefore, we organise picnics and outings for the children. Bigger children under Institutional care and the shelter home were taken to Diamond Water park and smaller children to Manali water park for picnic in April 2017. Children from

shelter home were also taken to Katraj in August. Children enrolled in regular schools from mobile school were taken to Katraj for picnic and children from mobile school as well as the balwadi had picnics to Chhatrapati Shivaji Udyan in October.

### **Children's Parliament**

Two Children's parliaments were functioning in this project, one at the shelter home and second at Suryaprakash Nagar community during this year. On 25<sup>th</sup> January the ministers from children's Parliament were taken for an exposure to Government Railway Police station at Pune Station and Pune reservation office. The objective of the visit was to make children familiar with the functioning of these departments and disseminate the information to other members too. We have observed that as a result of Children's Parliament children are becoming more responsible and confident.

### **Get together/ Picnic for Women/awareness programme and IGP training**

A picnic cum exposure was organised for women in September 2017 to Tulapur triveni Sangam and to Iswari products at Phulgaon for 29 women. Training on agarbatti making was organised for women at Suryaprakash Nagar. There were also health talks by Dr. Lunkad held at two places for the mothers.

### **Monthly gathering of Children from the station and traffic islands**

The children from the station and surrounding areas were brought regularly every month to Sarva Seva Sangh in order to provide them an opportunity to interact with the children who have come out of the street and get themselves motivated to pursue education.

### **ADVOCACY**

Even as Sarva Seva Sangh is involved in the rehabilitation of street and working children and their empowerment, effort is also made to bring to the forefront the issues pertaining to these children to both with the Government and the society. Sarva Seva Sangh has been making consistent efforts to link the beneficiaries with various Government schemes and to help them to receive the benefits available.

### **Child Right and child Protection**

Sessions on Child rights and protection were conducted on different days for different groups of people. The first one was conducted for Potters on 9<sup>th</sup> of December, then for Railway Protection Force on 11<sup>th</sup> of December and on 27<sup>th</sup> of March Session on child rights was conducted for Government Railway Police at their Pune Divisional Headquarters, Khadki as well as at GRP station, Pune Station. Police from Pune Division i.e. Solapur to Kolhapur were present for the session including the superintendent of police. The objective of the session was to sensitize the police force towards the protections and rights of children. The staff also conducted a session with the teachers of St. Joseph's school, Kendel in Ahmad Nagar District on developing child friendly approach and promoting child rights.

### **World AIDS Day**

Children from the shelter home actively participated in the rally organised on 30th November 2017. These children along with children from other schools became agents to make the public aware of HIV/AIDS and the rights of those infected and affected children/people.

#### **D. Success Stories**

##### **Padma Timanna Chawan**

Padma Chawan stays at Suryaprakash Nagar community and is part of our project since 2008. She has five siblings. Her parents are illiterate and are daily wage labourers. With our continuous motivation they agreed to send their daughter to school. Padma was a hard working child from the beginning. In spite of all odds in her life she continued her education and appeared for standard XII examination in March 2018 and passed with first class. Being one of the first girls to reach standard XII from this community she is an example and motivation for other children in the community.

##### **Suryaprakash Nagar Community**

Sarva Seva Sangh started working in Surya Prakash Nagar community in 2007 with mobile doorstep school programme. People in this community were mostly construction workers. Most children were not going to school when we entered the community. As the parents were at work during the day, children used to wander or engage in waste picking. We persisted parents to send the children to school. With years of persistence, today almost all the children in the community who are six years or above are enrolled in formal schools and this year for the first time, seven children from this community have appeared for Higher Secondary school examination. Now the parents are gradually taking interest in sending children for formal education.

The girls used to discontinue schooling at puberty until a few years ago. With our dialogue with parents and children such cases are almost nil by now. Child marriages too have reduced drastically. Unlike in the past, most of the pregnant women from the community are delivering in hospitals. Thus we can see tremendous change in the quality of life as individuals and as community especially among children and women.

#### **4. Unintended effects**

Though our primary target group is the children, through the children we are able to make remarkable changes in the entire life of the family and of a community. People are becoming more aware about health and hygiene. Families and women are becoming more self confident and assertive especially when faced with challenges from the society.

