Prerana Monthly Report 2011

\* December

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\* January - Not Available

May 2011

**Prerana Report- May 2011**

**Intervention in the Red-light area.**

**Details of Life Skills Education Sessions conducted during this month**

On **6th May** a life skills session was held with **11** children in the age group of **13 years and above**. Mr. Reehan Mirza facilitated the session. The topic was how to choose a career. The facilitator gave a paper and pen to each youth and asked her/him to write down how they intended to plan for their career. He asked them to include education options too. Youths were also asked to list down their skills so that they could identify their strengths and thereby their career. The group discussed their interest areas and how they could further themselves in these interests areas. The group discussed the various career options like: engineer, motor mechanic, actor, singer, dancer, drawing teacher, doctor, hotel management person, cricketer, football player, social worker etc.

On **7th May** a life skills session was held with **14** children in the age group of **9 to 12 years**. The topic was Self Assessment. Ms. Aruna Katkar and Ms. Vaishali Karande facilitated the session. The facilitators began the session by explaining the activities that will be held. They had developed several simple parameters for the group. The members then had to rank themselves on each parameter. They were given a four point rating scale: Excellent, Good, Average and Poor. It was found out that most of the children rated themselves as Average for most of the parameters. The facilitators had to explain the scale in depth to the children. The group was then asked for their opinion regarding the activity. One of them mentioned that this exercise helped him in understanding himself. The discussion centred on the fact that since most of them had rated themselves as average did they feel the need to try and achieve excellence in the parameters. The group unanimously agreed to it. They mentioned that although they will try to achieve excellence they will first go to the level of good and then proceed from there.

On **20th May** a life skills session was held with **15** children in the age group of **9 to 12 years**. The topic was Emotions. Ms. Aruna Katkar and Ms. Vaishali Karande facilitated the session. The facilitators gave children some story books with pictures. They were then asked to identify emotions in the pictures and list them down. They then discussed these emotions and classified them as negative and positive emotions. Children enjoyed the session and participated well.

**Health and other activities conducted during this month**

1. **The month-long summer camp** continued in the month of May 2011. Children were taken on 4 educational/exposure visits to: Bhaudaaji Lad Museum, VP Road Police Station, Taraporewala Aquarium and Nagpada Police Station. There was an average of 40 children during each visit. The visits were conducted on 7th, 10th, 19th and 27th respectively. On 13th May, Ms. Madhuri Sawant conducted a session on Warli painting. There were 30 children who attended the session. They thoroughly enjoyed it. Ms. Sawant explained the art in depth and made the group paint motifs and scenes. She also gave them ideas as to how they could use this art to make money. For instance: by designing greeting cards, handkerchiefs and the like. A residential camp was conducted on 17th, 18th and 19th of May for children in the age group of 11-14 years at JJ Nursing Association Malad. On 24th May the annual sports day was conducted. Details of the residential camp and sports day have been given below.

2. **Three volunteers** spent time at Prerana during the month of May. Ms. Natasha Dubash started work on 10th of May and is supposed to give us a month. Mr. Pranav Nayak began on 23rd of May and is supposed to give us 2 weeks. Mr. Raviteja Addepalli began his work on 13th of May and he completed his tenure on 27th of May 2011.

3. From 3nd to 5th of May 2011, 15 youths attended a **residential camp at JJ Nursing Association**, Malad. This camp was organized in collaboration with **Mr. Tom Verner (Founder – Magicians without Borders)**. The group is currently being trained by Mr. Verner to become professional magicians. This camp was organized to help the trainees involve themselves in an intensive process of practicing the magic that they had learned from Mr. Verner. The group enjoyed thoroughly and so did Mr. Verner. There were 6 staff members from Prerana who accompanied the group. On the last day the group performed for the students of Ashadeep (an NGO in Mumbai) who were also spending their vacations at JJ Nursing Association. The students of Ashadeep enjoyed the show put up by the youths of Prerana. As quoted by a 13 year old female trainee: “I was performing for the first time before Tom Sir. I gave it my best and I was very happy to have done so because Tom Sir praised me a lot.” **From these 14 youths there are some who are members of the Peer Group and a discussion was held with Mr. Verner regarding incorporating magic in their HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns. Mr. Verner intends to think along the said lines and help these members prepare likewise.**

4. Mr. Pravin Patkar was invited as a resource person for the “National Judicial Workshop on Adjudication Management: Adjudication of Cases concerning Trafficking and Sexual offences” held on 6th to 9th May 2011 at the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh where he conducted two sessions. Several judges from the various states of India participated in the workshop.

