

Annual Report

2015 - 2016

Apne Aap Women's Collective (AAWC)

the right to a better life for women and children in red light areas





From the CEO's desk

1st June, 2016

Dear Incredible Supporters,

Greetings from **Apne Aap Women's Collective (AAWC)**!

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you all for your constant support towards our cause and also present you with Apne Aap Women's Collective's Annual Report for F. Y. 2015-16.



I'm pleased to let you know that this year we were once again bestowed with increasing recognition of our work on both national and international levels: we were awarded the Gulabrao Ganacharya Award for 2015, selected as the top 150 Global Finalists under BASF's Connected to Care Program, and awarded the GuideStar India NGO Transparency Award for voluntarily showcasing our financial and legal compliances to all stakeholders.

Additionally, we welcomed interns and volunteers from India, Europe, and the United States of America during the year and, for the first time, had remote interns from the University of Michigan who worked throughout the year to create educational videos for Udaan girls.

During the past financial year, along with the existing services, we introduced two important projects; the Umang children's Night Shelter and the Beautician Training Project for the Umeed women. We are pleased to let you know that the Night Shelter Program has proven to be of immense benefit to the children as we have observed positive behavioural changes and social skills development in them. The women enrolled under AAWC's Beautician Training Program were also assisted in acquiring advance training and internships.

Also, after preparing throughout the year, 6 Udaan beneficiaries appeared for the 10th Grade Board Examination and another 4 appeared for their 12th Grade Board Examination. We observed a good number of women visiting our centres and having a stronger rapport owing to increase in our team of outreach workers.

The year did not pass without a few serious challenges. We faced extreme difficulty during the Mumbai Monsoons as our Kamathipura Centre was flooded multiple times due to water seepage until Kavita Nanavati, a regular volunteer with AAWC helped to arrange for the Centre's repairing and waterproofing. I am highly thankful to her for the timely support. Kamathipura area also witnessed a series of unrest as there were violent conflicts between the mainstream community people and women in prostitution. Frequent staff turnover and challenges in finding adequate financial support for our Umang Program were other concerns of the organization; steps are being taken to address those issues.

Moreover, as per the 'Ministry of Home Affairs' instructions, we applied for renewal of FCRA registration certificate under FCRA, 2010. Every quarter, details of foreign donations received under FCRA are shared on our website. For better communication, we are in the process of developing our webmail system in the upcoming year.

That being said, I'm grateful to my team's dedication and am positive about further developments in the upcoming year. On behalf of the organization, I would once again like to thank you for your continued support and faith in our work.

Warmest regards,

Manju Vyas

Chief Executive Officer

Apne Aap Women's Collective

table of contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>from the CEO's desk</i> | i |
| <i>table of contents</i> | ii |
| ABOUT | 1 |
| Mission..... | 1 |
| Vision..... | 1 |
| Organization History..... | 1 |
| Issue..... | 1 |
| Theory of Change..... | 2 |
| Programs..... | 3 |
| IMPLEMENTATION | 4 |
| Outreach..... | 4 |
| Education..... | 4 |
| Health..... | 6 |
| Empowerment..... | 8 |
| Finance..... | 11 |
| Recreation..... | 12 |
| Shelter Home Placement..... | 13 |
| Management Implementation..... | 14 |
| IMPACT | 16 |
| Accolades..... | 16 |
| Statistics..... | 17 |
| Case Studies..... | 19 |
| CHALLENGES | 21 |
| GOVERNANCE | 22 |
| Managing Committee..... | 22 |
| Team..... | 23 |
| APPENDICES | 24 |
| Partners..... | 24 |
| Contact..... | 25 |

About

Mission

To provide a caring and supportive platform of wholesome services to help women, girls and children in the Red Light Area make choices for a dignified and better quality life.

Vision

To provide the tools and resources for empowerment to trafficked brothel-based prostitutes, their daughters, other marginalized girls and children in Mumbai's Red Light District, and to prevent the cycle of intergenerational prostitution.

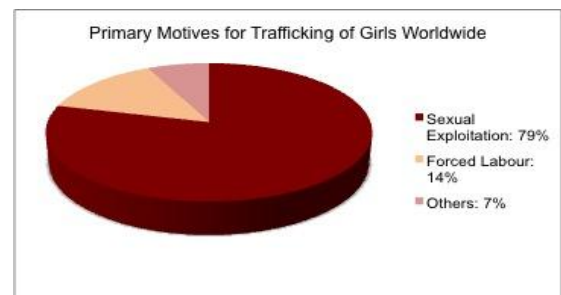
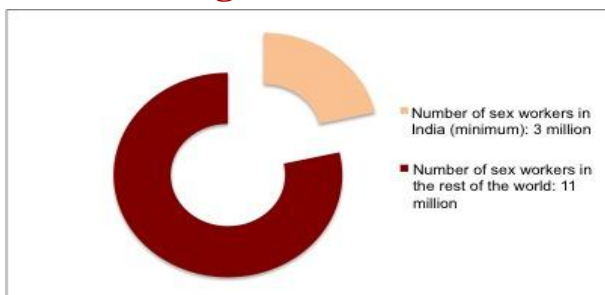
Organization History

Founded in 1998, Apne Aap Women's Collective (AAWC) is an anti-trafficking organization that serves the women and their children in the red light districts of Falkland Road and Kamathipura, Mumbai, through our three programs: **Umeed** for women in brothel-based prostitution (18+ years), **Udaan** for their daughters (5-18 years), and **Umang** for their toddlers (2.5-5 years). By providing our beneficiaries with the tools and resources to create a better quality of life, we seek to empower those women who have been trafficked into brothel-based prostitution, prevent the intergenerational cycle of prostitution amongst their daughters and assist the toddlers in becoming healthy and responsible citizens.

As of March 2016, we have directly and indirectly served more than 3000 women and children. Our alumni have earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees and entered respectful professions such as accounting, beauty, business process outsourcing, dance, hospitality management, luxury cuisine, medical compounding, nursing, photography, retail, social work, and teaching. Apart from becoming financially independent, they have assisted their mothers in quitting the sex trade and supported their siblings education expenses.

Issue

Sex Trafficking



Globally, 70% victims of trafficking are women and girls ⁽¹⁾ and amongst the trafficked victims, an estimated 79% are trafficked with the purpose of sexual exploitation ⁽²⁾. This type of trafficking is an immense problem in India, which is home to over 3 million of the estimated 14 million sex workers worldwide ⁽³⁾. Women and girls are starved, raped and tortured by pimps and brothel owners to coerce them into prostitution. Most victims come from stark economic conditions, have no financial means to support themselves or enter the trade because of abusive marriages or having suffered sexual abuse as children ⁽⁴⁾.