5. As many of the programmes and interventions have already been in place, their sustainability is reasonably assured as the people and children have been made responsible for the programme. The children's parliament, the monthly meetings, affirming their rights in the schools or educational institutions have been well inculcated in the children and parents.

#### **Conclusion**

Sarva Seva Sangh is committed to further improve the quality of its services and to make new interventions for the welfare and development of the vulnerable children and to work against Child labor and work for the implementation of the right to Education Act.

We have been able to gather much local support and we have succeeded in bargaining well with individuals and institutions to access maximum benefits for the children. We have certainly improved the quality of our interventions for the children and there is a marked improvement in the progress of the children at all levels.

## **B. HIV infected and affected Children**

### **1. Developments in environment and external conditions with implications on the project**

India is the second most populated countries in the world, with a population of 1.33billion inhabitants, which is above one sixth of the entire human population. HIV infection rates soared throughout the 1990s, and today India has the third largest HIV epidemic in the world due to its large population size. There were 80,000 new HIV infections and 62,000 AIDS related deaths in the year 2016.

The Government of India estimates that about 2.10 million Indians are living with HIV with an adult prevalence of 0.30% (2016). Though HIV prevalence is on the rise in some of the North Eastern states, Western and Southern states, namely, Maharashtra, Gujrat, Anshra-Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu account for nearly 60 % of all HIV infections in the country. Maharashtra has the highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS and Pune, with above 0.6 prevalence, has been one of the high prevalent areas of HIV/AIDS in Maharashtra. Most infections occur through heterosexual transmission. Sex workers, MSM, truck drivers and migrant workers are identified with HIV infections along with people who inject drugs.

Our efforts in the rehabilitation and empowerment of children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and children of women in prostitution and public awareness activities must be placed in this background. The National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) through its state level unit Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS) and National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) located in Pune has been actively working in bringing down new infections.

### **2. Project Outreach**

During the reporting period Sarva Seva Sangh reached out to and provided services to 890 children. Most of them, 877 children, were under home based care and 13 children were placed under institution based care. These 890 children hail from 568 families spread across the City of Pune. Among these, 240 children are living with HIV while 646 children are affected by HIV and four children are children of

women in prostitution. Among the beneficiaries there are 57 orphans (6.4%) and 436 (49%) semi orphans making more than half (55.4%) of our children. This was very much in consonance with our policy of reaching out and offering assistance primarily to children below the poverty line, orphans, Semi orphans, child headed families, and women headed families.

The objective of the whole programme was to provide these children support and to accompany them in their education and empowerment and to raise the social consciousness about these children's rights and prevention of new infections.

### **3. Progress of the intervention in the reporting period: from activities to objectives**

Our interventions are broadly classified into three different aspects of the project, namely, rehabilitation, empowerment and advocacy. While rehabilitation aims at providing a safe and risk free environment for children to live and study, the empowerment programmes are aimed at enhancing the growth and overall development of the children and all the advocacy programmes are aimed at raising social awareness and the responsibility of the civil society and the government to address these issues pertaining to the children and people we reach out to and to prevent new infections.

#### **3.1 Description of progress on each Sub-Objective**

##### **a. Rehabilitation – providing a risk free environment and nutritional & medical assistance**

During the reporting period 13 children were placed in 4 hostels in and around Pune for formal education. These children were provided with all their requirements. They live and study in a safe environment. Regular visits were held to these hostels and the needs of these children were attended to. Such visits were also occasions for us to monitor the progress of these children both in their academics as well as in other fields. Periodic counseling and guidance were given to these children.

Since the best place for a child to be is his or her home or extended home, most of our beneficiaries are placed under home based care. Children are taken care by the single parent, care taker, grandparents etc. and we accompany these children. Most of the CLHAs and CAAs suffer lapses in their formal education due to sickness, lack of adult care givers. The social workers and the outreach workers regularly interact with and meet these children and help them to face the daily hurdles and problems, and extend medical and nutritional assistance. Children are helped to access formal education by providing school fees, books, school uniforms, school bags, fees for higher education and other school supplies. This year we provided support to Eighteen children for their higher /technical education among whom three are living with HIV.

