

## ABOUT SWADHAR

Swadhar is a Registered social organisation which started its Pune activities in the year 1993 with its main objective of helping women in distress. The Pune office is located at the following address:

**" Akshardeep "**

Niwara

David Sassoon

Anant Panga Griha

96 Sadashiv Peth (Navi) Peth

Pune 411 030

Tel No. 262626/27

Email : s.d.bapat@rediffmail.com

Swadhar is registered under

**A**

1. The Societies Registration Act, 1860 R No.43/83 G.B.S.D.

2. The Bombay **SWADHAR ( PUNE )** 1983

**PROJECT**

Swadhar also has

1. Income Tax Exemption U/s 80G valid upto 31.3.2004.

2. FCRA permission

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## Team – Akshar Deep

### Committee Members of Swadhar

1. Smt. Meenakshi Apte – retired Head of Department Family Welfare – Tata Institute of Social Science. *heads number of org*
2. Smt. Tara Bhat - Chairperson *- Sathi - women in jail + children*
3. Smt. Sulabha Joshi – Secretary
4. Smt. Anjali Bapat – Voluntary worker (Project-in-charge)

### Social Workers

1. Smt. Shaila Purandare } *Akshardeep only*
2. Smt. Torvekar (PCMC) }
3. Smt. Madhuri Shaligram } *part Akshardeep*
4. Smt. Sushma Sathaye } *part Swadhar*

### Teachers

#### Pune

1. Smt. Megha Patil
2. Smt. Prema Kamble
3. Smt. Jyoti Swamy
4. Smt. Sunita Adsool
5. Smt. Sanjivani Navgire
6. Smt. Ekta Karale
7. Smt. Sharada Chitre
8. Smt. Mohini Agrekar
9. Smt. Kalpana Salunkhe
10. Smt. Geeta Gosavi
11. Smt. Shobha Patil
12. Smt. Sangeeta Gosavi
12. Smt. Savita Patil

#### PCMC

1. Smt. Deepali Bhaskar
2. Smt. Urmila Vyas
3. Smt. Babita Gorkha
4. Smt. Asha Sagar
5. Smt. Swati Salunke

## **The key other areas of our work today :**

- 1. To run Balwadis for the children of Commerical Sex workers(Mohur Balwadi).**
- 2. AKSHARDEEP : Under Our Akshardeep project**
  - (A) To provide learning opportunities to underprivileged children who are “ out-of-school” for some reason or other.
  - (B) To help in the all round development of underprivileged children including those who attend corporation school.
  - (C) To run Balwadi called “Gokul” for HIV infected children.

### **1. MOHUR BALWADI**

#### **1. Location :**

This project was started in Pune in the year 1997 in the red light area of Pune – Budhwar Peth. We began work in a dark and dingy room in a dilapidated building which now houses the Pune Health Organisation office. After intensive lobbying with the local education board we managed in 1998 to secure two classrooms in a Corporation school located in the heart of Budhwar Peth . This school has a courtyard in its premises and a play area.

#### **2.Timing :**

This Balwadi runs for two hours everyday from 10 to 12 p.m.

#### **3. Beneficiaries :**

Initially we had to work very hard to gain the confidence of the sex workers community of this area. Our teacher Prematai Kamble is herself a reformed sex worker who knows the community and its problems. Along with Ekta (our other teacher) she starts the day by going from room to room waking up and readying children. Since their mothers are practising sex workers they wake up late and hence find it difficult to send their children on time to school. Around 25 children in the age group of 3 to 12 come to this Balwadi.

Please refer to the enclosed recent article which appeared on 30.11.2001 in Pune Times.

### **Activities undertaken by Mohur**

1. **Play school activities** are undertaken for younger children – craft, drawing ,rhyming songs.
2. **Basic alphabets and numbers** are taught to the older children.
3. **Toys** – we provide toys and bicycles to play with.
4. **Pictorial books** are provided.
5. **Visits** to nearby places of interest and educational trips are organised.
6. **Nutrition** – At present we give supplementary nutrition to these children in the form of sprouts, seasonal fruits etc. twice a week. Through this activity we found that the children learnt to sit down in a disciplined manner pray before eating, good manners and clean their plates and keep them in place.
7. **Medical checkup** – Voluntary doctors help in this activity and we try to provide free- medicines whenever possible.
8. **Palak Sabhas** – Every three months we meet the mothers and discuss problems. Initially they were hesitant and not ready to meet us . We are now familiar with most of the mothers and have gained their confidence by our diligence and hardwork.
9. We help to put some of these children in boarding schools and regular schools.