1. and 2. Source: *Global Report on Trafficking in Person, 2014. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna*

3. Source: *Price and Statistics of the Global Trade, 2015. Havascope*

4. Source: *A qualitative examination of women involved in prostitution in Mumbai, India: The role of family and acquaintances. International Social Work, International Social Work*

Red Light Area

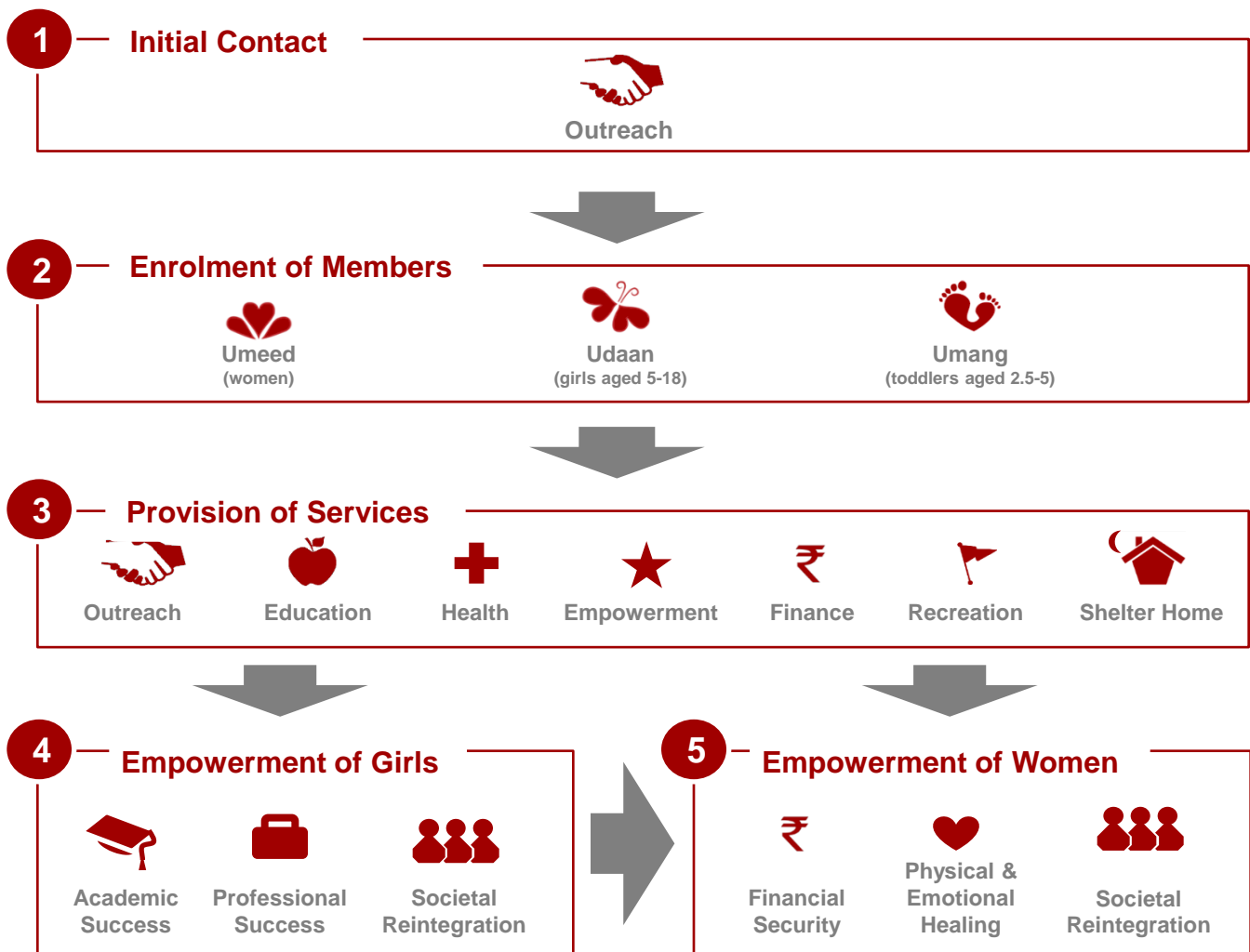
Women and children in the community face limited access to electricity and water, as well as constant exposure to pornography, narcotics, gambling dens, poor sanitation, fraudulent doctors, sexual abuse, solicitation by pimps, and exploitation by law enforcement officers. Each brothel measures approximately 200 sq. ft. and is divided by thin sheets or plywood into *pinjaras* (“cages”). Often, young children sleep under the beds or play unattended while their mothers are with clients. Since brothels are used exclusively for sexual activity, women have to find alternate housing when they are not working.

Legislation

In 1956, India enacted the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA), which defines a trafficker as a person who “recruits, transports, transfers, harbours, or receives a person for the purpose of prostitution” by means of threat or use of force or deception, abuse of power; or giving or receiving of payments or benefits. ITPA seeks to penalize activities incidental to prostitution but not prostitution itself.

In 2011, India enacted the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in order to effectively address child sexual abuse and exploitation. The Act identifies penetrative and aggravated penetrative sexual assault as well as non-penetrative sexual assault such as sexual harassment and use of pornographic content as sexual abuse of children.

Theory of Change



Programs

Umeed

"Umeed" is the Hindi word for "hope". The objective of the Umeed Program is to help women in prostitution maintain their physical, mental and economic wellbeing. Umeed is not a one-time rescue program; rather, we seek to empower women by providing them with services and long-term skills so they can exit prostitution permanently when they are ready. We aim for their holistic development and overall empowerment through services such as finance, empowerment, education, health, recreation and shelter home placement. AAWC empowers Umeed women through the Adult Literacy Program, vocational training course, financial literacy sessions, helps them obtain identity documents (Voter Card, Ration Card, PAN Card) so that they are able to access government benefits and schemes, conducts daily home visits, and organizes monthly meetings and area activities to address important and raging topics. Since these women enter prostitution at a very young age, they are uneducated and therefore unskilled, which makes the empowerment process imperative. [Read more](#)

Udaan

While serving the women in brothel-based prostitution, AAWC realized that their daughters were at a great risk of entering the intergenerational cycle of prostitution due to their close proximity with the sex trade. They were normalized to the act of becoming a prostitute, did not have any positive role models, nor any alternative aspirations for the future. Thus, the Udaan program aims at providing them with various services, especially, using education as the main tool to break the intergenerational cycle of prostitution.

"Udaan" is the Hindi word for "flight". The objective of the Udaan Program is to empower the daughters of women in prostitution (ages 5-18) to pursue a life away from the red light area. By encouraging these girls to develop a passion for education and self-confidence in their unique talents, we help them defy traditional notions of women as providers of sex, childbearing, and housekeeping. Unlike community programs that rely on vocational training in low-wage positions, we equip our girls to pursue aspirational professions and enable genuine socioeconomic mobility. The services provided to the girls include mentor-mentee programs, after-school tuitions, exposure visits to corporate setups, recreational activities, medical referrals, quarterly medical camps, daily nutritional meals and multivitamin supplements, art and craft activities, therapy, counselling and shelter home services to girls at high risk. [Read more](#)

Umang

"Umang" is the Hindi word for "joy". The objective of the Umang Program is to help toddlers (ages 2.5 to 5) develop physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially in preparation for formal schooling. AAWC realized that the children of women in prostitution were often drugged while their mothers solicited with clients. Or else, they were found lurking on the streets, even during night. Due to this, they were exposed to various illicit activities prevalent in the area such as drug peddling and gambling and were used by dealers as couriers. Moreover, they used abusive language and mimicked the violence they witnessed in the area. As a result, AAWC started working with the children in the red light community by providing them with a safe and secure environment through various services such as daily kindergarten classes, e-learning, recreational activities, daily nutritional meals and multivitamin supplements, boarding home placement and medical referrals. These services were designed to develop discipline, communication, neuro-motor coordination, basic English and Hindi literacy and numeracy. Thus, AAWC aims to provide a safe haven for children who mimic the violence, abusive language, and sex acts they observe at home by helping them unlearn the harmful behaviours and form healthy habits in a caring environment. [Read more](#)

Program Implementation

Outreach

Outreach is an integral part of AAWC's services and acts as the first point of contact between the organization and the beneficiaries. Outreach is conducted on a daily basis by AAWC outreach workers who visit beneficiaries' homes and provide them with on-field services, disseminate information, raise awareness, and provide any necessary support that they may require. Outreach workers also identify potential new beneficiaries who could benefit from our services.

