

Explaining in detail about the project:

Programs

S. No 1. Upgrading training for the education trainers:

It is an ongoing training activity to be conducted every second Saturday. Generally it is conducted in FORWARD office. Since the educators are identified from the local community of the center, she or he may not be highly educated or efficient. Though the best person is chosen to be educators, continuous orientation and adequate training is required to make them knowledgeable and understand the objective of Asha for quality education of FORWARD (attitude change and academic efficiency). Topics handled during the training are child- psychology, parental motivation, personality development, team work, goal oriented activities, maintaining of discipline in the center and nurturing value based quality in the life of children. Plan of action for every month will be planned collectively along with education facilitator and project manager.

S. No 2. Quality of life promotion activities:

This program is unique in our curriculum. In today's market economy and commercialization of education the possibility for student is to come out as self oriented and profit making adults. Mother earth, the basis for our survival is slowly dying forcing a threat to human existence. Gender based violence and killings for profit are increasing. Elders, children and vulnerable population get pushed out of the circle of life.

In order to intervene this hard reality and with an aim to reconstruct values in life, the quality of life programs are conducted. Saturdays are earmarked for this nurturing among asha children.

- 1st Saturday is termed as nature and children. Varieties of activities to ensure protection of nature are taken up on this day.

Eg: a) In Vilancadu center children had planted sapling and are growing them in their temple area as well as in and around their homes. They have named the sapling and taking best care of them.

b) In Pulikoradu, urban area children demonstrated anti plastic campaign and cleaned their lanes thereby created awareness among the people.

- 2nd Saturday is teachers upgrading training takes place.
- 3rd Saturday is observed as social justice and children. To inculcate just- values in the minds of the participating children and to de-educate and re-educate the local community on different social evils like caste, gender, alcoholism, illiteracy are the objective of these activities.

Eg: a) In kudalore (handed over center) – children conducted demonstration rally to highlight the evils of child marriage and child labour. The community supported the children with serving buttermilk, nuts etc. Child marriage and child labour has been reduced now.

b) In velamur center, the children educated the community on the evils of caste system. The grandmother of Mohan kumar (studying in asha center) said "I am amazed to know caste is not god made but man- made and hence our deprivation".

4th Saturday considered as talents day. Children are promoted to develop their talents in drawing, handicraft, storytelling, acting, writing, sports etc . This has increased the level of self confidence and academic efficiency among them.

Eg: 1) In Mathur, 2 Asha students won science and technology talent award and inter school competition prizes in oratory.

5th Saturday is parent- teachers meeting. Parents visit Asha center and share their observation and feedback about the behaviors and study level of their children to the teacher.

Eg: 1) Kalaivani, a mother of 2 of the Asha children in Pullikoradu is happy over the motivational and discipline level of her children at home. She is a young deserted woman who is living with her children while working in an export centre. She said" Before putting my children in Asha Centre, I was very worried about them after school hours. They will be loitering outside or quarreling with each other. I could not work peacefully in company. But now I am happy about the positive change in my children. They are busy with studies or some creative activities while at home. This has made me work peacefully and take care of my household activities. Thanks to Asha Centre".

S. NO: 3- Promotion of health: Physical & Emotional:

Health is approached in an integrated and wholistic way and hence physical, mental and emotional aspects of children are taken care off. Children are served 3days a week with food items. Their health is closely monitored. Sick children are helped to get treatment both domiciliary and in hospitalization.

Eg: Thananchezhian from Thandarai Centre was a malnourished child with all his teeth decayed. He was not given proper care by his parent. In this condition, we had held a medical camp in his locality and found out his needs and accordingly we took him to SRM Hospital and got him treated. As a result, his health improved and teeth got proper growth. This enabled him to concentrate on his studies. Now he completed BBA course and got a good job via campus recruitment. He is currently the youth leader of Thandarai and an active member in Asha initiatives.

S. NO: 3- Psychosocial Programs:

Since adolescent period is a tricky period in life, it is important to guide the children to choose the right path. Based on this, Psychosocial Programs are conducted in centre or cluster wise where adolescent children of Asha Centre are covered. In these programmes, open discussions on physical and emotional changes that take place in this period of age and differentiate bad and good touch. Stories of great personalities and noble leaders are taught to them and in turn enabling them to choose their role-model.

Through these programmes we could guide the children to concentrate on their studies which will give them good future. Our higher education students work hard and display the values which they have natured during their study in Asha centre.

S. NO: 3 – Exposure and Excursion Programme:

Children, centre wise are taken for excursion to experience the joy of visiting new places, relaxation with friends. All our children love going for excursion. This gives them a memorable experience such as eating, playing and traveling together. This encourages them to come to our study center as well as attend regular school.

S.No: 8 – Awareness building:

Column 8 describes about the support activities taken among the community women who are the backbones of the asha centers. Once the mothers are motivated, children's life can be saved from tendencies towards child labor, child marriage and school dropout. Area and cluster level awareness programmes through seminars and workshops are conducted for women to make them sensitized about children's human values, dignity and rights.

Skill training workshop: vocational training such as wire basket making, embroidery and household items, artificial jewelery, food processing etc to enhance their earning. This can help them not to expect earnings through their children.

These programmes are taken on regular monthly basics. Community women organizer is the key worker while education facilitator and program manager work along with her in the implementation of the programs.

S.NO:10 – Youth Club and counseling programmes to the adolescents:

The participants of this program are the alumni of Asha education centers who now are either continuing their higher studies or working. In addition to it, the youth in the community also participate in this program. This program is benefitted not only to Asha students but also to other youth of the community. Counseling programmes help youth to come out of depression and suicidal tendency. We also train them on life skills and career guidance. This program is taken up with an aim to create a congenial atmosphere for asha children to live in their locality as they grow up as adolescent and youth.