5. This month Ms. Tessa from Rice foundation visited the Falkland Road and Naunihal center. Ms. Saumya Bahuguna coordinated the visit. Ms. Tessa wanted to visit the red light areas and Ms. Aruna Katkar facilitated the field visit.

**6.** On 10th May 2011 a health session was conducted with children from Kamathipura and Falkland Road centers. There were 25 children in the age group of 3 to 5 years who attended the session. The topic was Prickly Heat and PSWs conducted the session with help from the NCC staff. This was a refresher session. The PSWs touched upon various aspects like: wearing dry clothes, not roaming in the sun, using Nycil powder, bathing everyday and the like. One child among the group had a serious case of prickly heat and he showed the condition to other children. Children were listening attentively. **We observed that by the end of the month there was a considerable reduction in the severity of the condition among those affected by prickly heat. We also observed that during the session when the facilitator asked questions related to prevention of prickly heat children were able to list down points like: bathing every day, using Nycil powder, not roaming too much in the sun and the like.**

**7.** On 13th May Ms. Namita Deshpande from the Israel Consulate conducted a **career session** for 25 youths at the Falkland road center. She spoke about careers in Consulates and what one must study to gain employment opportunities there. The group asked her various questions like: how difficult was the language, are the employees sent to Israel, what kind of a country was Israel and the like. Ms. Deshpande was very impressed with the group and their response and she replied to all their queries.

**8.** On the 17th, 18th and 19th of May 2011 a **residential camp was held for children in the age group of 11-14 years at JJ Nursing Association, Malad**. The camp was coordinated by Ms. Vaishali Karande and Ms. Sonali Parab. There were 137 children who attended the camp. The theme was Anti-Tobacco and sessions centred on the same. Salaam Mumbai Foundation was invited on the first day to conduct a session on how to plan an anti-tobacco campaign. They taught the group songs on anti-tobacco which became very popular during the entire duration of the camp. Ms. Leela Hadap a theatre actor was called in to train the children on how to conduct street plays on the anti-tobacco issue. Children enjoyed the session thoroughly. On the last day Mr. Jai Ranjit a professional artist (abstract and contemporary art) was invited to conduct a session on poster making. Children were divided into groups and asked to make posters on themes like: anti-tobacco, child sexual abuse, importance of education and the like. Children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. As quoted by a 14 year old youth (male) who also won the Ideal Student award: “I loved the theatre session. And the poster making session too. I never knew that I would be able to paint and depict an issue in a poster form.” **Children from the Rakshak Collective who were part of the group that attended the camp picked up a several ideas on how to go about organizing an anti- tobacco campaign for their peers and their community members.**

9. On 18th May a **health session was held at the Vashi-Turbhe center**. There were 16 children in the age-group of 7 to 14 years who attended the session. PSW conducted the session. The topic was First Aid. PSW discussed every item in the first aid box with the group. She touched upon the use and importance of the items. The group listened attentively and asked several questions pertaining to the importance of the items in the first aid box.

10. On 20th May Mr. Alankar a filmmaker hired by Letz Dream Foundation came to Prerana’s Falkland Road center to shoot for a short film that is to be made about us. He filmed a Dancing Feet session in progress and interviewed Mr. Reehan Mirza the coordinator. Mr. Alankar visited the Falkland Road community and interviewed a mother. He also interviewed 3 youths and staff of Prerana. Apart from this he filmed a magic show session and children studying during the evening study class.

