



ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

Asha Mumbai started its new center at Powai Nook Building in January 2010 with two classrooms and 70 children. The number of children gradually increased and current strength is 105.

Program:

Students have been divided into batches and four batches are running in the following shifts.

1	Morning Batch	9:00 am to 12:00pm	36 children
2	Afternoon Batch	2:00 pm to 3:00 pm	12 children
3	Evening Batch	4:00 pm to 6:30 pm	30 children
4	Night Batch	6:30 pm to 9:00 pm	27 children

All children study at the local BMC School and are underprivileged living in slums in Powai. In the morning and evening shifts, children from standard 1 to 7 are taught. During afternoon shift, computer and spoken English classes are held for students above standard 5. The night shift comprises of children from 8th and 9th standards.

The older batch of students left to join high school and new students are joining on a regular basis.

Our Team:

Teachers - The following paid teachers teach the four shifts (2 teachers each in morning, afternoon and evening shifts, 1 in night shift)

Volunteers: The following team of dedicated volunteers teaches children as well as manages administration at the center.



Teachers		Volunteers	
1	Ms. Usha Moses	1	Dr. Smita Puniyani (Co-ordinator)
2	Ms. Navneet	2	Mrs. Sangeetha M. Chandrasekaran
3	Ms. Kritika Tripathi	3	Mrs. Latha Ramesh
4	Ms. Ruksar	4	Mrs. Meena Kannan
5	Mrs. Chakraborty	5	Mrs. Bharti Shah
6	Mrs. Karuna	6	Mr. Nikhil Jadhav
8	Mrs. Lalita		

In addition, young students from degree colleges and IIT campus work with us off and on depending upon their schedules in college. These students teach children with full enthusiasm and this proves to be highly beneficial for the children.



With Students from IIT Campus

Facilities

We had acquired two new computers and three old ones in early 2010. We bought several books to help teachers teach various subjects and also workbooks for children to solve. We have a library for children with storybooks in English, Hindi and Marathi. We provide each student a notebook to record their daily lessons taught here. We are constantly purchasing CDs which serve as teaching aids especially in English, Maths and Science. Last year, we subscribed for the Active English package in TATA Sky.



(A) Curricular studies

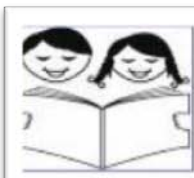
Children are systematically being taught the basics of all subjects (English, Hindi, Marathi, Mathematics, Science and Social studies). Surprise tests are conducted fortnightly with encouraging results. The classroom sessions are very interactive and languages especially English is taught with the help of CDs and TATA Sky. Other subjects are taught using teaching aids like models (maths and science) and dramatizations (social studies). Children are encouraged to ask questions and speak freely on any subject.

(B) Computer Education

This is an integral part of our curriculum and our objective is to give 'hands on' experience of each child. Most children above class 3 are well versed with basic operations like creating, copying and printing files. The following basic skills are taught here:

- 1) Computer typing
- 2) Email
- 3) Surfing internet for information needed for their curriculum.
- 4) Under guidance of Prof Jitendra Shah , most of the children learnt logo programming and 'scratch' program. They developed a very good hand at this program wherein they learnt how to make games. Children were thrilled to work on scratch.
- 5) They also learnt typing in vernacular languages i.e Marathi and Hindi.

Although there are no restrictions on computer use, we discourage misuse in the form of games, chats etc. However they are familiar with these tools which will be useful to them later in life.



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C) Art and Culture

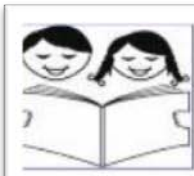
Each child has a hidden potential. At ASHA, this talent is explored and we give vent to children's inner abilities via art, music, dance, writing, painting etc.

Children are being taught basic drawing skills by two volunteers Ms. Ritu Singh and Ms. Padma. These volunteers taught them to make beautiful greeting cards, which were widely appreciated and sold at an exhibition held in Jan. 2011. The other products made by our children include paper mats, pen holders, decorative paper bags, diyas and tie and dye cloth.

Asha Mumbai had arranged biweekly classes on dancing acting and with the help of Bharat Natyam scholar Ms Meeta Vohra and TV actor Abhay Singh. He worked on voluntary basis and was only paid conveyance.



Ms Meeta teaching dance steps



ASHA



Ms Ritu teaching Tie and Dye art to kids



Usha Dhawan teaching children to make decorative paper bags

D) Health and Moral education

Asha Mumbai believes in recreation activities along with value education and scientific attitude and this year too in summer camp we had sessions on health, yoga and superstitions. Our co-coordinator addresses health issues of children and talks to them about personal hygiene.



Teaching moral values like honesty, non-violence, punctuality etc. through stories and anecdotes leaves a lasting impression on the young minds.



Children doing Pranayam



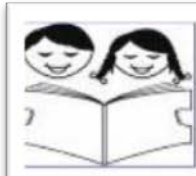
Talking to the kids about Andhashraddha



Demonstrating some acts how the people are fooled by babas and yogis

E) Peace and environment

‘Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me’ is our motto. Awareness about the environment and peace is created by participating in activities like the Powai Marathon for peace awareness.



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F) Celebrations

Being children how can they not enjoy the children's day? Yes they all participated in various activities on 14th Nov. 2010 and joined a workshop organized by an NGO who invited the kids from all over Mumbai (though untimely rains did ruin some of the plans). We promote secularism by teaching students to appreciate and celebrate festivals of all religions like Diwali, Eid and Christmas.



Christmas celebrations



Eid Celebration

Rukhsar talking about Eid and its importance



Nikhil as Santa distributing gifts

We always have major festival celebrations in Asha belonging to all the religions EID, Diwali and Christmas etc.

G) Outing experience

Children were taken on a picnic to a farmhouse at Atgaon. They enjoyed nature and played many games. We arrange informal talk with children in beautiful natural atmosphere. It helps children to open their heart and also help us to strengthen bond with children.

H) Summer Camp

The summer camp was held from April. Children enjoyed learning new activities in art like preparing tie and dye cloth. The best experience for both teachers and older children was preparing their food themselves.

I) Encouragement

Asha Mumbai had started the scholarship program for the children to encourage them to take initiative in self learning and working for their own development. Some 25 sincere children were selected and were offered scholarship of Rs 100 and Rs 50 /- per month for 3 months and the performance was assessed after that. It did show that some children really felt encouraged to study and work harder for better achievements.