### **Nutritional support**

In the case of both HIV infected and affected children lack of adequate and balanced nutrition increases the risk of Opportunistic infections. All our school going children are either linked to midday meal scheme or ICDS. However, to bridge the huge gap between the nutrition that is needed and that which is available, Sarva Seva Sangh provides, supplementary nutritional kits prepared as per the recommendations of NARI. One thousand four hundred and seventy nine such nutritional kits were provided primarily to 237 children. All the needs of the children placed under institutional care has been attended to on a regular basis through our monthly hostel visits. This service has produced the desired outcome of enhancing the nutritional status and preventing OI due to malnutrition among the children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

### **Medical support**

Lack of education, information, fear and discrimination prevent children and parents from accessing health care services available at their locality. To address this and to improve the health condition of our beneficiaries all our CLHAs and PLHIVs are referred and linked with the state health care systems. The social workers make all possible efforts to ensure that the Children and parents infected with HIV are regular with ART and keep constant watch on their CD4 count. Apart from this during the year thirty five CLHIV were given medical assistance upon opportunistic infections.

### **Home/hospital/school and hostel visit**

Such visits are important while accompanying the children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. During the visits we focused on establishing social support groups, strengthening ICTC for HIV, improved access to TB/DOts, providing counseling on HIV prevention and PPTCT. Despite putting the best of our efforts in providing the adequate medical care to all the children, seven children passed away during the current year.

### **b. Empowerment**

Much emphasis was laid on assisting the children in their psycho social and emotional development. In addition to their formal education, many activities were carried out for this purpose during the project year.

### **Life skill training programmes**

During the project year we conducted ten life skill training programs aimed at the integral development of children. Most camps were held during the Diwali vacation and the summer holidays. All together

two hundred and Thirty Four children attended these camps. The camps dealt with topics such as Save the Environment, Water Pollution, Noise Pollution, Air pollution, Disaster Management, cleanliness, Social responsibility, time management, study skills and Growing up, dental care etc. The sessions were mostly participative and activity oriented and the children shared that these camps were really useful and interesting.

Two separate camps (with KEM Hospital ) were held specifically for children living with HIV in order to inculcate right awareness about HIV and to become agents of HIV prevention. Herein children had the opportunity to clarify their doubts regarding the illness and its implications for their life. These were one day programmes.

Parents/caretakers do share with the outreach workers and other project staff that such camps bring in confidence, behavioural changes and maturity in children.

### **Study Tour to Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Morachi Chincholi and Nashik**

Nineteen children under HBC, studying in standard XI were taken for a Study tour to Aurangabad, a historic city in Maharashtra. The city is a tourist hub, surrounded with many historical monuments, including the Daulatabad Fort, Ellora Caves which are UNESCO World Heritage sites, as well as Bibi Ka Maqbara, the burial place of Aurangzeb's wife, Rabia-ud-Durrani, popularly known as the Mini Taj of the Deccan and Panchakki, the water mill. The children got a fair idea of what they have studied in the text books.

Second study tour was to Morachi Chincholi giving children a feel of rural culture and information on agriculture. Twenty nine children under HBC studying in standard VII, VIII and IX were part of this one day tour.

The IBC children studying in primary classes were taken to Wax Museum at Lonawala. High school children were taken to Nashik, an important city in Maharashtra. The city is a tourist hub, surrounded with many historical and religious monuments and few spots of geographical importance in Maharashtra. Children visited Gargoti mineral museum, Pachavti, the Kumbh Mela spot, historic Dr. B R Ambedkar's Kalaram Mandir, Panduleni caves, Kalsubai mountain, the highest point of Maharashtra, Sandan Valley and Bhandardhara Dam. IBC children studying in upper primary school were taken to Morachi Chincholi.

### **Mental health activities/yoga and counseling**

Seventy two children benefitted from Yoga training (YogaAsanas). It will be of great help in enhancing their concentration, creative thinking and relaxation.

### **Aptitude test and Career Guidance**

Twenty six children who completed standard X underwent a scientific aptitude test and career guidance by Jnana Prabhodhini Sonshodhan Sanstha.

### **Bal Mela 2017**

Bal Mela 2017 was held on 17th October at Stella Maris School Premises with the intention of offering a day of cheer and entertainment to our children living in high risk situations.

The Bal Mela was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Malipurathu, Rector, Divine Word Seminary and was attended by 645 children from the project, well wishers, friends and volunteers. The variety rides and stalls, the melodious Orchestra by Roxygen, the gracious presence of Mr. Jagdish Mulik MLA, Fr. Malcolm Sequiera, Sr. Rita, Provincial Superior of the Ursuline sisters, Mr. Guhilot, RPF inspector and the performances of our children, made the Mela an exciting and wonderful experience for our children.