**11.** On 20th May 10 representatives from the British High Commission visited the Falkland Road center. Mrs. Priti Patkar coordinated the visit. Mrs. Patkar gave the visitors an orientation about Prerana. The visitors were very moved with the work that we do. They got an opportunity to interact with children and interacted with them in English. **One of them, Ms. Alison Chambers volunteered to edit our Annual Report (2010-2011).**

12. On 24th of May 2011 our **Annual Sports Day** was held at the public ground in Kamathipura. There were 100 children who participated in the event. The event was sponsored by the CSR wing of Goldman Sachs called Community Teamworks. There were 10 volunteers from Community Teamworks who also attended the event and pitched in with conducting the races and food distribution. There were 3 events: potato race, sprint and skipping race. Winners were given gold, silver and bronze medals. As quoted by one of the volunteers from Community Teamworks: “This is my second sports event at Prerana. My first one was last year and it was such an enriching experience that I knew I’ll be back.”

**13.** On 24th May 2011 a **health session** was conducted for children from Kamathipura and Falkland Road centers. There were 30 children in the age group of 3 to 5 years who attended the session. The session was facilitated by PSWs with help from the NCC staff. The topic was General Hygiene and Ill Effects of Junk Food. PSWs touched upon various aspects like: washing hands before and after eating, bathing every day, changing clothes every day, cutting nails, keeping hair short and free from lice and the like. They also touched upon the ill effects of junk food wherein they discussed the spurious nature of water and oil used in road side food items and the probability of the food having become stale and rotten. Children discussed the same during the session. They listened attentively and also contributed to the session. **A Prerana staff sits at the gate every evening when children come to the center. The staff asks children to hand over items like kurkure and other fried snacklets. We have observed that there is a considerable reduction in purchase of food items like vada pav, bhajji, pani puri etc among children. But our target is to bring about a reduction even in the purchase of items like kurkure and chips.**

14. On 24th May 2011 Ms. Alice Hill, Chief Advisor to the Home Secretary (United States) visited the Falkland Road Center. She was accompanied by Mr. Prashanth Rajan. They had a meeting with Mrs. Priti Patkar and Mr. Pravin Patkar. They attended a magic show that was conducted by 2 youths from Prerana who are undergoing training in magic.

15. On 26th May 2011 a **health session was held at the Vashi-Turbhe center**. There were 16 children in the age group of 7 to 14 years who attended the session. The topic was Malaria and PSW facilitated the session. PSW covered various aspects like: Causes, Symptoms, Treatment and Prevention.

16. On 27th May 2011 a **mothers’ meeting was held at the Falkland Road center.** There were 40 mothers who attended the session. Ten members of the Rakshak Collective also attended the session. The topic was Immunization. Dr. Manoj Patil from the BMC Health Post at RS Nimkar Marg, Mumbai Central facilitated the session. Dr. Patil explained the importance of immunization, the immunization schedule and the consequences of not giving a particular dosage on time. He used charts as an audio visual aid. Women listened attentively to him. They asked several questions like the side effects of injecting doses, why children fall ill when given the injections and regarding polio and Dr. Patil cleared all their doubts patiently. He was happy with the response of the group and also commented positively on their questions.

**17.** On 27th May 2011, 10 members from the **Rakshak Collective** joined the mothers in the meeting and received training on Immunization. We observed that they were listening attentively to the session. They took points which they would cover during their session with their peers. After the meeting they planned for their session with their peers and regarding how they could take this further with the community. They conducted the session with their peers during the same day. Children responded well to the training. **The Collective has also planned to take this information to every household in the community during the month of June. During June 2011’s Pulse Polio Sunday also the Collective has decided to spread the awareness regarding immunization through a door-to-door interaction.**

18. On 28th May 2011 members of the Pukar Group attended a felicitation at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, which marked the end of their research study. They set up stalls wherein they displayed data and materials related to their research. One of the members from Kamathipura was asked to anchor the entire event. They will receive their certificates in June 2011.

