

Work for Equality

Newsletter

January to March 2018

Work for Equality Organization is mainly working for the holistic development of Marginalized community children through providing them Educational, Residential and Health support. The organization is working with eight communities, namely, Talegaon, Sant Tukaram Nagar, Shinde Wasti, Yelwadi, Varale, Koregaon, Rajubai and Eainade. These communities are running 11 “PRERANA – EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTERS” for approximately 500 deprived community children and are also supporting approximately one thousand parents through providing them knowledge on child development and parenting. Along with Educational and Health support we are providing Residential support for the street girls through running RESIDENTIAL HOME (PRERANA RAINBOW HOME).

During the period of January to March 2018, we have initiated number of programs focusing on child holistic development.

Children Welcoming Program at PRERANA RAINBOW HOME:



On 14th Jan 2018, we had organized welcoming program of new children at PRERANA rainbow home. During the program, we invited honourable corporater Mrs. Sarikha Bhegade Wife of MLA Mr. Bala Bhegade, Mrs. Shobha Bhegade, Mrs.

Prachi Hendare, Mr. and Mrs. Chandrabhan Khalde, Mr. Amol Shete and Ms. Ranjana Bhosale from Talegaon Nagar Parishad. The welcome kits were given to the children on the occasion. The honourable guests motivated the children to take up further education. This program helped in making the children feel like they are at home.

Educational Support:

During this period, we have provided 483 Shoes and 342 Education kits for the Zillhaparishad Schools. The objective was to motivate children for schooling and the initiative was associated with the organization Goonj Delhi. Before providing educational kit to the children, the school organized various activities such as drawing, singing completion, storytelling, and school cleaning activity for the children. This platform gave opportunity to each and every child in the school to show their talent.

Educational Progress:

Work for Equality is working with children, those who are not getting proper guidance and support from parents for education. For their educational progress, we use to do educational assessment of the children and provide educational support through PRERANA study class and in house BRIDGE COURSE for the residential children. Under both the programs we try to motivate children to study through using innovative techniques like games, group activity and individual assignment.



Snehal, the girl who was studying in 5th standard when she was admitted in the PRERANA RAINBOW HOME, due to her family background, was not able to attend school regularly, hence was not performing up to the mark. We realised she was not able to read and write simple words in her mother tongue, her confidence was very low, she used to say she doesn't know anything. We started providing her guidance through bridge course, now slowly her confidence is increasing and she is trying to read and write. Not only that, she has started speaking Hindi language very well. Snehal has a dream that, she will become collector in the future and do hard work for the homeless and community's development.

Swati, a bright girl, but due to her poor economic condition, her father was unable to send her to school. She was a drop out when she was in 6th standard, and that's when she became part of our project. The support of Bridge course teacher, has helped Swati's education and her level of confidence has improved. She wants to join the Police Force, when she grows-up. Poonam Khandare, studying in 5th standard was a migrant with her parents in the village, she was not admitted in school due to technical problems. She was demotivated and her confidence level was low. We tried to get her into regular school and till such time, she was motivated to participate in PRERANA study class. Due to lack of support, her educational performance was very low. After participating in PRERANA study class, PRERANA teachers are trying to improve her reading and writing skills. Poonam has started reading story books now and her parents feel proud of her.

Payal Gawade, age 8 years studying in 2nd standard, belongs to nomadic tribes. At the beginning, when she got admission in PRERANA study class, she was frightened by other children because of her social status. She did not like to mingle with other children, when PRERANA teacher worked on her behaviour, she slowly started mingling with other children. Now, she feels comfortable in communicating with other children and at the same time has improved in her studies.

Earn Blessing Cycle Rally:

Earn Blessing, one of the sensitive youth group in Pune, supports for social cause through doing cycle rally in the City. Through Cycle rally, they not only raise funds for the beneficiaries but also increase awareness about global warming. The group had done Cycle rally in Pune and raised funds for the educational development of the marginalized community children.



Cycle Support:

Children from village suffer a lot due to lack of transportation facility. Many children are required to walk approximately 4 to 5 Km to get education. Many parents do not allow children, especially girls to go alone to the school. Aarti, Sapna and Pooja were also not allowed by their parents to walk alone to the school. They stopped their education due to lack of transportation, through our generous donor, we gave them bicycle and started their education again. Similarly, a cycle was provided to support a needy boy Akash.



Yoga and Sports:

Yoga and Sports are the most important part of our Program. It helps the children increase their physical as well as psychological strength. They learn skills to work in group, through sports and yoga. Every morning our PRERANA children practice yoga. And every Friday and Saturday our children get guidance on gymnastics and sports from experts. During this period, we have facilitated 12 yoga and sports sessions, 24 gymnastics sessions and approximately 72 sessions of Suryanamaskar.