### **Mahila Mela 2018**

International women's day was celebrated as Mahila Mela 2018 on 10<sup>th</sup> March at Vittalanjan Mangal Karyalaya. Two hundred and seventy women from the project participated in the mela. Mr. Narayan Galande inaugurated the Mela. The women enjoyed variety competitive stalls and games. During the informal meeting in the afternoon, several women came forward to share about their struggles of life and how they faced the challenges. Many women also came prepared to entertain the crowd. The presence of Fr. Richard Mathias, the Provincial Superior and his team of council encouraged women, who live in trying situations. We have observed that women now look forward to this day.

### **Micro enterprises/Trainings/Savings**

It is very important to make the beneficiaries self-sustainable and independent. Therefore, we conducted three training programs during the year on making phenyl as well as detergent. We also helped eight women under micro enterprise to purchase garment and embroidery materials, sewing machines, Grocery items, ornaments and wooden handicrafts to begin a small scale business. They have already begun to earn their livelihood and some of them are also saving some money for themselves from these. Savings are encouraged through family saving groups and helping the women to open individual savings accounts for women. During the reporting year we helped twelve women to open bank accounts, making it a total of 274.

### **Renuka Narendra Waganwar**

Renuka waganwar is one of our beneficiaries who adopted a child living with HIV two years ago, and was taking support from Sarva Seva Sangh for this child's education. This year she attend the phenol,detergent and perfume making training we conducted. We helped her to purchase materials worth Rs. 3,000 and she started a small business of selling phenol, detergent and perfume. Now she is earning around Rs.1500 to 2000 a month from this business.

### **Neeta Nanasaheb Jambhale**

Neeta is our beneficiary since two years. Sarva Seva Sangh supported her to start her own grocery shop at her home by giving her financial support of Rs.5000 for purchasing chocolates, biscuit, soaps,and household items. Now she is earning Rs.2000 to 3000 per month.

### **Exposure/Get together/ Picnic for Women**

We conducted six exposure visits for 187 women during the year. They visited organizations which are working for economic empowerment of women. They observed various vocational training programmes. Besides exposure to these programmes, these were also occasions for enjoyment for their otherwise monotonous lives. Such occations have also helped these women to ventilate their hard feelings with others who experience similar problems and support each other.

### **C. ADVOCACY**

Even as Sarva Seva Sangh is involved in the rehabilitation of HIV infected and affected children and their empowerment, we put in a lot of efforts to bring to the forefront the issues pertaining to these children before the Government as well as the society. Sarva Seva Sangh has been making consistent efforts to link the clients with the various Government schemes and to help them to receive the benefits available.

### **World AIDS Day 2017**

The World AIDS day 2017 was observed with a rally on 30th November to make the public aware about HIV /AIDS on the theme 'Increasing impact through transparency, Accountability And Partnership'. Nearly 400 high school children from Sarva Seva Sangh, St. Arnold's Central school, Stella Maris School and Lonkar Vidyalay participated in the rally which concluded at Divine Mercy church premises. Corporator Mr. Yogesh Mulik addressed the students and corporators Mrs Shital Shinde and Sandeep Jarad participated. Students from Christ College, Pune put up a streetplay on HIV/AIDS. Pune Corporation Aids control society also participated in the rally with flash cards and banners.

Sarva Seva Sangh organized more awareness programmes during the week for the senior students in Mother Teresa School, Netaji school, Lonkar school, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar College, Satav Vidhyalay, Stella Maris School, Stree Vani etc.

Apart from the above, Sarva seva sangh conducted three awareness programs for people living with HIV/AIDS, which were participated by 399 women. The women were given information about the importance of ART Adherence, Care And Support, nutrition and causes of addictions.

### **Children's Parliament**

The Children's Parliaments constituted at eight of our clusters are meeting regularly at every alternate week. Fifteen to twenty children between the age group of 12-16 years participate in these meetings. Our social workers guide these children and help them to understand the meaning and relevance of the whole concept of children's parliament, structure and functioning, the role of each minister and the role of parliament in solving social problems.