19. Mr. Pravin and Mrs. Priti Patkar were invited to receive this year’s URL Foundation Award for contributions to the field of social work. The Award comprised of Rs. 1,00,000/- cash, a citation, a gift, and a conventional felicitation with coconut and shawl in a function that was held in Mumbai on the evening of Sunday the 29th May 2011.

On 30th May 2011 Ms. Maharukh Adenwala conducted training on Juvenile Justice Act 2000 for the staff of Prerana. The training was held at Prerana’s Naunihal center in Kharghar. Ms. Adenwala is an Advocate and she is also our Legal Consultant. The session covered all aspects of the JJ Act. There were 15 staff members who attended the session. The session was an interactive one.

April 2011

**Prerana Update; (April 2011)**



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| **Summer Camp**:  The month of April brought with it final exams followed by summer vacation. On 18th April 2011 the Annual Day-to-Day summer Camp commenced. The planning for the camp had begun a month in advance. This year several themes such as – health, anti-tobacco and hands-on arts and crafts were taken into consideration while planning. Appropriate resource persons were contacted and dates were finalized. A residential camp for children in the age-group of 6-10 years was successfully organized between 27th to 29th of April 2011. Children in the age group of 11-14 years went for a visit to Nehru Planetarium on the 27th of April 2011. Apart from this there were competitions such as – drawing, advertisement enacting, making models with straws, potato race, relay, lemon & spoon race, threading the needle etc. in which children participated enthusiastically. The average daily attendance during the camp was 80. |

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|  **NIOS 10th Std**:This year we had enrolled 7 youths (2 girls and 5 boys) for the 10th std. examination conducted by the National Institute of Open Schools (NIOS). The group were provided with extra coaching at Prerana’s Falkland Road night care center. We had hired a tutor for the purpose who coached the group every evening. The tuitions had commenced in August 2010 and the exams were conducted in April 2011. They have to appear for one paper in the month of May.  |

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| **Residential Summer Camp**: The Annual Residential Summer Camp for the year 2011 for the Prerana children in the age group of 6 to 10 years was held at Prerana’s Naunihal center, Kharghar for 3 days between 27th and 29th April 2011. Seventy Three children attended the Camp. Ms. Aparna Dhopeshwarkar and Mr. Vilas Landage were the camp coordinators. The camp revolved around the theme - Health. There were puppet shows, health awareness sessions using posters, film screening, drawing competitions and a Miss Clean/Mr. Clean competition. Children enjoyed the sessions thoroughly. Two campers Ms. Ruhi Gupta and Mr. Dulal Shaikh were the winners of the Miss Clean/Mr. Clean competition. |

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| On April 27, 2011; Ms. Saumya Bahuguna from Prerana attended a workshop on ‘Public Private Partnership to Combat Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration’. This workshop was organized by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra in collaboration with International Organization (IOM) Hyderabad. The day long workshop had representatives both from the State of Maharashtra and the CSOs. The workshop covered the issue from a range of perspectives such as – experience of the law enforcement agencies from Andhra Pradesh, skill building and employment opportunities from the corporate perspective, the role of the media in combating human trafficking, etc. The day ended with presentations made by the participants on the roles of various stakeholders in rehabilitation, prevention and skill building and employment opportunities for the survivors of human trafficking. International Justice Mission, Oasis, Justice and Care, Chaitanya Mahila Mandal, St. Catherine’s Home, Save The Children India, etc. were some of the Civil Society Organizations present at the workshop. Mr. C. B. Turkar and Ms. Vandana Krishna represented the Government of Maharashtra.  |

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|  Ms. Priti Patakr conducted a session on “Conceptual Clarity on Human Trafficking, Role of NGO and Coordination with Police in Combating Human Trafficking and on Trends Observed by NGO’s in Human Trafficking. for the Police officers from different districts of Maharashtra on the 25th of April 2011 at Centre for Police Research, Pune. |

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|  A 7 camera CCTV System has been installed in Naunihal. This is to provide further security to the residents of Naunihal. This system has been sponsored by Lions Club of Queensway and ZICOM. Prerana had to incur the installation and the cabling cost. |

