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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



Nisha*, 31, was educated till 10th Grade in a vernacular medium. However, she was pushed into the sex trade by her husband. After encouragement from AAWC, she now attends AAWC's Adult Literacy Program to learn English and looks forward to every session.



Fatima*, 44, attended an AAWC area activity on substance addiction. She was inspired to quit her tobacco consumption habit and asked AAWC to aid her in the de-addiction process. She follows instructions given to her with dedication, self-control and optimism.



Komal*, 46, contracted HIV from her long-term partner, and no longer saw purpose in living. Through counselling at AAWC, Komal gained a better understanding of her situation and has taken control of her illness by taking medication and proper nutrition.



Aarti*, 7, suffered from slow development as she was unable to do things expected of children her age. AAWC staff started occupational therapy and counselling sessions with her. Aarti is responding well to therapy and has shown steady improvement.



Pooja*, 13, only knew Bengali when she first arrived at AAWC and was thus, unable to communicate with other girls. With AAWC's help, she gradually began learning Hindi and English. Pooja now attends an English-medium school and has become fluent in Hindi.



Varsha*, 14, had a disruptive nature and an unsupportive family when she joined AAWC. Realizing this, AAWC staff gradually built a strong rapport with her family as well as persuaded her in regularly attending the in-house sessions. Today, she values the benefits of the Udaan Program and has developed good leadership skills.



Arjun*, 3, had a restless mind and often expressed his anger through violence. When AAWC counsellor observed his behaviour, she began teaching him how to express and understand his emotions. He now politely addresses his peers, rather than hitting them.



Sonali*, 4, initially lacked a sense of personal hygiene and discipline. However, with regular AAWC sessions on personal hygiene maintenance, she began to consciously inculcate appropriate habits in her routine.

* Names have been changed to protect beneficiaries' identities.

About AAWC

Founded in 1998, Apne Aap Women's Collective (AAWC) is an **anti-trafficking** organization that serves the women in brothel-based prostitution and their children in **Asia's second largest red light district** of Kamathipura and Falkland Road.

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, prevent the cycle of inter-generational prostitution amongst their daughters and prepare the toddlers for formal schooling.

As of March 2016, we have served **more than 3000 women and children**. Our alumni have earned vocational skills, Bachelor's and Master's degrees and entered respected professions such as accounting, beauty, business process outsourcing, dance, education, hospitality management, luxury cuisine, medical compounding, nursing, photography, retail, and social work.

Issue: Sex Trafficking

Globally, 70% victims of trafficking are women and girls and amongst the trafficked victims, an estimated 79% are trafficked with the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sex trafficking is an immense problem in India, which is home to over 3 million of the estimated 14 million sex workers worldwide.

Women and girls are starved, raped and tortured by pimps and brothel owners to coerce them into prostitution. Their children also grow up in the red light area, where they witness neglect, solicitation, narcotics, gambling, pornography, disease, poor sanitation, sexual abuse, and high risk of entering second-generation prostitution.



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Kamathipura Centre: 61-B, Room No. 6, Ground Floor, Shankarrao Pupala Marg, 11th Lane
Kamathipura, Opposite Pochammaadevi Temple, Mumbai- 400 008, Ph: 022-2308 3326
Email: info@aawc.in Website: www.aawc.in



Implementation

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



Umeed: Women attend workshops, meetings and sessions on subjects such as financial literacy, HIV/AIDS, TB, sex workers' legal rights, superstitions, safe sex and abortion practice, and child rights and protection. They open bank accounts and obtain identity documents that gives them access to government schemes and benefits. Many take daily literacy classes in numeracy and Hindi or English language and also participate in vocational classes such as the beautician training program. Every month, they enjoy respite from their burdens, by celebrating various Indian festivals and international events like International Women's Day.

Udaan: Girls attend daily tutoring sessions and give quarterly unit test in each school subject. They develop self-esteem, discipline, talent, and leadership skills through positive role models (mentor-mentee program), workshops on art (painting, dance, theatre), life skills (menstrual health, personal finance), professional skills (spoken-English, computer literacy, interviewing), and social justice (Human Rights) for their empowerment. To monitor their health, they receive monthly check-ups and attend quarterly medical camps. In addition, they enjoy regular excursions and exposure visits to places such as gardens, beaches, museums, play zones and office setups. After 12th grade, they are guided to an internship, job opportunity, Bachelors' degree, or even a Master's.

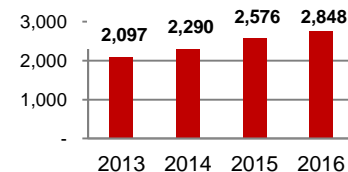
Umang: Through daily kindergarten classes and counselling sessions, our toddlers prepare cognitively, physically, emotionally and socially for enrolment in formal education. They are provided with daily nutritious meals, monthly check-ups, quarterly medical camps, night shelter services and regular excursions to places such as gardens, play zones and museums.

Management: We engage in advocacy and awareness events such as attending MAF meetings for promoting PLHIV rights, and participating in the Mumbai Marathon. Various program skill workshops are also conducted in order to build staff's capacity. We also hosted delegates from Stanford University and presented on topics such as online fundraising and child labour. To ensure a diverse range of perspectives, we host interns and volunteers from Indian and world-wide institutes such as St. Xaviers, Sophia, Columbia and Cambridge University.

Impact

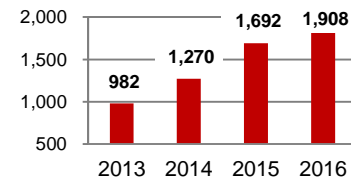
Enrollment

cumulative beneficiary enrolment



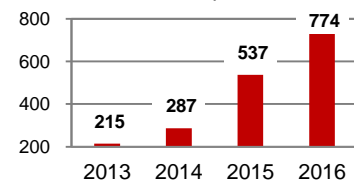
Health

annual medical referrals



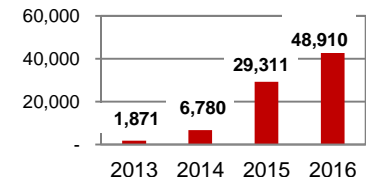
Empowerment

annual workshops & excursions



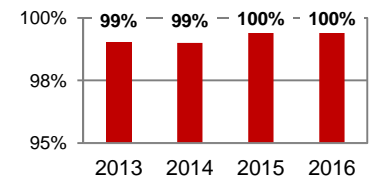
Outreach

annual visits



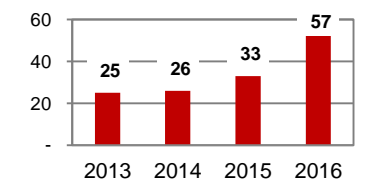
Education

% of students passing all exams



Shelter Home

annual enrolment



Accolades



**GuideStar India
NGO Gold Award
(Advanced Level)
2016**



**Gulabrao
Ganacharya
Award 2015**



**Semi-finalists in
Project Inspire
2016**



**Dasra
Girl Power Award
2015 - Top 5
Finalists**