



Apne Aap Women's Collective

Newsletter

Jan - April 2009

Issue 5

Editorial

The first half of 2009 has been extremely eventful at AAWC. We kicked off the year by participating in the Mumbai Marathon. Over 35 sparrows and all our staff members participated in the Dream Run. It was especially exciting as it was the first time our girls have participated in the Marathon. Following this our renovated centre was inaugurated by Mrs. Supriya Sule, Member of Parliament.

It has also been a time of great pride for AAWC as our girls have been very successful. One sparrow was awarded the 'Star of the Month' employee award at the Four Season's Hotel, where she is currently an apprentice. Another sparrow, who is currently doing her third year B. Com secured an apprenticeship at Origami Consultants. Given the opportunity, both girls are blossoming into confident, optimistic, and motivated young ladies. Finally, one of our very own sparrows has completed her kindergarten teacher's training course at Muktangan and will be heading our Balwadi at AAWC.

We plan to make the second half of 2009 just as successful as we plan to expand our program. We are extending our services to the boys who have passed out of our Balwadi. We plan to provide them with nutrition, medical care, tuitions and counseling. In addition, we are tying up with Indira Gandhi National Open University to open a study centre for 10th and 12th grade students who have been unable to complete their education.

Ashika Zhoomul, Trustee AAWC



Organisation's newly renovated room's inauguration by Mrs. Supriya Sule.

AAWC Update

A senior staff member attended the Population First Training Workshop on "Gender Sensitization and Preventing Sex Selective Abortion".

Shiamak Davar's Victory Arts Foundation taught the Directors and Project Coordinators of various NGO's to dance in a stage performance.

A monthly meeting is held by Lawyers Collective Training and this was attended by one of our staff members. The topics discussed include proposed Bill and amendments on HIV/AIDS, sexual minorities, risk identification and acceptance of male sex workers.

Our staff attended an International Women's Day Workshop organized by SNTD and Vacha on "Human Rights of a Woman and Girl Child".

Indian Merchants Chamber, Ladies Wing held a conference on "Challenges of Social Sector and Role of NGOs". This was attended by our staff member.

Music therapy workshop was arranged by SNTD, Juhu. This was attended by our counsellor.

Two young boys were referred to Salaam Balak Trust for rehabilitation.

A day's Workshop for staff on relaxation, ventilation and exploring oneself to enhance personal growth and development was conducted at Seva Niketan.

An outreach staff member is attending Rationing Kruti Samiti monthly meetings regularly.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mehta, Co-founder of Muktangan visited us and promised to help us in re-structuring our Balwadi.

Nutritional supplements like vitamin C (fresh lemon juice), beetroot, and milk have been added to the regular meals for the children.



Some of the friends, well-wishers, trustees, staff and beneficiaries participated in SCMM Marathon.

Womens Update

HLFPPT session with stake holders:
AAWC organized an HIV/AIDS awareness and training workshop for the stake holders of the community in collaboration with HLFPPT.

Insurance Schemes for our Women:
We conducted a Workshop on insurance schemes including Mediclaim, recurring bank accounts. This was conducted with the help of Bank of Maharashtra, S.V. Road Branch.

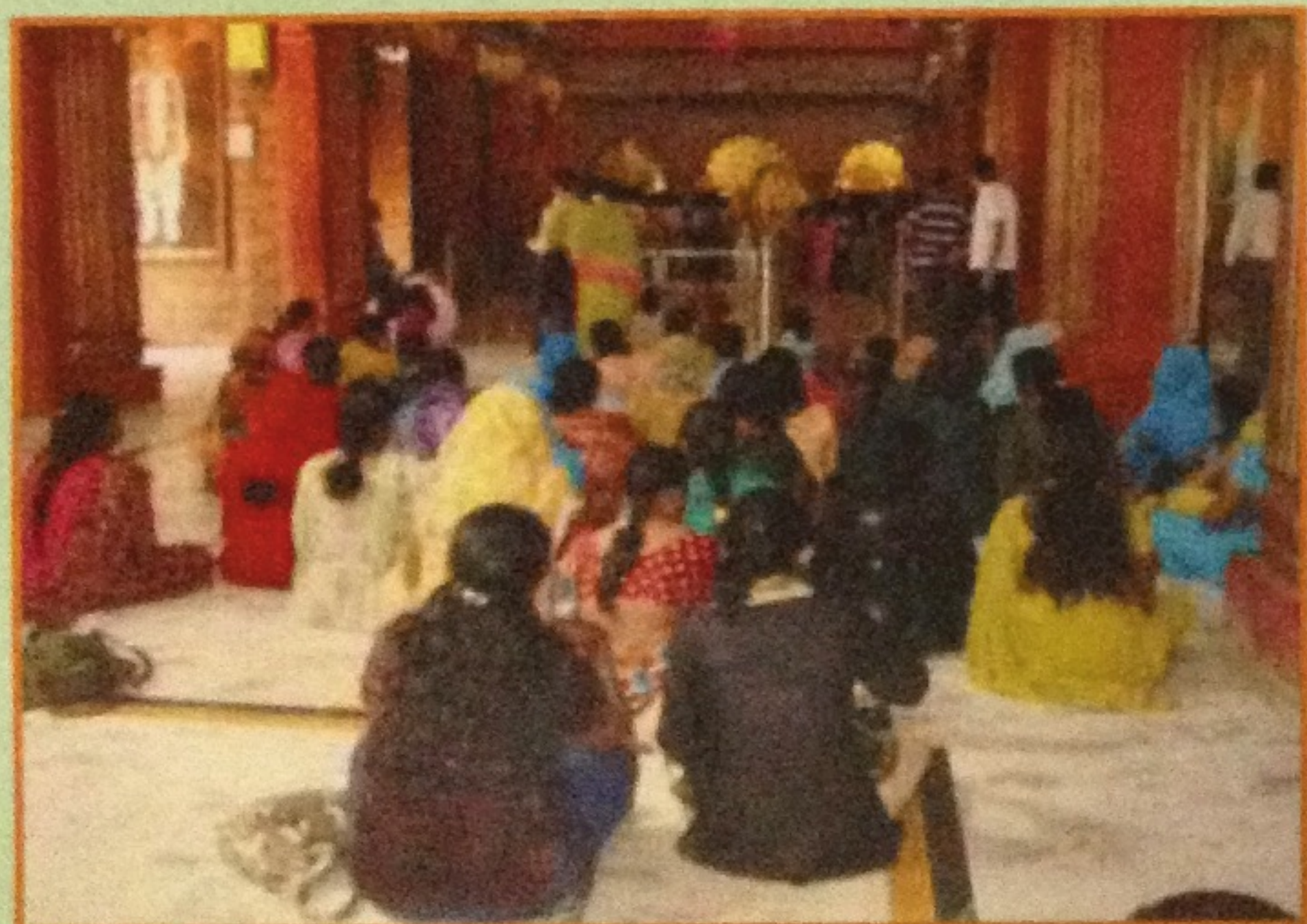
Picnic to Shirdi:
40 women and AAWC staff went on a day's picnic to Prati Shirdi and Lonavla. All appreciated this picnic immensely as they were able to attend the Aarti and get Darshan without the crowds.

