

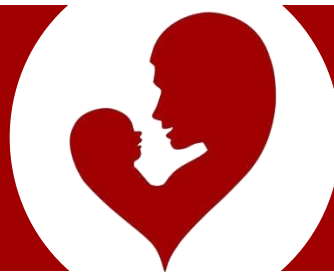
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# Apne Aap Women's Collective

*the right to a better life for women and children in red light areas*

## Success Stories

-  **Pinky Sharma\***, 46, left prostitution and is now a social worker at an NGO that serves the Kamathipura community.
-  **Duhita Ghosh\***, 38, completed vocational training through AAWC and left prostitution to work as a tailor in a suburban garment factory.
-  **Chandrika Pillai\***, 36, escaped from her brothel and now supports her daughter's boarding school education through agricultural farming.
-  **Divya Mehta\***, 28, is completing her Bachelors in Commerce for accounting, despite marrying at 16 and becoming a teenage mother.
-  **Kavita Jain\***, 27, completed an international luxury hotel's 3-year management program and is now a chef for the hotel in Germany.
-  **Malika Shah\***, 27, took her mother to be treated at a hospital, where she impressed the managers so much that they hired her as an accountant.
-  **Safa Shaikh\***, 27, won a lawsuit against a corrupt police officer, earned a Masters in Commerce, and is an accountant for an Andheri retailer.
-  **Renu Kambatta\***, 26, is a social worker at Magic Bus, an NGO that moves children out of poverty through sports-based mentoring.
-  **Avante Jain\***, 24, is a successful sales representative for a premier multinational automaker at its Worli showroom.
-  **Jaya Malhotra\***, 23, is a teacher for AAWC's Umang program and is concurrently pursuing a B.A. and a certification in social work.
-  **Disha Shetty\***, 7, attends St. Joseph's School, a private institution offering a high-quality English-medium education.
-  **Shabana Khatun\***, 6, once sat in the corner by herself, but today, she is a curious and exuberant academic leader who loves to ask questions.
-  **Asma Shaikh\***, 5, is a bright student at an AAWC-affiliated boarding home, where she enjoys a close relationship with the teachers.

\* Names have been changed to protect their identities.

## About AAWC

Apne Aap Women's Collective (AAWC) was founded in 1998 as an **anti-trafficking** organisation for the women and children of Kamathipura, one of the **largest and oldest red light areas in Asia**.

By providing our members with the tools and resources to create a better quality of life, we seek to empower women who have been trafficked into brothel-based prostitution and to prevent the cycle of intergenerational prostitution among their daughters.

As of March 2014, we have served **more than 2,800 women and children**. Our alumni have earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees and entered **respected professions** like accounting, beauty, business process outsourcing, dance, education, hospitality management, luxury cuisine, medical compounding, nursing, photography, retail, and social work.




## Issue: sex trafficking

Of the 4.5 million global trafficking victims, 3 million live in India. In fact, up to 88% of women working in Kamathipura's brothels are trafficking victims, and 1 in 4 are younger than 16 when they begin a life of abuse and despair inside brothels, known as *pinjaras*, or "cages".

Their children also grow up in the red light area, where they face neglect, solicitation, narcotics, gambling, pornography, disease, poor sanitation, sexual abuse, and high risk of second-generation prostitution.



## Programs

-  **Umeed** (women)
-  **Udaan** (girls 6-18)
-  **Umang** (toddlers 2-5)

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## Implementation

AAWC focuses on providing **programming** in the following focus areas:



**Umeed:** Women attend **workshops** on subjects like finance, HIV/AIDS, sex workers' legal rights, superstition, and child protection. They open **bank accounts** and obtain **identity documents** that give them access to government schemes and formal employment. Many take daily **literacy** classes in Hindi and English and daily **vocational** classes in tailoring. Every month, they enjoy respite from their burdens by celebrating a religious or secular **holiday**, such as International Women's Day.