## **2. AKSHARDEEP**

### **(A)Non- Formal classes -**

#### **Objectives :**

1. To provide an alternate learning opportunity by transforming the formal system into a flexible, non-formal programme for development of children who are unable to attend regular school.
2. To ensure that all the children in such class grow up to be cultured educated and self respecting adults.
3. To help students develop a scientific temper and habit of self-education.
4. To aid children to overcome their poverty conditions and become hardworking and keen on learning new skills.

#### **1. Location :**

Our first Alternate school class was started at Upper Indira Nagar in April 1998. Since then the number of classes has risen to 8 in PMC area and 5 in PCMC area refer chart 'A'.

#### **2. Timing :**

These classes have convenient flexible timings and are located in the vastis. Each class consists of around 20 students in the age group 3 to 12 years.

#### **3. Beneficiaries**

Our sincere effort is to try and put the children into regular mainstream schools. Last year we succeeded in putting 96 children in to regular schools. Our teachers follow up with home visits to encourage the children to be regular in their attendance. Only those children who cannot go to regular schools due to inflexibility of school timing or unapproachability of schools are encouraged to attend our Non formal classes.

In our ten classes we expect around 250 children to benefit from this project. All these children fall under the category of Below Poverty Line. Their parents are construction site workers, rag-pickers, domestic workers, puppet makers , lamani community persons.

#### **4. Teachers :**

The teacher is usually from the same slum area where the class is conducted. She is given training by Swadhar . Twice a month resource persons are invited to our training sessions. Teachers talk about their problems and try to solve them at these meetings.

#### **This activity involves :**

1. **Survey** - of out of school children of an area is conducted by the teacher.
2. **The teacher locates a suitable place to conduct the class** – it may be a Samaj Mandir or temple or a room in the slum.
3. **Planning** – Every teacher is required to maintain a day to day record of work to be done and method of execution.
4. **Monitoring** - Regular supervision is carried out by making random visits to classes by our social workers.
5. **Evaluation** – Those students who can appear for the corporation external exams Std I and IV are encouraged to do so . Our internal evaluations take place throughout the year. The emphasis is on encouraging the students to consolidate what they learn and improve the areas where they are weak. A progress report of each child is maintained by her teacher and her parent is kept informed.



Our main aim is to try to make this group have basic literacy skills of reading and writing. So far 4 students secured above 80% marks in Std III. Of these 4 , one child has been selected for Vidya Niketan

6. **Preventing Drop-outs** – Our teachers come from the same community as the children . They make regular home visits and keep contacts with the parents. They find out the reasons for absenteeism and try to find solutions to the children's problems. We hold palak sabhas to motivate the parents to send their children to the classes. Classes are held in a stress-free, conducive atmosphere.

### **(B) Helping underprivileged children:**

We are a member of A.R.C. (Action for the Rights of the Child) which is an advocacy group consisting of NGO who work in the field of Child Rights . Recently we took active part in supporting the cause of making primary education free and a fundamental right.

We constantly inter-act with Pune Shikshan Mandal of PMC and PCMC also represent the problems faced by our 'adopted' corporation schools no.138 and no.99. Our efforts in this direction are two pronged.

1. Improving the physical facilities of these schools.
2. Improving the quality of education given in these schools .

We have held the following exhibitions at these schools.

1. Science exhibition
2. Exhibition of teaching aids.

We also revived their School Improvement Committee and had a good response for the first meeting.

We have started a circulating library of story books in both schools.



### **(C.) Gokul**

“Manavya” is an organisation working for the HIV infected children started by Smt.Vijaytai Lawate at Village Bhugaon ( about 15kms from Pune University)

The Balwadi acitivity for these children is undertaken by Akshardeep and termed as “ Gokul” . Around 20 children benefit from this Balwadi. These children are then put in to a nearby corporation school in the 1<sup>st</sup> std.