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|   **Prerana’s ATC is relocated** Prerana is abundantly accredited with several path breaking and pioneering interventions in the fight against human trafficking. Prerana’s Anti Trafficking Centre (ATC) a resource centre was one such intervention that was the first of its kind in the country. It functioned as the Think Tank in the anti trafficking field and initiated the process of influencing the policies on trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation not just in India or South Asia but also at the global levels. Keeping in with the tradition at Prerana of socializing the AHT intervention widely we encouraged and influenced several governmental and non- governmental bodies and others to start similar Anti Trafficking Centres to strengthen the fight against CSE&T. The National Commission for Women had studied the ATC of Prerana and recommended it to the governments at the centre and the various state levels. The same had resulted in the Govt of India and the Govt of Maharashtra starting their own ATCs (sadly the Maharashtra State ATC was closed down eventually). The ATC played an important role in influencing the U.N. Optional on Trans National Organized Crime of 2000. The Prerana ATC coordinated activities like; ü Sensitization & Trainingü Legal Intervention/Public Interest Litigationü Running a Resource Libraryü Information Dissemination (e.g. Releasing the ATC-Releases)ü Creating Social Awareness & Awareness Materialü Research & Documentationü Facilitating & Coordinating AHT Networks ü Building Victims’ Collectivesü Providing Policy Consultationsü Capacity Building for Partners in AHTü Etc. The ATC was the quintessential Prerana perspective. Prerana translated its perspective on the role of professional non-profit making social sector organization following which it never aimed at expanding oneself into a big empire, scaling up to a big organization, amassing immovable property, accumulating impressive corpus, or becoming a permanent replacement for the state agencies and institutions. It designed for itself a role of piloting interventions, experimenting with new ideas, innovating solutions, evolving success stories, widely disseminating insights, experiences, & new found solutions, and identifying & strengthening new partners. The ATC located at a very modest (almost dilapidated) place in the barrack of the MVR Shinde Rd. Mun School, Bhandup (W) Mumbai was internationally known by its excellent contributions to the cause. It is now being relocated at Naunihal, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. Naunihal Address: Sector 5, Plot number 20.Kharghar, Navi Mumbai -410210 *How to reach Prerana’s Naunihal?****Nearest railhead****:- Kharghar on the Thane Panvel or Mumbai Panvel rail line Trains going to Panvel halt at the Kharghar station. Take an auto rikshaw to Naunihal. It should cost you Rs. 20/-**You should take a harbour line train heading towards Panvel. You can take a harbour line train heading towards Panvel from CST, Andheri, Bandra or Thane.****Nearby landmarks****: We share a compound wall with a tall tower of ITM Hostel with a signboard on top that can be seen from very far. A newly coming up Ganesh temple in front. Yerala Society’s Garden plot/ Nursery. Narayan Swami Math to left. Manashakti Kendra to left on the opposite side. Seva Dham in the back.**From the Mumbai Panvel Highway traveling from Mumbai. Don’t take the small flyover as you near Kharghar. There is an entry to Kharghar main node on the left hand. Go straight till you see a round monumental structure called Utsav chowk. Go round the chowk and continue in the straight direction till you come to the end of the road where there is a T joint. Take left. There are residential buildings on your left and a plant nursery on right. The 4rd building on your left hand with Ground + 3 Stories is Naunihal****.*** *(Harmony School is your main Landmark here)**Naunihal phone number****:*** *022-23586942*  |

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|  On 22nd April 2010 we organized a training on Ill Effects of Tobacco for the staff at Naunihal. We collaborated with Salaam Mumbai Foundation for the training. There were 12 staff members who attended the session. Mr. Ajay Pilankar and Ms. Asmita Londhe from Salaam Mumbai Foundation were the facilitators. The session provided in-depth information on the ill effects of tobacco and smoking. Mr. Pilankar spoke about how to conduct sessions with children’s groups. He gave examples of his experiences with ‘Super Army’ a children’s group that Salaam Mumbai Foundation has mobilized in various schools and districts of the State. Ms. Londe spoke about the psychology behind smoking and what triggers youths for venturing into smoking/tobacco. There was also an input on the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act. The sessions were interactive and enjoyable apart from being informative. |