Nutrition:

Work for Equality organization is taking special care of children associated with PRERANA program, we have been providing daily nutrition to Anganwadi children and residential Home children. Along with that, we are providing weekly nutrition for the children, who are part of yoga and sports program. During this period, we have provided, nutrition, 12 times, weekly to the yoga and sports participants and approximately 90 days of nutrition support for the Playgroup and residential home children.



Health:

Increasing knowledge of marginalized parents on health is one of the major objectives of our organization. It was found, most children in Dehuphata community from the age group 0 years to 6 years are malnourished. We are trying to provide scientific knowledge regarding nutritious food, and needs of medical support to the children. We found in the month of Jan 2018 approximately 14 children from the community did not get polio vaccination. We requested primary health centre of Dehuphata, for support, in motivating parents, to bring their children for the polio dose. With the support of our team and primary health centre team we could provide polio vaccination to the community children.

To develop knowledge of the parents on health of their children, we organized one day health camp for the community women. We invited private practitioner Doctor Manudhune and Doctors and Nurse from Primary Health Center Dehugaon. Doctor Manudhune talked on importance of Health and hygiene to increase health status of the children and Nurse Shinde madam spoke on importance of vaccination for the children. They also give information on various types of nutritious food, which are easily available at our home, to increase health status of our children.



Engagements with Families:



To increase knowledge of parents and sensitize them regarding needs of children, our PRERANA staff is providing regular support to the parents through home visits. During this period, we have provided knowledge on topics such as, importance of playing children especially for girls, importance of vaccination, homemade remedies for dehydration, importance of girl's education etc. Discussions on these topics are helping parents to understand their role of parenting for the holistic development of children, especially girls. Three parents meet has been conducted and approximately 35 parents participated in the meetings. **Joy of the Giving Week:**



In the month of JAN 2018, we celebrated Joy of the giving week with Rajubai village marginalized community. This initiative was taken up with the support of Schindler India Pvt Ltd Company. Mr. Pritam Shimpi, Mr. Tukaram Fale, Mr. Bhupendra Mahajan and Ms. Tejashree Alate were present during the program. It was done in the Zillhaparishad Rajubai school. Children welcome the guest with traditional way of LEZIM.

Staff Capacity Building Trainings:

During this period, we conducted six staff capacity trainings. We have invited Mrs. Gauri Deshmukh from Aksharnandan School and Abhay- Abhiyan Campaign to provide guidance to our staff on Child Psychology, especially psychology of teen agers and Role of parents. This training was useful to develop PRERANA teachers understanding and develop sensitivity on how to deal with children with dignity. After training, one of the teacher Said "Before this training, I got frustrated when teenagers were attracted to each other, I behaved with them very loudly, but, now I understand the science behind that, now I can handle the issue sensitively" Another teacher said "the training helped me a lot not only in my professional life but also in my personal life. I started behaving sensitively with my child. Now I fully understand the need to give quality time to the child.



Women's Day: On the occasion of "International Women's Day", on 8th March, Work for Equality in association with Alochana Organization, celebrated Women's

Day with parents of PRERANA children of Warale village. Approximately, 45 parents participated in the program. The program began with fun activities like musical chair, singing and prizes were given for the activities. The main objective of the program was to introduce parents to many other ideal women like them who are part of village but are doing extraordinary work for the community. Alochana team conducted a reading of articles on the life of Ideal women. The program inspired

Life Skills:

- Awareness Session followed by showing documentary and facilitate discussion on child sexual abuse to the children. It was helpful to the children to understand good and bad touch. During the discussion children asked many questions regarding good and bad touch, and some of the children shared what they are not supposed to do, like accepting
- them through activity and games. Such as, preparing menu chart along with children. They discussed which vegetables they like to eat and which
- -vegetarian items in our meal. This discussion made them aware about the importance of healthy eating habits and its benefits.
- Children were sensitized towards importance of yoga for physical and mental wellbeing. Everyday morning children participated in yoga session.
- Regular 'Balsabhas' are increasing awareness among children about their rights and responsibilities. The topics that were brought up for children

many parents and they requested, that they are provided with regular support to develop their knowledge. Along with this, we celebrated International Women's Day with Accops System Pvt Ltd. Company. We organized workshop for their employees on "Prevention of sexual abuse of the women at workplace". We have also facilitated three more workshops for Gabriel Company on the same issue.