Education

"Earlier, I did not know how to read or write. However, after enrolling into the Adult Literacy Program, I've learnt to write and recently signed my name on a bank form." – Umeed beneficiary, Renuka*

Umeed

Adult Literacy Program:

The Adult Literacy Program for Umeed beneficiaries had its highest enrolment in F.Y. 2015-16, with 85 participants. Following monthly assessments, 16 women graduated from the program. AAWC also improved the program curriculum, taking into account the women's evolving interests and suggestions for new learning topics. Many beneficiaries also expressed issues remembering lessons, as they often forgot information by the next day. To overcome this challenge, the outreach workers assigned the women daily homework, and adapted the curriculum to repeat topics until the beneficiaries were comfortable moving on.

Udaan

School Enrolment:

During the Financial Year 2015-16, AAWC enrolled three highly deserving Udaan beneficiaries into private English-medium schools. AAWC accumulated their school fees thanks to the collective efforts of generous supporters, parents and direct fundraising by the organization. The girls worked hard throughout the year to cope with the transition from a vernacular background to the English-medium. Within a few months, they

managed to successfully adjust in their new environment. In total, 43 beneficiaries were assisted in school admissions during the beginning of the academic year and when otherwise required.

Tuition Classes:

This year, 6 Udaan beneficiaries completed their 10th Grade Board Examination, and 4 completed their 12th Grade Board Examination. To prepare the girls for their Boards, AAWC began tutoring sessions during their summer vacations itself. AAWC also hired tuition teachers for the rest of the Udaan beneficiaries, based upon the girls' grade level and language of instruction at school. Daily before and after-school tuition classes were conducted with the girls. The program included craft activities for the younger girls during the morning sessions to increase their inclination towards academics.



Children learn counting during their kindergarten class



Spoken-English Class by volunteer Johanna Knaack

AAWC also administered internal mock tests and academic counselling sessions for the beneficiaries. Academic counselling sessions touched on topics such as dealing with academic stress, and improving spoken-English via a focus on phonetics. Meetings with mothers were frequently organized to keep them updated about their children's developments.

Computer Programs:

The girls engaged in computer learning programs administered by volunteers Gabby Perez, Olivia Paige, Clemence Guerin and Aman Bhalla and were introduced to computer basics such as computer parts, typing, Ms-Office and Internet use. The older Udaan girls made PowerPoint presentations and conducted fun learning sessions for the Umang children using their presentations.

Spoken-English Sessions:

The Udaan girls attended an English learning program organized by King's Learning during their summer vacations. Spoken-English sessions were also administered for the girls throughout the year and were headed by volunteers Johanna Knaack,

Olivia Paige, Gabby Perez, and Clemence Guerin. Their sessions focused on topics such as story-telling, learning new vocabulary, dialogue making, translation skills and conversation abilities.

Umang

School Enrolment:

AAWC assisted 9 children with school enrolment once they graduated from the Umang program.

Kindergarten Classes:

Umang children attended daily kindergarten classes that include e-learning sessions and art and craft activities along with their educational syllabus. They were divided and taught into two groups based on their ages and learning abilities. The children also participated in daily exercise and regular stress-buster sessions. The teachers conducted monthly assessments of each child in order to summarize their developments and decide on any further steps to be taken.

Beginning October, the toddlers attended weekly educational sessions by volunteer Marina Dutta wherein they learnt about table etiquette, anatomy,



Educational sessions by volunteer Marina Dutta



Dental Camp organized in association with Angels Dentist Network

wildlife, and architecture, using sorting, counting, picture matching, and other innovative exercises.

The kindergarten teachers attended teacher's training program organized by Mukhtangan in order to increase the interest level and capacity building of the children through innovative teaching methods.

Health

Umeed

Counselling Sessions:

Counselling sessions began for Umeed beneficiaries this year, and were led by AAWC's in-house counsellor Shweta Sinha. She addressed the grievances of the beneficiaries by conducting group counselling sessions on-field and at the centre, and touched upon topics such as hygiene, physical and mental health, stress management, anger

management, and healthy family relationships.

Nutrition Supplement Program:

AAWC's Nutritional Supplement Program aims at providing nutritive support to TB and HIV + women with low CD-4 counts. The women are provided with a daily dose of banana and bhel (puffed rice with nuts) before taking their anti-retroviral therapy (ART). Before that, AAWC assists women with checking for HIV and commencing anti-retroviral therapy when necessary. After initial guidance, beneficiaries independently go to the hospital for a monthly check-up. The program reached its highest enrolment this year, with 89 women.

Medical Aid:

AAWC provided Umeed women with medical aid as and when required. In partnership with Decimal Foundation, E-ward and Angels Dentist Network. AAWC also organized 7 medical camps throughout



Counselling Sessions with the Umang children

the year for all beneficiaries as well as other community people.

Udaan

Awareness Workshops:

The girls attended a session on menstrual hygiene conducted by Aakar Social Ventures and a nutrition workshop conducted by TATA Memorial Hospital's nutritionists and dieticians, who talked about healthy dietary habits. The girls were enlightened about facts regarding their body as the doctors busted various myths regarding periods during the menstrual hygiene session. It prompted the girls to ask various questions and clear any misconceptions.

Counselling Sessions:

AAWC focused extensively on addressing the mental health of the girls this year, through regular counselling sessions conducted by AAWC's in-house counsellor. She dealt with issues of low self-esteem, inferiority complex, childhood depression, emotional expression, and academic stress with the girls. She also conducted sessions focusing on sex education, phonics, moral value lessons, and hygiene.

Animal-Assisted Therapy Sessions:

This year was our second year working in partnership with the Animal Angels Foundation for animal-assisted therapy sessions for the younger girls. These weekly sessions focus on improving the girls' social behaviour and communications skills.

Umang

Counselling Sessions:

Extensive counselling sessions were conducted with the Umang children, ages 2 to 5, in order to improve their behaviour and social skills. The sessions focused on behaviour modification, impulse control, instilling discipline and patience, and basic virtues and manners such as saying "sorry" and "thank you." The sessions have had a positive impact on the children as they have begun depicting a positive attitude change.

Monthly Medical Check:

AAWC conducted monthly medical check-ups for the Umang beneficiaries, and provided them with medical aid as and when required. AAWC also conducted regular height and weight checks for these children.

Animal-assisted Therapy Session:

Animal Angels Foundation conducted therapy sessions for the Umang toddlers as well. Smaller groups were formed this year, depending upon children's similar behavioural patterns or issues. These smaller groups benefitted the children, as they were given more personalized attention.