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| Ms. Priti Patkar and Ms. Aparna Dhopeshawarkar attended a Panel discussion on Child Protection: Contemporary Issues and Trends including ICPS, which is the newest national scheme on Child Protection. The programme was organized on Saturday, April 9, at the Committee Room, SNDT University, New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400 020, by theBombay Association of Trained Social Workers (BATSW)!’ |

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| **J and J intern’s in FR and Naunihal-Preeti Iyer**On 12th April 2010 a group of 30 interns from Johnson and Johnson Ltd. spent a day at the Falkland Road and Naunihal centers. This activity was organized by Johnson and Johnson Ltd. in collaboration with us, to provide the interns with CSR experience. The interns were pursuing MBA from the top B-Schools in the country. We planned the day for them dividing their time into sessions so that the entire day is utilized to the optimum. They conducted various sessions with children such as: career sessions in which they spoke about opportunities in streams like – Operations Management, Marketing, Finance and Human Resources Management, a quiz show, sessions clarifying the concept of effective communication, documentation and developing a marketing strategy for Naunihal center. The interns were very happy at the end of the day. We held a feedback session with them and one of them who was at the Falkland Road center mentioned, “These children are so intelligent. I never imagined that I would be spending time with them and enjoying myself so thoroughly.” |

February 2011

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1ST FEBRUARY TO 28TH FEBRUARY**

**REPORT PREPARED BY: PREETI IYER AND ARUNA KATKAR**

**INPUTS FROM: ARUNA KATKAR, SONALI PARAB, VAISHALI KARANDE, APARNA DHOPESHWARKAR AND MANJULA KULKARNI**

**Details of Life Skills Education Sessions conducted during this month**

On 21st February a session was held with 7 children in the age group of 13 to 17 years. The topic was Idols. Mr. Reehan Mirza facilitated the session. The session began with a feedback of the previous session. Then a short game was played in which chairs were placed randomly across the room and music was played. The group was made to run around the room and then sit on the chairs when the music stopped. A short relaxation cum meditation session was conducted after this. The facilitator then gave each child a paper and asked them to write down the various activities that were associated with them and their lives. They were then asked to identify one favourite activity and write it down behind the page. The facilitator then asked them to think deeper about activities like – Magic Bus, education, counselling, Dancing Feat, entrepreneurship and the like. A discussion was held as to what were the children’s perceptions regarding these activities and why they had mentioned them. Children mentioned that they had listed down only those activities that they participated wholeheartedly in. They added that they participated in some activities just because they were asked to do so. One child said that he was a good cricket player hence he mentioned cricket. They were then asked to identify one activity which was their favourite but everyone was not able to pinpoint one activity. There were some who were very clear that they wanted to do something related to dancing. The group was then asked to think about who is their Idol. They were a little confused as to what was an Idol. The facilitator explained the same to them giving his own example of Shaimak Davar being his Idol and his driving force. He added that an Idol need not be related to their profession. But it was observed that the group mentioned only those persons as Idols who were related to either a profession or an activity. An activity was then taken in which each child was made to sit down and make a circle on the floor with chalk. They were asked to think of an Idol and write about that Idol in the area outside the circle. Most of them mentioned aspects like – he looks good, he dances well, she wears good clothes etc. They were then asked to disclose who their Idol was based on all the statements that they had written. Many were a little confused but they managed to pinpoint their Idols. One of them wrote a girl’s name, one wrote an actor’s name. They were then asked to explain as to how were these person their Idols. When they started mentioning their reasons – he looks good, he writes well, she is my girl friend, she is my friend – they realized that they had not got the concept right. They thought about how certain attributes and skills define the characteristics of an Idol. There were some who understood the concept and presented accordingly. The facilitator mentioned that it would be helpful if they were to keep an appropriate Idol in mind and work towards being like the Idol. He added that they could think about it at length and discuss the same during the next session.

