



ISC Report July'11 to Sept.'11 for Asha for Education

ISC's work with the disadvantaged section of society hinges on the beliefs that:

1. Given the opportunity and the appropriate support every child can bloom
2. The development of a child needs a good head-start in his/her very early years
3. Children can develop into the best 'agents of change' on all social issues like Gender in particular and Education in general.
4. Social empowerment and Economic empowerment go hand in hand especially for Gender related issues.

In order to translate these into action these have been some of the processes and programmes with a fair amount of results in the all round development of children.

I. Project Vidyadeep. (Education)

Support Class:



Support Class reopened on June'15th 2011 in 4 communities' in **10 Support classes** for std. III to VII. The total number of children covered was **168. (75 boys & 93 girls)**

Emphases was on reading & writing for std. III & IV

The Burmashell slum community needs special mention where 35% people keep moving in & out of the 'vasti' looking for work; the result being that the children loiter on the streets and stay out of school. After a head count we started support class in June'11 managed to re-enroll 10 out of the 24 children who were not going to school. Thanks to the recently enacted Act (Right to Education) we were able to coerce the School management into enrolling these children who otherwise would continue to loiter on the streets. The result is that the teachers are very pleased with the performance of these children and even permit them to attend class with their baby siblings who they care for while the parents are out at work.

Workshops on Rights of Children



The first one in the year was conducted in Sept'11 for 35 children at the ISC Centre for the 8 & 9 year olds..

The children got a fair understanding of the rights as per the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child to which India is a signatory.

They were also able to differentiate between Needs & Rights

Second Workshop on ROC for the older children



Conducted Oct'11 on the Right to Development for 38 children. Most of them were able to relate the articles in the

document to their situations back home and better understand their relationship with their parents and school environment.

They also discussed good and bad habit formation and education as a main Developmental right.

Reading Program in Pune Municipal Corporation School



Name of the School	No. of Class	No. of Children Std. I & II
Khese Vidyalaya, Burmashell	4	114
Genba Moze, Laxminagar	17	517
V.D. Ghate, Phulenagar	3	55
Sant Dyneshwer, Pratik Nagar	6	197
Mahadev Dagdu, Ganesh Nagar	2	61
Aacharya Atre, Ganesh Nagar	2	54
Anusayabai Sawant,	4	214
Total:	38	1238

We are working in **13 muniucipal schools** in Yerwada, with **38** classes, only for std. I to IV covering **1238** children. ISC teacher takes a Reading Class in school. Each class has reading thrice a week. The duration of per class is 45 to 60 minutes. Each child individually is made to read and provided personal attention. The school class teacher is also fully involved in the class and thus gets on-job training.

(Pic.shows one of the girls narrating a story she had read.).

II.Project Sabala:Community Gender Sensitization Program:

This project is run for **16** Gender Cell in **6** communities covering **313 Boys & Girls**.(113 boys & 200 girls)

Taking Sessions with children in Gender Cell Program: Age 9 to 18

Some of the issues covered were:

1. Rights of the Children (Survival,Protection,Development & Participation):

The origins and history of the Rights of the Child was explained to the children. They also learnt to differentiate between Needs & Rights. This brought about a fairly good understanding of rights & duties as the result of these sessions, children took up the issue of corporal punishment in theirs school & homes. In one of the community, Pandulaman the Gender Boys & Girls took up the issue with school teachers who after the initial jolt and meeting with the ISC worker,(who then took the opportunity to sensitize the teachers on child rights) have changed their behaviour and have now begun thinking twice before the can be accused of about corporal punishment again.

2. Prevention of child abuse.

This was done through games and exercises to lighten the handling of such an issue.

3. Learning to speak one's mind:

This meant being well informed, weighing the pros and cons, measure the seriousness of one's decisions and freely giving one's opinion and views on a topic.

Through very basic and non-threatening issues, were taken up, this was found to help the girls move out of their timidness.

4. Gender Equality:

As a result of the discussions based on the ISC training module 'Jassa me Tashi ti' 45% of the boys have taken concrete steps to act and behave without a gender bias and take on responsibilities and share in the household chores with their sisters & mothers.

5. Domestic Violence:

20 children did a Survey of **40** households on Domestic Violence in their community **12** and discussed the same with the ISC staff.

Much to the surprise of ISC staff, one of the boys named Ankush Ranjane (age 13) Took it upon himself to help his neighbour when he found the woman and her children fleeing from their home because her husband physically abused her time & again. He not only encouraged the woman to go back home but also met the husband and explained the law that could get him into trouble.

Dowry is one of the reasons for domestic violence. So the girls of the Laxminagar slum s (age 13 to 16) did a small survey covering 25 households on the Dowry issue..

Gender Program in the Municipal schools:

We are working in **13** schools in Yerwada , with **25** classes, only for Std. V covering **508** children. We are happy to run this program because the children are just 10/11 years old about to get into their adolescence. In the municipal schools they don't get much of a chance for activities like this and engaging with children at this age will definitely mean a safer and richer adolescence.