For most children at AAWC, it is the first time they have experienced a healthy relationship with another living being. They realize that violence, to which many of them are accustomed, is not a healthy way to communicate and that living creatures respond positively to a loving touch. – Rohini Fernandes and Radhika Nair, Animal Angels Foundation



Animal-assisted Therapy Sessions

Empowerment

Umeed

Vocation Training:

Under our vocational training venture, we provided beautician training to 40 Umeed beneficiaries, of which 24 have graduated from the program. To aid their learning, the program took the women for exposure visits to Godrej's Salon-I and Nalini and Yasmin Salon, and to a soft skill training workshop, organized by the Vinod and Saryu Doshi Foundation. These sessions provided the women with deep understandings of how professionally run salons function, of customer relationship management, and of the beauty industry.

After their training at AAWC, interested women enrolled in advanced training workshops at Nalini and Yasmin Salon and at the Indian Institution of Cosmetology, Tricology & Nutrition (IICTN) where they gained practical knowledge about hair and beauty. Later, 5 shortlisted women attended an intensive 3-month hair styling and training workshop facilitated by renowned hairstylist Sapna Bhavnani at her salon 'mad-o-wot.' The beneficiaries learnt about hair styling from various field experts and got a chance to visit other institutes. Two of the women interned at 'mad-o-wot' salon for three months.

The advanced training programs and internships helped the beneficiaries boost their confidence and gain comprehensive and practical knowledge about working in the beauty industry. The women will begin finding suitable employment in the upcoming financial year.



Exposure visit to Godrej's Salon-I in June

Monthly Meeting:

AAWC organized awareness meetings to address and sensitize Umeed women to important topics and pressing issues. For example, tensions between the women and surrounding community people have grown very high, even turning violent. In the past couple months of the fiscal year, there have been frequent police raids and clashes with the mainstream community population, who strongly object to the women's presence in the area. AAWC outreach workers extensively addressed the issue with the women during the monthly meetings and area activities, making them aware of laws regarding prostitution in India and their legal rights, as well as providing them with extensive counselling on handling the situation. Other such topics addressed during the year include awareness about cancer, HIV, tuberculosis, menstrual hygiene, safe abortion practices, substance and alcohol abuse, stress management, mental health, importance of identity documents and various festival celebrations.

Area Activity:

AAWC conducted area activities on-field to address crucial topics amongst small groups of women. These topics include school admission processes for their children, the importance of securing identity documents, laws regarding prostitution in India, nutrition and health. Various concerns of the beneficiaries were also addressed during these area activities, and an AAWC counsellor provided on-field counselling.



Women practice hair straightening during a session

Identity Documentation:

Access to government-recognized identity documents is crucial for women in order to access government provided benefits and schemes as well as prove their nationality during police raids. Therefore, helping beneficiaries acquire documents is an integral AAWC service. As such, the women were assisted in acquiring Ration Cards, PAN Cards, Voting Cards, Aadhar Cards, General Affidavits, and Birth Certificates and Birth Affidavits (for their children).

Child’s Future Planning Session (CFS):

The Child’s Future Planning Sessions focus on improving and nurturing the relationship between a mother and her child. Under this program, AAWC conducted extensive counselling sessions with the mothers and addressed topics such as healthy parenting techniques, identifying and dealing with stubbornness and tantrum throwing, as well as



Introducing classroom setup during a kindergarten session

individual happiness and self-worth. Women were encouraged to share their personal experiences during the sessions so as to also help other beneficiaries.

Udaan

Music Program:

Three times a week, AAWC oversaw music classes for Udaan girls following their evening tuition sessions. In addition to guitar, this year teacher Mahesh Sonawane began teaching the girls keyboard, djembe, and vocals. The girls began identifying their interests and sharpening their skills in particular instruments and/or vocals. AAWC even started a third music batch to include more girls into the program.

Advanced-level Art Classes:

The Udaan girls participated in art sessions titled



Umang children enjoy their weekly visit to the garden



Meeting on reducing stigma and creating awareness of HIV



Art work done by an Udaan beneficiary

'New York to Mumbai,' initiated by volunteer and artist Antoinette. Under the program, she sent a postcard from New York to the girls every month which contained different artistic styles for the girls to study. The girls learnt and practiced the style for a month and sent their drawings back for evaluation.

The beneficiaries also attended advanced-level art therapy classes headed by volunteer and artist Kavita Nanavati. They learnt contour drawing, still life drawing, portrait making, free form expression, and studied various influential artists and their artistic styles. The girls also made self-portraits, which they learnt through volunteer B'jorn Eklund and attended henna designing classes during their summer vacations.

Theatre Workshops:

Volunteer and artist Suzanne Laidlaw from Australia



Exposure visit to the Thomson Reuters office

and Kalyan Choudhury from Clowns Without Borders (Sweden) together with THEATREACT (Mumbai) organized theatre workshops for the girls that focused on subjects such as story-telling, emotional expressions, songs, dance, and self-awareness.

Craft Sessions:

Several craft sessions were conducted for the girls by volunteer B'jorn Eklund, Susan Laidlaw, Cindy Thomas, Gabby Perez, Olivia Paige and other such volunteers who actively dedicated time for engaging craft activities. The Social Service League of St. Xavier's College also conducted weekly sessions on arts, crafts, and dance with the Udaan girls.

Career Guidance:

The older girls benefitted from psychometric assessments organized by the Aavishkar Centre that assessed their interests to make suitable decisions regarding their further studies. Additionally, to complement their academics, the girls met and interacted with influential professionals such as chefs, textile designers, and ex-ISRO scientists during various career guidance sessions conducted throughout the year. Moreover, facilitated by 'The Swaddle' team, the girls were taken for an exposure visit to the Thomson Reuters office.

Mentoring Sessions:

Mentoring Programs indicated an increase in self-esteem, confidence and goal setting amongst the girls. Keeping the achievements in mind, we continued our association with The Lighthouse Project this year for the girls at our Kamathipura



Craft session on flower crown making

Centre and collaborated with Mentor Me India in order to commence mentoring programs for girls at our Falkland Road centre. Older girls also participated in one-on-one mentoring sessions with the younger Udaan girls.

Umang

Movie Screenings:

Umang children were shown movies such as Jungle Book, The Lion King and Madagascar.

Storytelling Sessions:

Storytelling sessions were organized for the toddlers, with a focus on teaching them various moral values.

Finance

Umeed

Financial Literacy:

Financial literacy forms an important aspect of the services provided to our beneficiaries as the concept of savings is largely absent amongst red light community people. During regular outreach and centre meetings, AAWC outreach workers enlightened the women about the merits of opening a savings account and the benefits of various government schemes, such as Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (a government scheme to help female children financially, passed under the initiative of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Campaign) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (government-backed accident insurance).

Financial literacy also forms a part of the Adult Literacy Program wherein women are taught basic numerical skills and to identify notes. These skills help them make purchases, not be cheated of the money they make currently, and are crucial for future alternative jobs.

Bank Account:

AAWC helped Umeed women open and operate bank accounts, and acquire ATM cards and also helped them understand the procedure for filling the bank account. 149 savings accounts and other services were provided to beneficiaries throughout the year.

Udaan

Bank Account:

Mothers were encouraged to open bank accounts for Udaan beneficiaries to inculcate the habit of saving in the child and to provide the child with some starting money in the future. 2 new bank accounts and 13 other banking services were provided to Udaan beneficiaries throughout the year. Mothers were also encouraged to make use of Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, a government scheme that provides high interest banking to Indian girls under 10 years.



