**Visit to Asha Community Center project run by Swadhar**

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Volunteers: Lalitha Krishnaswamy and V. Krishnaswamy

We visited Bibwewadi, a suburb of Pune where the community center is located. It is situated in a place called Kakde Basti, which is a less developed area of Bibwewadi. A substantial population seems to consist of daily workers and this community center caters to the needs of small children and young boys and girls. There are about 15 small kids. the attendance register showed about 12 girls and 10 boys in all. The community center is in two separate two room tenements which are very basic at first appearance but reasonably clean.

One of them is known as balwadi and here small children about 3 years of age are assembled from 9-30 to 11-30AMtaught to sing, say the name days of the week, names of months, a little bit of coloring in paper and so on. There are two teachers who seem to be enthusiastic.

The teachers have improvised teaching aids for these children. We were told that they are given some light snacks during the stay. Once in a year, they are taken to a picnic in Empress Garden which is at the outskirts of Pune. In the same location, bigger children are given study support. Reading materials are kept here.

In the other location, activities for adolescent girls take place. There are 6 monthly courses for tailoring, as well as beauty course which are said to be popular. Once a week, cookery class is also conducted. During summer holidays, hobby and craft classes are conducted for which sometimes they call outside specialists. These courses are said to be popular.

The community center has taken initiative in making parents aware of rights to admission in school for below poverty line section of the population. Young girls are given exposure to police station and given lecture by police officer.

We think that altogether the center is doing a very good job.

We were shown the attendance sheets of students coming here and it seems good. They also showed the progress record of every student. They explained that they have to submit requisition for expense approval and salary every month to their accountant duly certified by the convenor (Mrs Suneeti Sharanpani). They have dead stock and consumable stock register and stock taking every month. They also have a managing committe meeting every month.