- Chocolates from unknown people, when offered. Another child shared, they should come with Didi while coming back from school. They should not accept money from others for buying anything and need to share their needs with Didi. At the end of the session, everyone promised that they will not tolerate abuse.
- Children were sensitized towards healthy eating habits and its benefits and the importance of maintaining a personal hygiene was discussed with they don't. At the same time, we discussed the meaning of nutritious food and why it is important to include all kind of vegetables, fruits and non were, teasing, wastage of food and water, following rules, health and hygiene, formation of sister's groups, superstitions, and proper communication with DiDis regarding illness and disease.
- Children were sensitized towards providing support to one another, taking care and respecting to each other through various activities and discussions



Extra-Curricular Activities:

- Three days in a week drawing teacher comes home to teach them basics of drawing. Such as sketching, colouring, drawing different human faces and shading etc. most children showed interest in drawing. Especially.
- Two days in a week children were coached in gymnastics. And they are also learning basics of exercise and karate.
- We organized three outings for the children to educate them about our history. One at Ghorawadi Caves, another one at Bhandara Caves and third one at Parshwapradnyalaya temple. All three are historical places and taught them about our culture and history. When they tried walking the Ghorawadi caves, many of them started feeling tired. For us it was the first time, to understand their physical strength. We realised that, many of our children are not healthy enough to withstand, hard work. To increase their physical strength, the same day we took a decision along with the children to start yoga and breathing exercises, every morning. In the caves, we taught them how to do yoga and practiced breathing exercises. We finished picnic with team building game. Children enjoyed the picnic a lot. As per them, it was the best picnic they've ever had.



Rekha Shinde, Maya Shinde and Jyoti Chavan, as they have a good drawing hand.

- Two days in a week, singing teachers coached the children. They are learning different types of songs in the coaching such as patriotic songs, spiritual songs and kid's songs etc.
- All children participated in 'Happy Street Program' organized by Times of India to spread awareness about Cancer. This was their first experience of being out of home, in the presence of staff. It was fun for them to travel by an AC car.

When they reached the place, they were finding it difficult to understand as to what to do? When they started visiting different stalls like a science stall, they didn't understand it's significance. As one of the staff asked details of the science experiment to the guide, they started understanding things, like what they need to observe, and started asking questions to the guide.

Children enjoyed the dancing sessions the most. Everyone danced on the street. At first it was a little awkward for them, but when they saw everyone else enjoying without fear, they also started enjoying.

In Happy Street Program, they witnessed street play. They had seen street play, once before and had tried to do a play at the home. When they saw, the performance by experts it gave them an understanding as to, the types of skills they'll be required to learn for street play.

Children also participated in puzzle activity. Earlier they didn't know what kind of team work is needed to do a puzzle activity. The children tried solving the puzzles on their own, however as they failed to do so, they realized that they need to solve it as a group, so they started working in a group and solved the puzzles.

Celebration and Festivals:

During this quarter a lot of celebrations were observed.

- We organized welcome program for the new children on 14th Jan 2018. Nine honourable corporater Mrs. Sarikha Bhegade Wife of MLA Mr. Bala Bhegade, Mrs. Shobha Bhegade, Mrs. Prachi Hendare, Mr. and Mrs. Chandrabhan Khalde, Mr. Amol Shete and Ms. Ranjana Bhosale from Talegaon Nagar Parishad, participated in the program and they were welcomed by the children.
- Three families, celebrated their birthday with the children at home.
- One Ex-students group from New Samarth Vidhyalaya pass out batch from 1994 also visited the home children. All of them are working in different professional sectors. Some of them are business man and some of them are working in private companies. Although they are working in different professions, they are still together and enjoying their friendship. On the same day, one of their friends celebrated his birthday with children and donated cake, chocolates and a cupboard for the children.
- Two children Tai Ingole and Snehal Gaikwad had participated in the inauguration program of Sneh Ghar Pune. Pune Mayor Mrs. Mukta Tilak was the chief guest of the program. The focus of the program was, need of Sneh Ghar and Rainbow Home for the homeless community children.

Through one silent play, children from Rainbow Home and Sneh Ghar showed the unhappy story of homeless children's life.

- Tai Ingole and Snehal Gaikwad participated in dance session and they enjoyed the dancing session a lot. It was the best outing for the project staff because, while coming back both girls shared, their family's real story with the staff. They shared, how painful, was the life they lived in the past. The staff also realised that, both girls have potential and they are ambitious as well. Both, wish to become collector when they grow-up. We realised they are sensitive about the needs of their community and they will use their resources as a collector, to provide, home, light and water for the homeless communities.

Achievement:



On the occasion of "International Women's Day – on 8th March" Work for Equality, was felicitated by Talegaon Dabhade - Nagarparishad Department of "Women and Child Welfare" for the *DEVOTION OF HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY CHILDREN*. The AWARD was given by honourable chairperson Mrs. Sandhya Tai Bhegade and Mrs. Prachi Tai Hendre.