On 25th February a session was held with 15 children in the age group of 10 to 12 years. The topic was Child Rights. Ms. Aruna Katkar and Ms. Vaishali Karande facilitated the session. The session began with a feedback on the previous session on Addiction. The group had attended a similar session on Child Rights earlier. They were told about the basic child rights and were asked to name those rights that were apart from the basic rights. The responses were – right to study, entertainment, health and the like. The facilitators then introduced to them another right – Right to Protection. They added the right to protect oneself from unfriendly touches. Under this they also mentioned the importance of right to shelter and right to refuse to work in factories. The group responded well to the inputs. This session though a revision for them the right to protection was something new that they learned. The session ended with a discussion on the next session topic which was to be Duties/Responsibilities.

On 28th February a session was conducted with 12 children in the age group of 10 to 12 years. The topic was Duties/Responsibilities. Ms. Aruna Katkar and Ms. Vaishali Karande facilitated the session. In this session a feedback was taken regarding the previous session. A recall was done on the discussion related to duties of children versus the rights. The group was told to assume that they had access to the basic rights and then the thought was initiated on how there were certain duties and responsibilities which came along with these rights. They were given an example – they had access to the basic right of education hence with this right came the responsibility of going to school everyday, respecting their teachers and studying regularly. They had access to health facilities hence it becomes their responsibility to make sure that they eat well and when ill they cooperate with their elders and go to the hospital. Children were interactive during the session.

ü **Two LSE sessions were also held at the Pratham boarding home with girls.**

**Details of Mothers’ Meetings held during the month**

On 28th February a mothers’ meeting was held at the Falkland Road centre. There were 35 women who participated in it. The topic was Cancer. The resource person was Ms. Rutvika Panchal. She is a Social Worker attached to the Social Work Department at Tata Memorial Hospital. Ms. Panchal covered aspects like – what is cancer, the different types – breast, cervical, uterine and oral, symptoms, precautions and detection of breast cancer. She used flipcharts as audio-visual aids. Ms. Panchal gave substantial information on oral cancer and how chewing tobacco (which is common among the mothers) can lead to oral cancer. She gave tips on how to gradually reduce the intake and then subsequently substitute it with non-carcinogenic substances. Women liked the session since the resource person gave information in an easy to understand manner. During this meeting PSWs gave mothers information on the Anti-Tobacco work being done by the Peer Group.

**Health and other activities conducted during this month**

1. On 5th February Concern India Foundation organized a one-day Sports event for children from different NGOs. There were 30 children from all our centres who participated in this event. Ms. Aruna Katkar and Ms. Chaya Jagtap were the Prerana coordinators. Children were made to participate in various events like – 100 metres, 200 metres and 400 metres running and long jump. They were provided with t-shirts, shoes and refreshments.

2. On 5th February a New Year party was organized at the Falkland Road centre. The party commenced at 5 pm and continued till 8:30 pm. Children were dressed in their best and they danced and had lots of fun. They were given chicken biryani and cake.

3. On 12th February we celebrated the Annual Balak Utsav 2010. For this we collaborated with St. Anthony’s Home who provided us with free space to conduct the event. The coordinators were Ms. Nilima Wakhchaure, Ms. Sheetal Jadhav and Ms. Manjula Kulkarni. Ms. Chaya Jagtap and Ms. Vaishali Karande were the back-ups. There were 13 dance performances by children from all the centres. The dances were choreographed by Mr. Reehan Mirza. The Chief Guest was Mr. Shankar Jadhav, Superintendent of the Children’s Home at Dongri. Youths were felicitated for academic achievements. Women were felicitated for being ideal mothers and a lifetime achievement award was given to 2 ex-students of Prerana. There were 450 children and over 200 mothers that participated in the event.