During the project year, 39 Children's Parliament members were taken GPO, Pune. They were given information about post office system and how it works, post office schemes, banking system. The children also visited War Museum.

The mothers/caretakers of the regular members of Children's Parliaments have shared with us during the year that these children have become better disciplined and have better sense of responsibility.

### **D. Success Stories**

**Sarika Dhondiba Ghongade** has been one of our beneficiaries for the past thirteen years and is an excellent example of hard work. She has completed Bachelor in Commerce from Shree Siddhivinayak Mahila Mahavidyalay Arts & Com, college Kothrud Pune. She got job in Bajaj Finance company at Decon Pune. As a customer care executive she earns Rs. 12,500 per month and is currently taking care of her mother and brother and sister. She takes responsibility of her sisters education too.

**Pooja Chandrshekar Surve** has been our beneficiary for fifteen years who worked hard. She has completed Bachelor in Computer Application from Modern College Pune. She is now employed with Amazon Company at Vimannagar as Accounts desk operator. She earns Rs. 16,500 per month and is currently taking care of her mother.

**Tarnum Fhiroz Pathan** has been our beneficiary for Ten years. She has completed Telecommunication & Electronics from Sinhgad Academy of Engineering, Kondwa, Pune. She got job placement as Marketing

executive at Asian Paint. Currently, she is earning Rs. 16,000 per month and she is supporting her mother and brother.

**Reshmi Chorge** has been supported by the project since 2003 in the Institution based care program. She has now completed General Nursing and has started working in a reputed hospital, earning around Rs.16,000 a month.

Further, glancing through our efforts during the past five years, 91 children passed out X or XII class with distinction and 236 passed with first class. From the children supported for professional/higher education 23 are working and 11 are pursuing post graduation on their own. The project supported 52 mothers/caretakers to start micro enterprise among whom 35 are earning regular income and 15 of them are also training others. There are also 21 women who started working as a result of counselling and motivation. The staff also succeeded in saving the lives of 15 children from very critical condition by arranging timely health care. Women have started asserting their rights, gained confidence to speak in public and ask questions. During the past two years in the project there are no such cases of women and children being put out of the house by the in-laws.

#### **4. Unintended effects**

Eventhough children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS are our primary target, while reaching out to the children we are able to make remarkable changes in the entire life of the family. Families and women are becoming more self-confident and assertive, especially when faced with challenges from the society.

5. Since many of the programmes and interventions have already been in place, their sustainability is reasonably assured as the people and children have been made responsible for the programme. The children's parliament, the monthly meetings, asserting their rights in the schools or educational institutions and others have been well inculcated in the children and care takers.

#### **7. Child protection**

Sarva Seva Sangh as an organization committed to the protection and well-being of children, we have updated the CPP as per the guidelines and directions of KNH. Our CPP has been regularly communicated, discussed and elaborated with the children and their care takers and with the visitors.

Since children have been made aware of the CPP and its implications for their life in the local area and community, children alert to ensure that no violations take place in the community and institutions.

When they come across some violations, they do inform us or the concerned people. We have observed that children have become sensitive and aware about their right to protection.

The staff members have taken active role in updating the CPP. They have also signed the agreement to abide by our CPP and promote the same. The organization has reached out to the communities and institutions to make them aware of the Child protection rules of the Government and of the organization. We have reached out to a few schools and institutions dealing with children to implement the Child Protections regulations.

There is a 24 hour closed circuit surveillance of the whole campus of Sarva Seva Sangh and during events and camps lot of precautions are taken that no violations happen both within the institution as well as outside. The society at large too is growing in awareness regarding child rights and the importance of protection of children, though the process is slow. There has not been any instance of child right violation reported in the project.

### **Conclusion**

Sarva Seva Sangh, as an organisation committed to promote the rights of children and their protection, is also committed to further improve the quality of our services and to make new interventions for the welfare and development of the vulnerable children.

We have been able to gather much local support and we have succeeded in bargaining well with individuals and institutions to access maximum benefits for the children. We have certainly improved the quality of our interventions for the children and there is a marked improvement in the progress of the children at all levels.

We are grateful to all those who walked along, especially K.N.H Germany, our primary funding partner, different companies, groups and individuals, who partnered with funds, time and motivation.

Fr. Mathew Korattiyil  
(Director)