

**Site Visit Report
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<https://sites.google.com/site/focpuneindia/home>

Background

On Behalf of Asha, Boston, I visited the office of Friends of Children(FoC). I met Ms. Vani Subramanyam who talked to me more about the organization and showed me some of the pictures and the student files. FoC, Pune is a non-profit trust founded in 2003 based in Maharashtra that provides financial assistance to poor college going children and helps them complete their higher education.

Objective

Their goal is not only to educate as many underprivileged children as they can but also to help them find jobs to earn bread and butter for their families. The organization assists with their higher education i.e from the 10th grade through college.

Criteria to fit the program:

1. The annual financial income should be approximately Rs.40000
2. Minimum score requirement of 55% in the previous exam that they had applied for.
3. Passing the interview that the organisation conducts

The organization's members conduct home visits if the students fit the above mentioned criteria. The home visits are just an assurance of the child's background and to ensure that the students and family will benefit from this program.

Work of the volunteers and other staff at FoC :

This NGO is almost all volunteer driven- most the teachers, IT professionals and others are doing this pro bono to help brighten the children's future. There was a few companies that partner up with FoC and donate a fixed funds every year which takes care of education of at least 2-3 students per year. They teach and train the students for their further ventures.

Many of the former students, who have are now doing well in different companies have also volunteered to give back to the society and thank the organisation in their own way.

In addition to financial aid, the volunteers also tutor the students and help them prepare for the exams. They are also provided with stationary items like books, notebooks, reference books, notepads, encyclopedias etc. The IT professionals train them for interviews which help them while applying for a job.

The organization keeps a record of all their students. They maintain their mark sheets , application letters etc. The students also keep in touch by writing letters every month updating them with their activities.

A student enters the program either after the 10th or the 12th grade. Their file closes only after the student graduates.

It was heartwarming to see the amount of volunteer work the people at Friends of Children do. I was lucky enough to see some of the student's files as well. In a small room with just one cupboard and an old computer these people change the lives of so many children.