III. Very Early Childhood Development Programme "Aarambha"

This programme is meant for the 0 to 3 year olds and their parents for ideal parenting of this age group. There are 4 clusters in Yerwada covering 42 mothers and 62 children.

The various components of the programme are:

1. Training of Animators(ISC staff) -

There were two special training for them. One was related to 'Children's health' for which we called pediatrician as mentioned earlier and the second training was based on 'Age wise play for children'.

2. Training of Caregivers (mothers and older siblings) -

In the weekly meeting with caregivers we cover all parenting issues with them. Besides the weekly meetings we organized one big programme for caregivers and for the children at which the following activities were taken:

1. Street play on father's responsibility towards the child.
2. Play material was placed on the table for age wise player.
3. Nutritious food for children.

Children enjoyed Game and food. The parents, learnt to make play things from raw material which is easily available in their area. They also took home recipes for low cost nutritious food. The hall was decorated with posters related to parenting & child's health.



3. Activities with children-

The regular activities through the week in the four clusters include play session with children by the caregivers on what they have learnt in the earlier sessions. The Animators also observe behavioral changes of the child and the attitude of the Caregivers. There were toy library for children. Every third day we exchange the toys and now the 2 & 3 year olds have become very familiar with our library system, and willingly exchange the toys for a new set.

4. Observations-

First and foremost there is a visible change in the caregiver's views towards child development. At the discussion with them at the start of the programme they believed that a child begins learning only after admission into school and 2 months into the programme they begin to see the signs of development and intelligence in their children.

- Caregivers start to prepare nutritious food items.
- Caregivers start to share their child related problem with us. They become more conscious about child's behavioral and other problems.
- Caregivers show a keen interest in parenting and also actively follow different ways for stimulating their children

IV. Other Activities:

. We celebrated Teachers Day for the ISC Animators on 6th of Sept. The first half of the day was spent enhancing their own skills for the Reading Programme and the second half was fun and entertainment with games, quizzes & solving puzzles. Each of them received a gift as a token of appreciation for her dedicated service.



Children Celebrated 15th Aug Independence Day'11:



Support Class & Gender Cell Children did program of Independence Day. They share stories of Freedom Fighters. Also talked about how they could be true citizens in every sense of the word.

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Basket Ball



20 Children went to Don Bosco School Ground to have their first lesson in Basket Ball with none other than the NBA Coach Troy Justice as part of the programme “NBA Cares”

Volunteers engaged with ISC kids:

Interactive sessions of children with IGATE Patni: Volunteers. They worked in groups bringing out collages on the story of an Orphanage, on the Ganesh festival, Environment and Fashion Shows.

Japanese students interact ISC children:

Students from Kiwi International University from Japan visited the ISC Centre for an orientation on the work that ISC is doing after which two students volunteered with for 8 days, teaching the children origami, collages & some group games.

Advocacy

ISC held 4 meetings in the Yerwada Municipal Schools on the Right to Education Act '2009. The main subject of these meeting was the formation of the "School Management Committee". which is the supervisory body constituted by the school with parents on the committee besides other local leaders. It is mandatory for every school to have this SMC functioning. We interacted with the school teachers, principals as well as parents. Together with the parents we discussed the structure of SMC. The parents showed their willingness to come to the monthly meeting in school. These meetings brought out a commitment from the parents as well.

Post Card campaign:

Action for the Rights of the Child(ARC) is the network of Pune based NGO's, to place common issues on one platform. One such issue was the problems which children face daily in their schools like lack of Water, Sanitation facilities etc. One way to deal with this would be for the children themselves to learn to approach the right authorities & apprise them of current situation of such schools. Children from Yeravada sent 500 Post Card to Chief Justice of High Court as did children from other ARC member project areas.

Parents Meetings:

We held Parents meeting about School Management about Right to Education of SMC. 85% parents of this meeting.



in in the project area in Yerwada Committee while talking with them Act'2009 & especially the structure all communities were present for

ISC Animators Training:

Two training program were organized with the teachers.

July'11 –to develop craft skill as new learning material..



Sept'11 –A Resource person who is Pediatrician. She took session on health of children & gave us tips on cognitive development. She also gave us medicine, which we use for kids. This was specially meant for the Very Early Childhood Development Programme.

Achievements:

On the whole the children are showing progress not only in their studies but also in their behaviour patterns and personal growth. Sensitivity to the less fortunate than himself was shown by Aakash Kamble of Std.10 who shared his notes with those who could not afford the extra classes that he attends.

Then again the children of Std.9, rotate the text –guides among themselves as they they too do not go to the extra classes and following the Text-Guides is a cheaper way out.

In the School Programme: There has been a big change in the attitude of the school teachers who now get actively involved in the Reading program, where earlier they would be more of spectators to the programme being conducted by the ISC Animators

.Also there is a lot of learning from each other (ie the ISC Animators & the School teachers) and sharing tasks like following up on absentee children. Parents meeting is resulting in their active participation in School meetings.