Women drew rangoli during Diwali festivities



Girls participated heartily in the annual Udaan Sports Day



Children indulged in art work during Holi celebrations



Garden Visit to Kamla Nehru Park

Recreation

Umeed

Festival Celebrations:

Keeping a secular approach, AAWC celebrated all major festivals with the women such as Eid, Holi, Rakhi, Makar Sankranti (Kite Flying Day), and Diwali, to provide them with a respite from their daily routine. The beneficiaries made beautiful *rangoli* (traditional intricate designs made by colour powder) during Diwali and celebrated the cherished festival outdoors.

Other Events:

Beneficiaries of all three programs attended a recreational show organized by the clown troupe 'Clowns without Borders,' which aims to provide resilience through laughter. The beneficiaries enjoyed the show and look forward to attending more such events.

Inter-NGO Competition: Umeed women participated in an Inter-NGO competition organized by Kshamata. All received certificates of participation and one AAWC beneficiary won the first prize.

Udaan

Festival Celebrations:

Various festivals were celebrated with the girls throughout the year. In order to inculcate management responsibilities, the girls were asked to plan and implement Christmas festival celebrations.

Sports Day:

Udaan girls participated in the annual AAWC Sports Day event in January. The girls participated in various races and also indulged in outdoor games.

Competitions:

The girls participated in various in-house and external competitions such as drawing, handwriting, and general knowledge competitions.

Other Visits:

This year AAWC took Udaan girls to several museums and beaches in the city. They visited the beautiful and historical Marine Drive promenade, and the American Library. The girls also attended the annual Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, one of the country's largest multicultural festivals, and spent a day at the outdoor theme park KidZania.

Umang

Festival Celebrations:

Major festivals were celebrated with the Umang children at AAWC centres. For Christmas celebrations, AAWC took the children to the beautiful Hanging Gardens atop Malabar Hill.

Sports Day:

Annual Sports Day was organized for the Umang children at both centres and the children participated in various races and sporting events.

Other Visits:

The children visited various gardens in the city this year and also visited the local vegetable market as part of their kindergarten session. They spent a day at play zone MILK and the famous Taraporewala Aquarium during the summers.

Shelter Home Placement

Udaan

Night Shelter:

This year 16 girls were provided with night shelter services under the established Udaan night shelter

program.

Boarding Placement:

16 beneficiaries were placed in external boarding homes. Regular follow-up visits to the organizations were also arranged by AAWC staff.

Umang

Night Shelter:

The Umang children were exposed to the same unhealthy environment of the red light district once they returned home from AAWC's day care centre. Realizing the long-term care and protection required during the night when the area is active and the business is thriving, the need for commencing the night shelter was imperative. Therefore, AAWC began the Umang Night Shelter in July 2015 after assembling resources and conducting outreach to identify vulnerable children who would benefit from the night shelter.

Boarding Placement and follow-up visits:

7 follow-up visits to beneficiaries who placed into boarding homes in previous years were conducted by AAWC staff.



All beneficiaries enjoyed a show by 'Clowns Without Borders'

Management Implementation

Fundraising and Communications

Year-end Fundraising:

AAWC participated in a year-end fundraising campaign HerVoice, organized by partner organization GlobalGiving UK which aimed at raising awareness about violence against women and children in India.

Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon:

In its 13th Edition, AAWC once again participated in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon this year and were represented by Aria Parikh, Avanish Kumar, Pallavi Khurana, Dharmaraj Solanki, Rajesh Gaikwad, and Adarsh Rai. We were also supported by long-term corporate partner Raheja Universal. AAWC is thankful to all our supporters and donors who not only raised funds for the organization, but also spread awareness about our cause.

Representations:

AAWC's Fundraising and Communications Manager presented about the merits of online fundraising during a workshop conducted by partner organization GlobalGiving UK. Additionally, AAWC's

Program Director talked about child labour in the red light district during a seminar organized by Kelkar College, Mumbai. Lastly, the organization welcomed a delegation from Stanford University and briefed them about the issues pertaining to the red light district and our organization's work in it.

Capacity Building and Advocacy

Skill Development Workshops:

AAWC staff attended capacity building workshops on time management, team building, presentation skills, fundraising, teacher's training program, POCSO Act (Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act), and child rights throughout the course of the year. Staff members were encouraged to attend such workshops that would help in their capacity building.

HIV/AIDS:

AAWC Outreach Worker's participated in a rally organized by Mumbai Aids Forum to protest against possible stoppage of government funding for treatment of HIV/ AIDS patients.



AAWC Staff participate in a rally organized by MAF



Avanish Kumar runs for AAWC during SCMM 2016



Presentation about the merits of online fundraising



Receiving of Gulabrao Ganacharya Award



AAWC participated in the online campaign HerVoice



Eye Check-up Camp for all beneficiaries

Accolades

June 2015

BASF Connected to Care| Shortlisted as top 150 Global Winner:

The Connected to Care Program launched by chemical company BASF invited their employees from around the world to submit their favourite charitable organizations projects dealing in the areas of urban living, food and smart energy. Through in-house voting process, AAWC was selected as the top 150 global winners.

November 2015

Gulabrao Ganacharya Award:

AAWC was awarded the Gulabrao Ganacharya Award for 2015. The Award recognizes exceptional charities and AAWC was privileged to be felicitated with the recognition.

March 2016

GuideStar India NGO Transparency Award:

GuideStar India has launched the GuideStar India NGO Transparency Awards to recognize organizations that practise and voluntarily demonstrate their transparency and accountability in the public domain. We believe that there is a need to have awards to illuminate the transparency level of civil society organizations to inspire greater trust in their work and garner support for their cause.