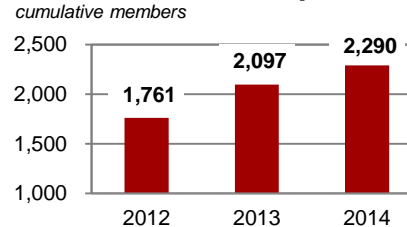
**Udaan:** Girls attend daily **afterschool tuitions** and give quarterly unit tests in each school subject. On Saturdays, they develop self-esteem, discipline, talent, and leadership through **workshops** on art (painting, dance, theatre), life skills (menstrual health, personal finance), professional skills (English, computers, interviewing), and social justice (girls' rights, environmentalism). To monitor their health, they receive monthly checkups and attend quarterly **medical camps**. In addition, they enjoy regular **excursions** to places like Nehru Planetarium, Bombay High Court, and Jahangir Art Gallery. After 12<sup>th</sup> standard, they are guided to an **internship**, **job**, **Bachelor's degree**, or even **Master's degree**.

**Umang:** Through daily **kindergarten** classes, our toddlers prepare cognitively, physically, emotionally, and socially for enrollment in formal education. They are provided daily nutritious **meals**, monthly checkups, quarterly **medical camps**, and regular **excursions** to places like Kidville, Colaba Traffic Park, and the Hanging Gardens of Mumbai.

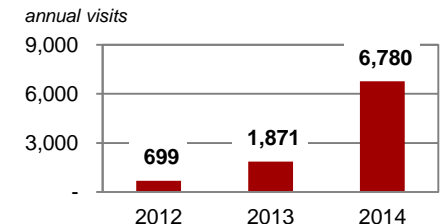
**Management:** We engage in **advocacy** and **awareness** events like Vodafone's Red Rickshaw Revolution, the annual Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon, and meetings with government leaders like Maharashtra's Women & Child Welfare Department and the Canadian State delegation. We also regularly participate in **capacity-building initiatives**, such as Dasra's executive leadership institute and Thomson Reuters' Project Generate. To ensure a diverse range of perspectives, we host **interns and volunteers** from around the world.

## Impact

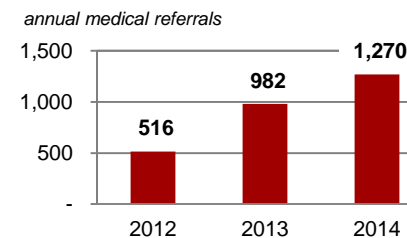
### Membership <sup>(1)</sup>



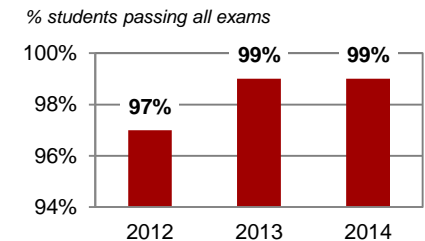
### Outreach



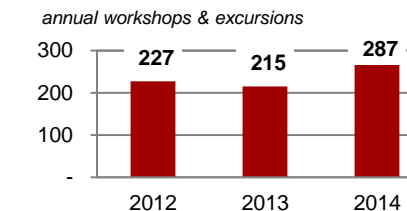
### Health



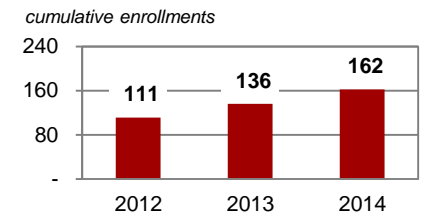
### Education



### Empowerment



### Shelter Home



1: As of 31 March 2014, AAWC has served over 2,800 individuals, including nonmembers.

## Accolades

GuideStar India India NGO Awards Top 10 Small NGOs	AmeriCares Spirit of Humanity Jury's Choice	Vodafone Red Rickshaw Revolution NGO Partner	MATCH International Women's Fund Finalist	Dasra Girl Power Awards Semifinalist