

Sarva Seva Sangh (SSS) - Annual Report 2023-24

Empowering Vulnerable Children, Youth, and Families in Pune

1. Introduction

Sarva Seva Sangh (SSS), Pune, is dedicated to the holistic development and protection of vulnerable communities. This annual report for April 2023 - March 2024 summarizes the work and impact of our two primary projects:

1. Capacity Building of HIV infected and Affected children, Adolescent/youth and their family in PMC & PCMC.

2. Capacity Building of Children in Street Situations.

Through direct intervention, advocacy, and network building, we strive to ensure that every child and family we serve can live with dignity and enjoy their fundamental rights.

2. Project 1: Support for HIV-Affected Communities

This project focuses on providing comprehensive support to children, adolescents, and families affected by HIV/AIDS in the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) areas.

2.1 Outreach & Demographics (Snapshot)

197 Families reached.

182 Children supported (89 boys, 93 girls).

100 Adolescents/Youth empowered (46 boys, 54 girls).

21 Orphans and 135 Semi-orphans cared for.

2.2 Key Programme Highlights & Impact

A. Capacity Building & Life Skills

Conducted 2 residential life skill camps for 94 children on Leadership, Critical Thinking, Goal Setting, and Stress Management.

Established 5 Children's Parliaments (Balsansad) across Pune clusters, empowering 64 children to voice their community issues (e.g., sanitation, water) directly to municipal authorities.

B. Education & Career Support

- Provided educational support and study materials to 83 children.
- Formed 4 youth groups (106 members) focused on career development and advocacy. 68 youths received skill training, leading to placements at companies like Tech Mahindra, Lighthouse, and in the banking and nursing sectors.
- Conducted career guidance sessions for 21 students.

C. Empowerment of Parents & Caregivers

- Transformed parent support groups into 13 formal Self-Help Groups (SHGs) comprising 171 women.
- SHGs were trained and linked with PMC to access government schemes (e.g., widow pension, health cards).
- Organized events like Mahila Aiky Meelan and Haldi Kumkum to build confidence, camaraderie, and financial literacy.

D. Health, Counseling & Awareness

- Conducted dedicated counseling sessions for Children Living with HIV (CLHIV), leading to better understanding of their status and improved ART adherence.
- Successfully observed World AIDS Day 2023 with a rally and role-play, advocating for the rights of PLHIV with government officials to reduce stigma and discrimination.

E. Joyful Learning & Community Events

- Hosted Balmela, a day of games and cultural activities for 115 children.
- Organized Mahila Mela for 159 women, providing a platform for talent showcase and relaxation.

2.3 Success Stories

- Meera Rakshe started her own ironing business with project support, sustaining her family.
- Vaishali Jawanjai successfully managed a PMC stall during Diwali, earning a significant profit.
- Roshan Kute and Prasad Mohite secured stable employment and became youth leaders, with Prasad becoming the president of the youth federation.
- Sagar Somvanshi now runs his own successful optical shop with two branches.

3. Project 2: Support for Children in Street Situations

This project aims to protect, educate, and rehabilitate children living on the streets, at traffic signals, and in vulnerable slums across Pune.

3.1 Outreach & Demographics (Snapshot)

1. Reached out to hundreds of children at traffic signals, religious places, malls, and gardens.
2. Provided quality intervention through education, shelter, and counseling.
3. Supported parents through counseling, adult literacy, and micro-enterprise initiatives.

3.2 Key Programme Highlights & Impact

A. Protection & Safety

- ❖ Conducted counseling on child protection for 273 children and 152 parents.
- ❖ Held 27 awareness sessions on child rights and safety, benefiting 319 children.
- ❖ Organized 18 street plays during festivals to sensitize the public.
- ❖ Provided de-addiction counseling and therapy for 92 parents and 121 children.

B. Prevention of Child Labor & Begging

- ❖ Regular counseling motivated 263 children to stop begging/selling.
- ❖ Sensitized over 5,130 students in 12 schools to not give money to child beggars.
- ❖ Organized a 5.2 km Marathon against child beggary, attended by 500+ citizens.
- ❖ Supported 9 families with micro-enterprise, improving their economic conditions.

C. Education & Development

- ❖ Enrolled 56 children in formal schools.
- ❖ Ran a Mobile Doorstep School for 263 children, with 12 transitioning to formal schools.
- ❖ Provided temporary hostel facilities for 14 girls and 8 boys, enabling them to continue their education safely. Five completed their 10th-grade exams.
- ❖ Conducted additional tuition classes for 97 children across 4 centers, showing remarkable academic improvement.
- ❖ Held life skill education sessions and camps for over 259 children.

D. COVID-19 Special Project (Learning Hubs & Labs)

- ❖ Operated Learning Hubs and Labs in underserved slums, providing educational support and nutrition to 570+ children to counter learning loss from the pandemic.
- ❖ Formed Galaxy of Teens groups for 114 adolescents and Tejaswini groups for women's literacy.

3.3 Networking

- ❖ Active membership in city-level networks (ARC) to advocate for street children's rights.
- ❖ Submitted reports on child beggary to government departments (CWC, DWCD, Police), leading to broader discussions on policy and rehabilitation.
- ❖ Networked with corporates like Equites Micro Finance to provide safe housing for 5 pavement-dwelling families.

4. Cross-Cutting Themes: Sustainability & Management

- ❖ **Sustainability:** The project's focus on capacity building, forming SHGs, and empowering beneficiaries to directly engage with government systems ensures long-term impact.
- ❖ **Project Management:** Experienced staff with low turnover participated in regular training (ToT) on leadership, child safety, and cybercrime, enhancing project quality.
- ❖ **Child Participation:** Children were actively involved in decision-making through Bal Sansads and youth groups, planning events, and advocating for their communities.

5. Conclusion

The past year has been one of significant challenges and profound achievements. Despite the socio-economic hurdles and the vulnerable nature of the communities we serve, Sarva Seva Sangh has made substantial progress in empowering children and families affected by HIV and those living in street situations.

Our work, supported by our donors and partners, has enabled children to go to school, youth to build careers, women to become entrepreneurs, and communities to advocate for their rights. We remain committed to our mission of creating a society where every child can live with dignity, free from stigma, exploitation, and fear.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, the KNH teams in Germany and India, and our dedicated staff for their unwavering support and belief in our mission.