Accolades



**GuideStar India NGO
Transparency Awards**
March 2016



**Receiving of Gulabrao
Ganacharya Award**
November 2015



**BASF Connected to Care|
Shortlisted as top 150
Global Winners**
June 2015



**GuideStar India – Gold Star
Certification**
March 2015



**Dasra Girl Power
Awards – Top 5 Finalist**
March 2015



**UN Women Singapore
and MasterCard:
Project Inspire – Top 50
Projects**
August 2014



**India NGO Awards –
Top 10 Small NGOs**
June 2014



**AmeriCare India's Spirit
of Humanity
Jury's Choice Award**
April 2014



**NGO of the Fortnight
Winner - India**
March 2014



**Canadian State Visit
NGO Honoree - India**
March 2014



**MATCH International
Finalist - International**
February 2014



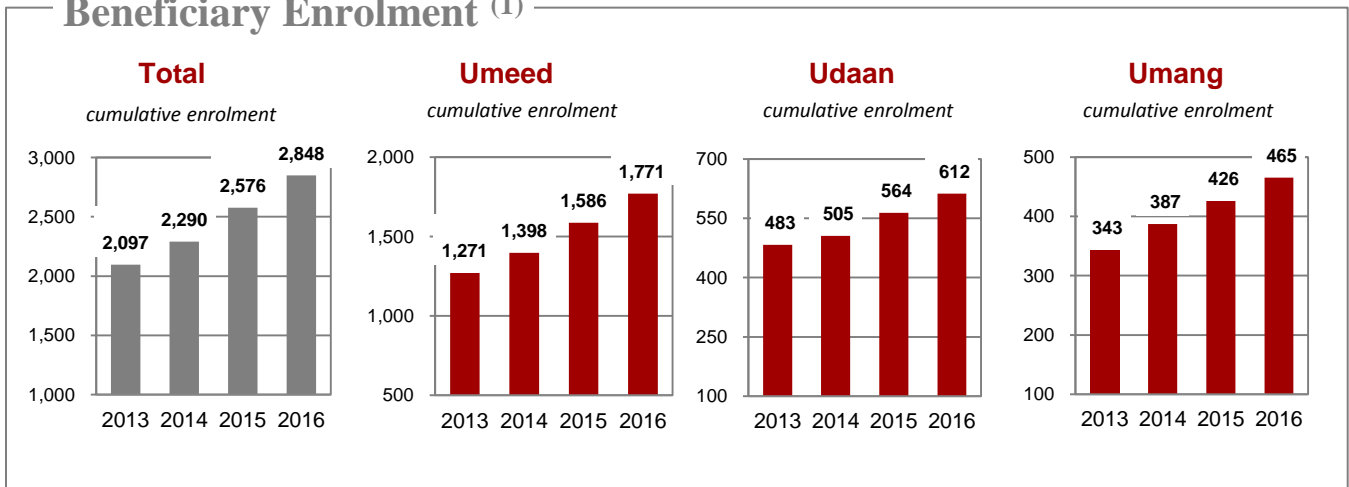
**Dasra Girl Power Awards
Semi Finalist - India**
January 2014

Impact

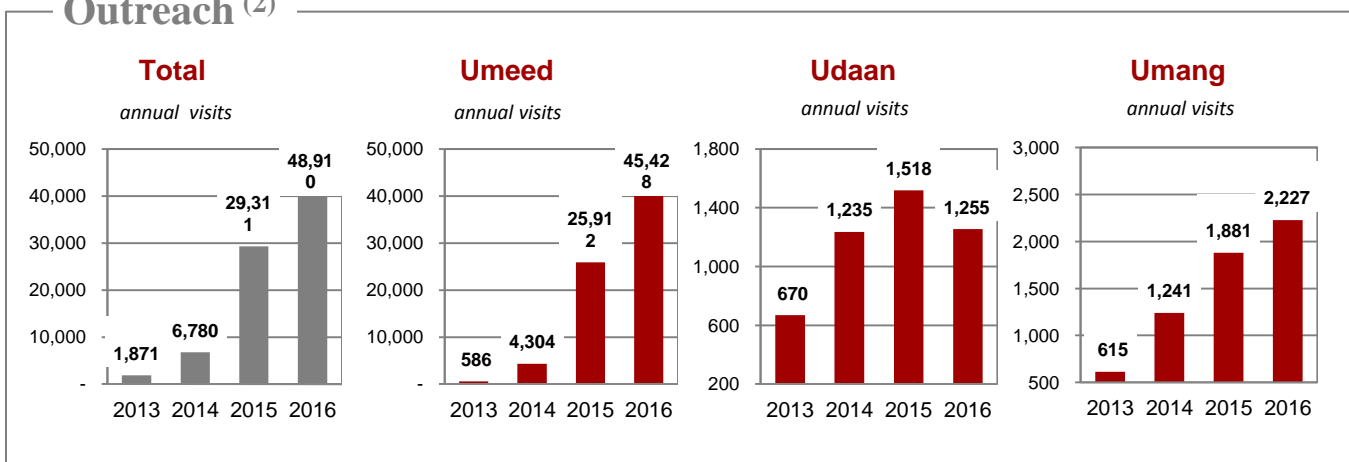
Statistics

For financial year ending 31 March 2016. Please note some statistics may differ slightly from those reported in FY 2015 Annual Report due to an updated monitoring methodology.

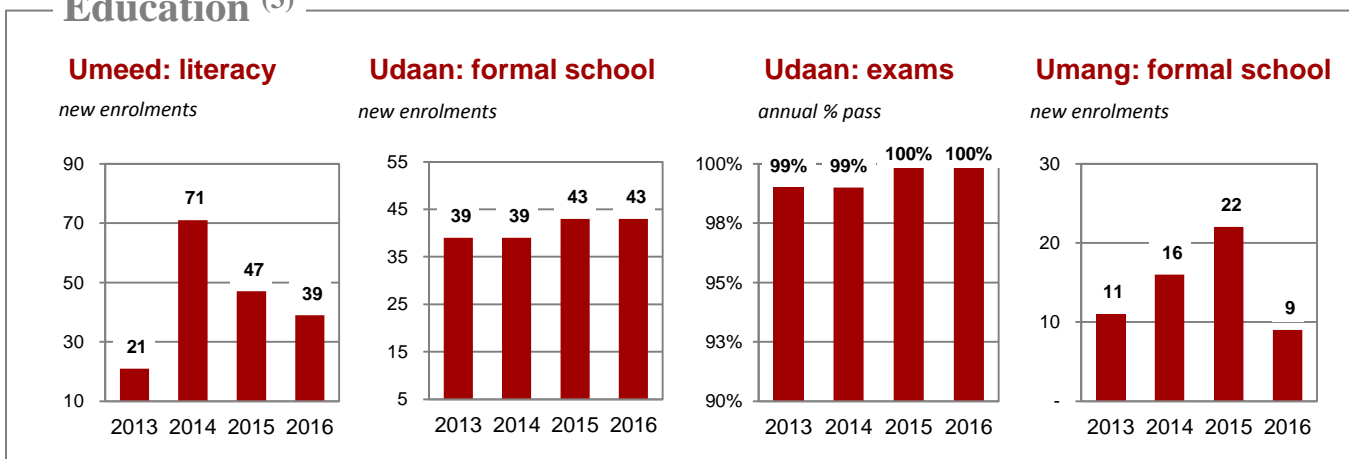
Beneficiary Enrolment (1)



Outreach (2)



Education (3)

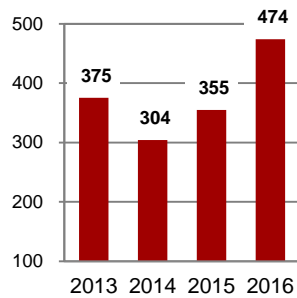


- As of 31 March 2016, AAWC has served more than 3,000 individuals, including non-beneficiaries.
- Includes visits by field team to beneficiaries' homes, boarding homes, as well as visits by beneficiaries to the AAWC centre. Outreach under Udaan Program decreased in F.Y. 2015-16 as we reached our maximum capacity under the program.
- School year begins in June (second quarter). Umeed's Adult Literacy Program enrolment decreased as many old beneficiaries continued in F.Y. 2015-16. Also, Umang formal school enrolment dropped from last year as we did not have as many beneficiaries in the school going age group.

