

Annual Narrative Report for Project “A holistic, community based educational programme for adolescent girls in Jari Mari, a slum in Mumbai.”

Name of Organisation: Anusandhan Trust

Project: A holistic, community based educational programme for adolescent girls in Jari Mari, a slum in Mumbai.

This report is for the period October 2005 to October 2006

The objectives to be accomplished in the following two years, as per the proposal submitted for funding are as follows

Brief long-term Objective:

Sahyog aims to improve access to basic health and education services, both by collaborating with existing organizations as well as increasing community awareness and mobilization. The long-term objective of Sahyog is to create a secular, progressive and empowering space, which enables the development of a cadre of well trained, socially committed young leaders.

Currently, we are receiving funding from Asha for Education for three of our programmes.

Sahyog School Without Walls: This is an educational initiative for girls (12-19 years) who have dropped out of formal school and wish to continue their education. This is linked to the Open Schooling system at the 3rd, 5th, 8th and 10th std. Levels. In addition to academics, this programme includes an extensive lifeskills training component and some vocational training.

Sahyog Sangharsh: This is a community based programme for rehabilitation of disabled children. The primary aim of Sahyog Sangharsh is to make the children self-reliant and equip them with adequate communication, vocational and academic skills to live an independent life. By linking it with the girls' school, we aim to give these children a larger peer group through which they learn to interact with others and gain confidence to live independently.

Sahyog Ekta: This is a community and school based programme for health education, training and services. It includes a school health programme, tuberculosis control programme, a maternal and child health programme and a health education and life-skills training for girls.

The report of the developments in these programmes is presented below.

Sahyog School Without Walls

Sahyog Ekta has two branches, one in Dindoshi and the other in Jari Mari. The number of staff in this programme remained unchanged, with four teachers in each branch. In the Dindoshi school, we were proud to induct our past student, Sameena Wazir Ali as a teacher in the Dindoshi school. With this addition, the profile of the staff and students in this programme is as follows

Name	Designation	Division	Teacher's academic development	Current Enrolment (As of October 2006)	
				Old students	New Students
Jari Mari					
Naseema Shiekh	Class teacher	Jr. Primary (1 st – 3 rd std)	Appearing for B.ed. entrance this year	5	17
Gazala Sheikh	Class teacher	Primary (4 th -7 th std)	Completed graduation this year	12	22
Sameena Sheikh	Class teacher	Middle (8 th std)	Completed graduation	4	12
Bilkis Sheikh	Class teacher	Secondary (9 th -10 th std)		5	7
				26	58
Dindoshi					
Name	Designation	Division	Teacher's academic development	Old students	New admissions
Sameena Wazir Ali	Class teacher	Jr. Primary (1 st – 3 rd std)	Studying in F.Y.B.A	0	20
Gulnaaz Khan	Class teacher	Primary (4 th -7 th std)	Completed graduation	20	10
Lovely Upadhyay	Class teacher	Middle (8 th std)	Studying in S.Y.B.A	3	12
Sweetie Upadhyay	Class teacher	Secondary (9 th -10 th std)	Studying in S.Y.B.A	14	1
				37	43

In the Jari Mari school, the total enrolment stood at 84 girls at the end of the semester in October 2006. In Dindoshi, there were 80 girls at the end of October 2006. However, considerably more girls from the previous year continued to study in Dindoshi. In Jari Mari, due to news about impending demolitions, a lot of the girls had migrated out. Hence, the dropout rate was quite high. In the April-May 2006 National Open School examination, 17 girls had appeared for examinations. In the previous year, April – May 2005 and October – November 2005, 7 girls completed their 10th and left the school.

The low attrition rate in Dindoshi has been very beneficial in improving the overall academic achievement of the school. One very heartening fact of this year's results was that all the girls passed the English exam at the first attempt.

Sahyog Sangharsh Special Education Program

There were several developments in this programme this year. We recruited Ranjit More as an assistant teacher in the Sangharsh programme. With this, the staff strength has returned to four (including two teachers and two assistants). As before, five girls from the girls' school come as volunteers to help with the teaching. The student strength remained stable at 23-25 students. However, as with the girls' school, there was a high dropout due to external factors. Three children (two hearing impaired and one mentally challenged child) were integrated into other schools.

Several alliances were build during this year with other organisations.

Actionaid's disability programme Sabala was contacted and their experts conducted a workshop on disability for the entire staff of Sahyog.

We have approached the National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped for help. Their director, alongwith the staff of the Ali Yavar Jung Institute visited our school and have agreed to adopt Sahyog Sangharsh as a field site for their institute. This means that students will be placed with us for training and we will also receive specialist help from their audiologists and speech therapists. They will also provide us with a customized curriculum for the hearing impaired children in Sangharsh.

To enable better integration of the students into the society, the Sangharsh team has been conducting programmes in the community, organising regular parents' meetings and building contacts with local entrepreneurs and employers. Simultaneously, they have been building contacts with other organisations which work for the disabled and have been organising exposure visits for parents and students to them.

Sahyog Ekta

Sahyog Ekta, our health education, training and service programme has also seen a lot of development. The lifeskills programme has been functioning well in our schools. Moreover, we have been approached by other organisations – including the municipal corporation, Sneh Sagar (an NGO which works with street children) and the People's Science Forum, Aurangabad (which works with Urdu and Marathi medium schools in that city) to conduct training for their staff as well as the children.

We have also become a part of the planning committee of a UNICEF-Govt. project on nutrition in the Kurla ward. We will be partnering with other NGOs to implement this programme for improving the nutritional status of 0-5 year olds.

The clinic in Dindoshi continued to do well, with an average of 50-60 patients a week. The number of T.B patients using the clinic has stabilised at 30. We are keen to conduct a systematic study to review the performance of this programme.

Common activities

Training programmes held

Orientation on disability related issues – organised by Sabala, Actionaid.

This was a two-day workshop held in December 2005 in which all the staff participated. There was a staff meeting held during the month of April 2006 and again in July 2006.

Dr Subramaniam from Niramaya health foundation conducted a two-day workshop on health education for the entire staff in October 2006.

Three members of the Sahyog Sangharsh team did an internship of ten days with the Association of People with Disability (APD) in Bangalore. This visit was organised to enable the team to gain a better understanding the community based rehabilitation approach.

A training workshop was held for the girls of the school for making greeting cards and other decorative items. They also organised a sale of the same at the S.N.D.T university campus in Mumbai.

Participation in Public events

Sahyog participated in the public hearing on the Right to Education in May 2006. Some of our students also testified in front of the investigation panel.

Sahyog will be making a presentation at the regional meeting of the International Women's Health Movement in Mumbai in November 2006.