4. On 14th February a puppet show was conducted at the Falkland Road centre with 60 children in the age group of 7 and above years. The topic was Addiction. The facilitator covered aspects like – drug abuse, tobacco abuse, diseases that occur owing to the abuse of such substances and prevention/precautions. Children participated actively in the session.

5. On 15th February a health session was conducted at the Vashi centre for 2 groups of children. One group consisted of 15 children in the age group of 3-6 years. The second group consisted of 22 children in the age group of 7 to 15 years. The topic was personal hygiene. The session comprised of various aspects like bathing every day, cutting nails, wearing clean clothes, keeping hair clean and free of lice and the like. Children participated well in the session.

6. On 17th February the second round of training on Child Sexual Exploitation was conducted by Arpan Trust for the staff at Prerana. There were 20 participants. The resource persons covered topics like – clinical aspects and legal aspects of CSE. The team was made to prepare protocols pertaining to each project. This was a group activity. It was felt that the session on legal aspects needed to be taken more in-depth and there was a suggestion that one more session could be conducted for the same . The resource persons also discussed their organization’s protocol with the group. **From the Vashi centre two staff members participated in this training.**

7. On 18th February a health session was conducted at the Falkland Road centre for 35 children in the age group of 2 to 6 years. The topic was Common Cold. The facilitator touched upon various aspects like the causes, symptoms and prevention. A discussion was held on not drinking very cold water, eating nutritious food and remaining fit so as to keep the immunity levels high within the body. Children participated actively in the session.

8. On 20th February a theatre workshop was organized for the group of 19 youths who are undergoing training to become magicians. An external resource person Ms. Shruti was called for the same. There were 10 youths who attended the session. Ms. Shruti made each youth perform a trick. She then took 2 games which touched upon enhancing performance skills. She gave important tips on performing for an audience. The participants loved the session and mentioned that it would be useful if such sessions were conducted on a regular basis for them.

9. On 23rd February a stress management workshop was conducted for youths studying the 10th standard. There were 18 youths who participated. The workshop began at 10 am and ended at 12:30 pm. Ms. Trupti Shelke was the resource person. Ms. Shelke gave tips on how to study each subject. The workshop was a highly interactive one and the participants had many experiences to share. Ms. Shelke also touched upon the importance of meditation and good nutrition during this period. She also invited ex 10th standard students to share their experiences. Mr. Raju Patil a 11th standard student shared his experiences with the group in which he mentioned that one needs to put in maximum efforts since it was a public exam. He added that rumours (if any) should be ignored and one needs to be focused on the studies. Ms. Shelke mentioned how important it was to manage time efficiently so as to complete their paper in 3 hours. One of the participants shared her experiences regarding a stress management workshop that her school had organized. The participants enjoyed the session and found it very beneficial.

**10. U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee visits Prerana**

Mr. Steve Feldstein, Counsel, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Mr. Daniel Silverberg, Senior Deputy Chief Counsel, U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee as a team from the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee visited Prerana on Wednesday 23rd February 2011 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. They were accompanied by Ms. Arundhati Mundalay Specialist - Political and Social Issues and Mr. Kapil Gupta the Information Officer at the U.S. Consulate Mumbai. Ms. Priti Patkar received the team on behalf of Prerana.

Ms. Vaishali Karande and Mr. Rehan Mirza and Ms. Patkar all of Prerana took the team for a visit of the red light area after the initial discussions. Mr. Kapil who had earlier worked in Dhaka Bangladesh interacted with the women in Bangla which impressed the women and encouraged them to interact freely and energetically with the visitors.

Mr. Steve and Mr. Daniel Silverberg expressed that they were quite impressed with the work of Prerana.

11. On 26th February a workshop was conducted on Data Analysis for the members of the Pukar project. It was held at Bandra from 10 am to 5 pm. There were 10 children (from both Kamathipura and Falkland Road groups) who attended the workshop. Children were given tips on how to evaluate, how to arrive at frequencies and percentages, coding and the like. It was felt that one workshop will not suffice hence it was planned that another workshop will be organized soon in which the resource person will be a representative from Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