Empowerment

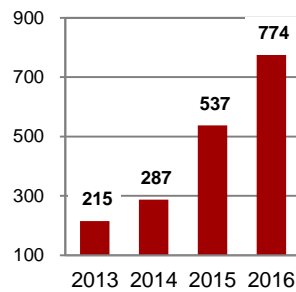
Documents (1)

annual documents filed



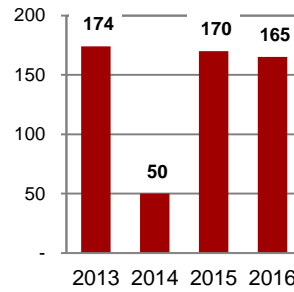
Activities (2)

annual activities



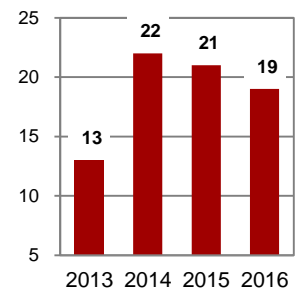
Finance (3)

new savings accounts



Umeed: Vocational Training

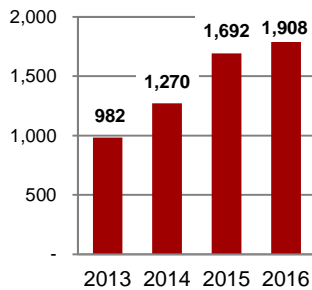
cumulative enrollment



Health

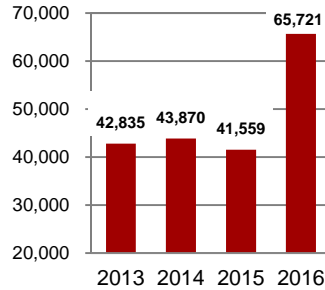
Medical Referrals (4)

annual referrals



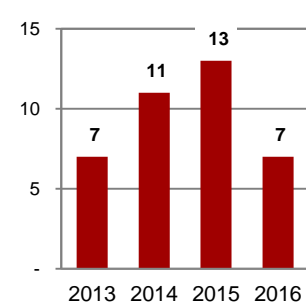
Nutrition (5)

annual meals/snacks distribution



Medical Camps (6)

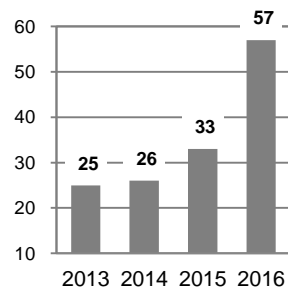
annual camps organized



Shelter (7)

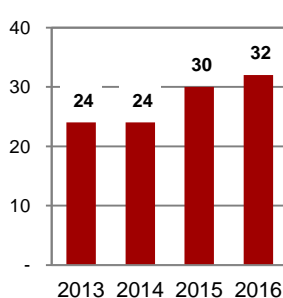
Total

annual enrolment



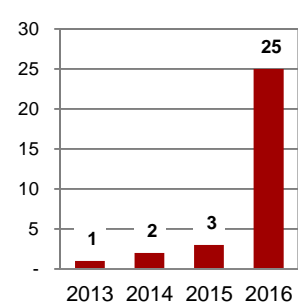
Udaan: Shelter

internal and external shelter enrolment



Umang: Shelter

internal and external shelter enrolment



1. Documents include Ration card, PAN card, Aadhar card, gazette filings, health card, voting cards, birth certificates, birth affidavits, general affidavits, and death certificates and other services provided.
2. Activities include all workshops and excursions for legal awareness, general health knowledge, reproductive health knowledge, government schemes awareness, creativity development, career exploration, life skills development, professional skills development, physical fitness, human rights awareness, recreation, and other extracurricular purposes.
3. Savings accounts include formal bank accounts held at the Bank of Maharashtra.
4. Medical referrals are provided to ensure beneficiaries are properly treated at hospitals, where they are often denied service due to discrimination.
5. Nutrition is distributed to all HIV/AIDS/TB patients in Umeed and to all beneficiaries of Udaan and Umang.
6. Medical camps include general health, dental, vision, and immunisation camps.
7. AAWC night shelter for Udaan and Umang Program is located in Kamathipura, while external shelters are located throughout Greater Mumbai.

Impact

Case Studies

Umeed



Raveena*, 31: Even though Raveena was educated till 10th grade in Kannada Medium, dire financial circumstances and a child to support made Raveena's husband push her into the sex trade 10 years back. She soon lost all hope of exiting the trade and finding another career. However, AAWC outreach workers convinced her to begin studying again, as she would soon have to leave the profession because of her age. Raveena now dedicatedly attends AAWC's Adult Literacy Program where she learns English and looks forward to every session.



Zareena*, 44: An area activity on substance and alcohol addiction inspired Zareena to quit her tobacco consumption for which she asked AAWC's counsellor to aid her in the process. AAWC's counsellor helped her with this major change by guiding her through each step in gradually cutting down her tobacco intake. Zareena follows the instructions given to her with dedication, self-control and optimism. She is responding positively and looks forward to a healthier future.



Kusum*, 46: Kusum had many health issues such as eczema, diabetes and HIV. In addition, she had trouble controlling her anger which often put strain on her daily life and relationships. Through counselling and medical aid provided regularly by AAWC, Kusum has taken measures to control her anger and is now much healthier and calmer.



Komal*, 46: When Komal contracted HIV from her long-term partner, she was dejected and overwhelmed and no longer saw purpose in living. However, when AAWC staff began to counsel her, Komal gained a better understanding of HIV, and how she could take care of herself. Today, Komal visits the hospital regularly and can manage to handle her illness.

Udaan



Farzeena*, 7: Farzeena was unable to do things expected of children her age. She had difficulty in expressing herself and had a poor academic performance due to her memory difficulties. AAWC referred her for IQ tests which revealed that she suffered from slow development. AAWC assisted her in accessing occupational therapy sessions at the local hospital and provided her regular counselling sessions at the AAWC centre. In the past few months she has shown steady improvement and has begun to respond better to her peers and teachers.



Pooja*, 13: When Pooja moved from West Bengal to Mumbai with her mother, she only knew Bengali. Unable to communicate with her surrounding community, Pooja struggled to adjust to her new environment. However, with the help of AAWC staff and her friends she began to learn Hindi and English. Eager to learn, Pooja now attends an English-medium school and is doing well academically.



Ragini*, 9: Ragini began attending an English-medium school last year. As a bright student, she faced intense pressure to perform well in academics, for the future of her family. Ragini slowly fell into childhood depression, refusing to listen to her teachers and neglecting to take care of herself. AAWC recognised her difficulties and provided her with regular counselling sessions. This helped her to understand and come to peace with things that are beyond her control. Now, she is responding well to counselling sessions and gaining a more optimistic perspective.



Varsha*, 14: Varsha was so familiar with the by-lanes of Falkland Road that she could find her way back from any corner of the expansive red light area. With a disruptive nature and an unsupportive family, it was very difficult to discipline her. Continuous outreach and counselling provided to Varsha* and her mother over the years proved to be effective as she gradually became a regular beneficiary and a disciplined child. Today she is studying in the 9th grade and has developed good leadership skills.

Umang



Arjun*, 3: Arjun had been coming to the AAWC day-care facility for several months, after which he was admitted into the night shelter. However, he would cry all day due to his attachment to his father because of which, Arjun's family withdrew him from night care. However, in the recent few months, Arjun was again admitted into the shelter. To guarantee his retention, AAWC staff ensured that his father visited him regularly during the weekly visitation hours, conducted more frequent counselling sessions and most importantly, provided him with parental care to make him feel at home. He has now gotten accustomed to the new living facility and rarely cries or throws a tantrum.



Sohail*, 3: Like many children in the red light district, Sohail faced trouble in understanding and developing his social and emotional skills. He had a restless mind and often expressed his anger through violence. When the counsellor at AAWC observed his behaviour, she gradually began teaching him how to express and understand his emotions as well as politely address his peers, rather than hitting them. Now whenever he has the instinct to hit somebody, he knows he has to clench his fist and calm himself.



Sonali*, 4: When Sonali was enrolled into AAWC's Umang Program, she lacked a sense of personal hygiene and discipline. She spilled food on her clothes and remained untidy all day. However, with regular sessions conducted on personal hygiene maintenance, she gradually began to realize its importance and voluntarily approached the teachers if she needed cleaning up as well as consciously began to inculcate appropriate habits in her routine.



Ashima*, 5: When Ashima arrived at AAWC, she exhibited extreme stubbornness and hardly followed the teacher's instructions. She rarely participated in activities and did not speak much. Additionally, Ashima's mother was reluctant to send her to AAWC as she worked during the night and did not have the strength to pick and drop her from the centre. To overcome this challenge, AAWC outreach workers took on the responsibility of dropping her to and from the centre. Ashima was also provided with regular counselling, animal-assisted therapy sessions, coupled with encouragement and motivation from AAWC staff. She now eagerly participates in activities and is a much active child.

* Names changed to protect identity.

Challenges

In the year 2015-16, we were faced with high employee turnover where a few employees left without serving the notice period, thus increasing workload & pressure on existing staff. Due to the social stigma attached to the red light community, it was challenging to find qualified female staff as the candidates were scared to come or be seen in the red light area; many opted out due to family pressure. Even though we have continuously posted vacancies on job portals and at social work colleges/institutes, it is still a challenge to get suitable candidates.

AAWC is situated in South Mumbai, which has very high real estate price; it directly impacts the rents and related expenses. While providing our services at the optimum level, we have to manage in the limited space, which creates challenges in enrolling new beneficiaries under Umang and especially Udaan programs, which is where the new admissions get stuck.

Getting volunteers to work on the fundraising, administrative or communication aspects of the organization were another challenge we faced. There was also a lack of commitment and consistency amongst the volunteers conducting program activities.



The Closing ceremony of Lighthouse Project at the Center



The Umang Sports Day celebrated at Nagpada Garden



Celebration of Holi with Umeed beneficiaries



Interns from Swinburne University with Umang children

Though constant efforts have been taken to raise funds for all the programs, we face challenges to raise funds for the Umang program in particular.

Police have conducted frequent raid operations to address brawls between family residents and the women in prostitution. To avoid this, some women have moved to other red light areas, which has directly hampered their Tuberculosis and ART medication as well as their daily earnings. It also adversely affected their children's schooling and overall wellbeing.

Moreover many women were demotivated and reluctant to avail medical services at government medical institutions due to the insensitive approach of their staff. Furthermore, due to the religious beliefs, women and their partners often visit quacks or seek help from unlicensed medical practitioners, which results in further complications and longer recovery time.

The Umang and Udaan beneficiaries unlearn all social skills when they return from their homes on Sundays, as they again are exposed to harmful practices around them in the red light area.

Governance

Managing Committee



Ashika Mehta has served as **President** since 2012. She is a private psychotherapist and previously practiced at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Ashika received her Master of Social Work from Columbia University and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Vassar College.



Amruda Nair has served as **Vice President** since 2012. She is the Head of Corporate Asset Management at The Leela Group. Amruda received her Master of Management in Hospitality from Cornell University and two Bachelor's degrees from CHN University and Jai Hind University.



Maneck Davar has served as **General Secretary** since 2010. He is the sole proprietor of Spenta Multimedia. Maneck also serves as Chairman of Mumbai Boat Show, Blue Water Publishing, Liquid Publishing, and the Society for the Protection of Children in Western India.



Girish Dand has served as **Treasurer** since 2013. He is the founder of G.K. Dand & Co. and serves on the board of several private companies. Girish received his Bachelor's degree from R.A. Podar College and became a chartered accountant at the age of 22.



Sudarshan Loyalka is the **Founder** of AAWC. He is the Managing Director and Board member of several public companies and charities. Sudarshan received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering from the University of Washington in Seattle.



Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat has been a **Committee Member** since 2004. He is a former Chief of Naval Staff of India and has received both AVSM and PVSM medals in honor of his service. Vishnu graduated from the National Defence Academy of India.



Ramchandra Patil has been a **Committee Member** since 1998. He is a Manager of a public limited company and an advocate for the rights of slum residents of Kurar Village.

Governance

Team



Manju Vyas has served as **CEO** of AAWC since 1999. Previously, she was a Public Relations Officer at a multi-national company. Manju received her Master of Science degree in Botany from Holkar Science College.



Namita Khatu has served as **Program Director** since 2013 and was the Program Manager in 2012. Previously, she was a Staff Coordinator at SMILE. Namita received her Master of Social Work from SNDT Women's University and her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Mumbai University.



Poonam Awasthi has been the **Field Director** since May 2011. Previously, she was an outreach worker and counselor for Rashtra Swasth Prabodhini. Poonam holds a Higher School Certificate from Lucknow University and a Paraprofessional Certificate in Social Work from Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work.



Chandni Patel joined AAWC as the **Fundraising and Communications Manager** in February 2015. She received her Bachelor in Mass Media with a major in Journalism from Sophia College for Women.



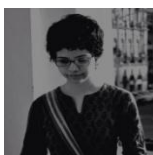
Shikha Kashyap has been a **Program Manager** for Udaan since June 2014. She received her Masters in Social Work and a certification in human rights from Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work and her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (honors) from St. Xavier's College.



Krushna Dharia joined AAWC as the **Program Manager** for Umeed and Umang at Falkland Road Centre in September 2015. She received her Master's in Social Work from Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work and her B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Jai Hind College, Mumbai.



Pranjali Das joined AAWC as a **Program Manager** for Udaan in June, 2015. Previously, she worked in the tribal belt of Rajasthan as a fellow of the Gandhi Fellowship Program. Pranjali graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature from Jadavpur University, Kolkata.



Shreya Bhat joined AAWC as a **Program Manager** for Umeed and Umang in June 2015. Previously, she worked in Sonagachi and Kalighat, the red light districts of Calcutta with Sari Bari. Shreya received her Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from St Xaviers College and Masters in Development from Azim Premji University, Bangalore.

Partners

Aakar Mumbai
Ahimsa Prasarak Trust
Akhil Bharatiya Andhashraddha
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BYL Nair Charitable Hospital
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Child Welfare Committee
Clowns Without Borders
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Consulate General of the United
States
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Children
Dasra
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Give2Asia
GiveIndia
GlobalGiving US and UK
GuideStar
Harrison Foundation
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Indiana Engineering Works
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Indus International
International Resources for Fairer
Trade
IPCA Laboratories
Jahangir Art Gallery
Jeevan Sach
J.J. Hospital
Justice Ventures International
KBH Bachooali Charitable Ophthalmic
& ENT Hospital
Kids Postcard Project
Kidville India
Kotak Education Foundation
The Leela Group
Life Insurance Corporation
The Lighthouse Project
Lions Club
Médecins Sans Frontières
Mentor Me India
Mewsic Foundation
Mumbai AIDS Forum
Mumbai District AIDS Control Society
Mumbai Mobile Creches
Municipal Corporation of Greater
Mumbai Ward Office
MSRLM
Nair Hospital
Navjeevan Centre
Nehru Planetarium
New Life Medical and Educational
Trust
New Resolution India
Nirmala Niketan College of Social
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Reserve Bank of India
Robinhood Army
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Salvation Army
Samhita
Samruddhi Mahila Bachat Gat
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Wishing Well
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Young FICCI Ladies Organisation
Zonta Club of Bombay III



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