Bank Accounts:
We have been successful in encouraging 5 women to start saving accounts with the Bank of Maharashtra S. P. Road branch.

Sex worker shares her story:
Rita (name changed) was invited to talk to our women beneficiaries on how she got her trafficker and brothel owner arrested in Delhi. She is HIV +. This meeting was called to boost the courage of our women, and to involve them in the fight against trafficking.

Yellow Ration card applications have been submitted for 58 women.

We have lost 3 women and a child to AIDS.



Women beneficiaries enjoying their picnic to Prati – Shirdi , Lonavla and Khandala.

Festivals and Celebrations

Christmas and New Year's Eve: was celebrated by the sparrows and toddlers by decorating a Christmas tree and having a cooking competition.

Republic Day: we divided the girls into 4 groups and each group performed a skit on the importance of the constitution.

Makar Sankranti: the sparrows, women and toddlers all came together to understand the importance of this festival.

Valentine's Day: through games we taught the sparrows how to express their emotions towards their loved ones better.

Counselor and project co-coordinator's Birthday: The sparrows and toddlers had a birthday party to celebrate Raheen's birthday.



Special gifts to mothers for children on Christmas.



Sparrows Update

The Photo Book:

One of our volunteers, Lori Jacob, came up with the idea of giving our girls camera's to document different aspects of the lives. These photos along with drawings, poems and articles will capture aspects of the lives of children who grow up in Kamathipura. Some of the themes include mother-daughter relationships, love, anger and concepts of home. This project is being implemented by AAWC.

Eye Camp:

All our Sparrows had their eyes examined and 7 of them have been given reading glasses.

Insaniyat ko Salaam:

Salaam Balak Trust partnered with AAWC to create an experiential program to make children aware of the values associated with humanity and humaneness. Terrorism was an important issue discussed in this program.

Visit to Nehru Science Centre:

22 of our girls visited science centre. They saw the transport and mechanics models, watched 3D films on global warming and on the African Serengeti, and the prehistoric animal gallery.

Celebrating Earth Day:

7 sparrows entered a drawing competition on the effects of global warming, held at the Nehru Science Centre.

Movie Madness:

The girls were invited to watch 'Jumbo' and 'Dhoondhte Reh Jaoge'

Interactive Games day:

Our girls participated in the annual sports day held by an NGO called Down to Earth.

Interactive Games Day:

An interactive games day was organized for children from different NGO's. Our sparrows said that initially they were competing to win, but at the end of the day they realized that the point was enjoy with everyone, irrespective of what organization the children were a part of.

Referrals:

2 girls have been referred for commerce coaching classes for grade 12. 1 girl has been referred for science coaching classes for grade 12. 1 girl has been referred for a job skills training program



Girl's giving presentation of special sessions conducted for them in summer vacation.



Sketch by a sparrow about their surroundings and environment.

BALWADI

Toddlers visited the aquarium and Hanging Gardens on their annual picnic.

VAF's dance classes have been started for the toddlers. It has been noticed that the dance sessions have helped them in taking out their pent up energy. They are more attentive and their concentration level has improved tremendously.

Special English teacher Mrs. Kamal Panju started classes for 22 children. Kamal has been bringing flash cards with fruits and animals to teach the children the English names and also to be able to identify them from their pictures. Once she brought several fresh fruits to show the children what they actually looked like. The children enjoy playing several games and singing songs that help them in identifying body parts. They also enjoy reciting a poem for counting numbers.

General Medical Camp was arranged, 18 Balwadi children attended this. A few children were in excellent health. The other children had minor problems like cold, ear infection, bad teeth etc.



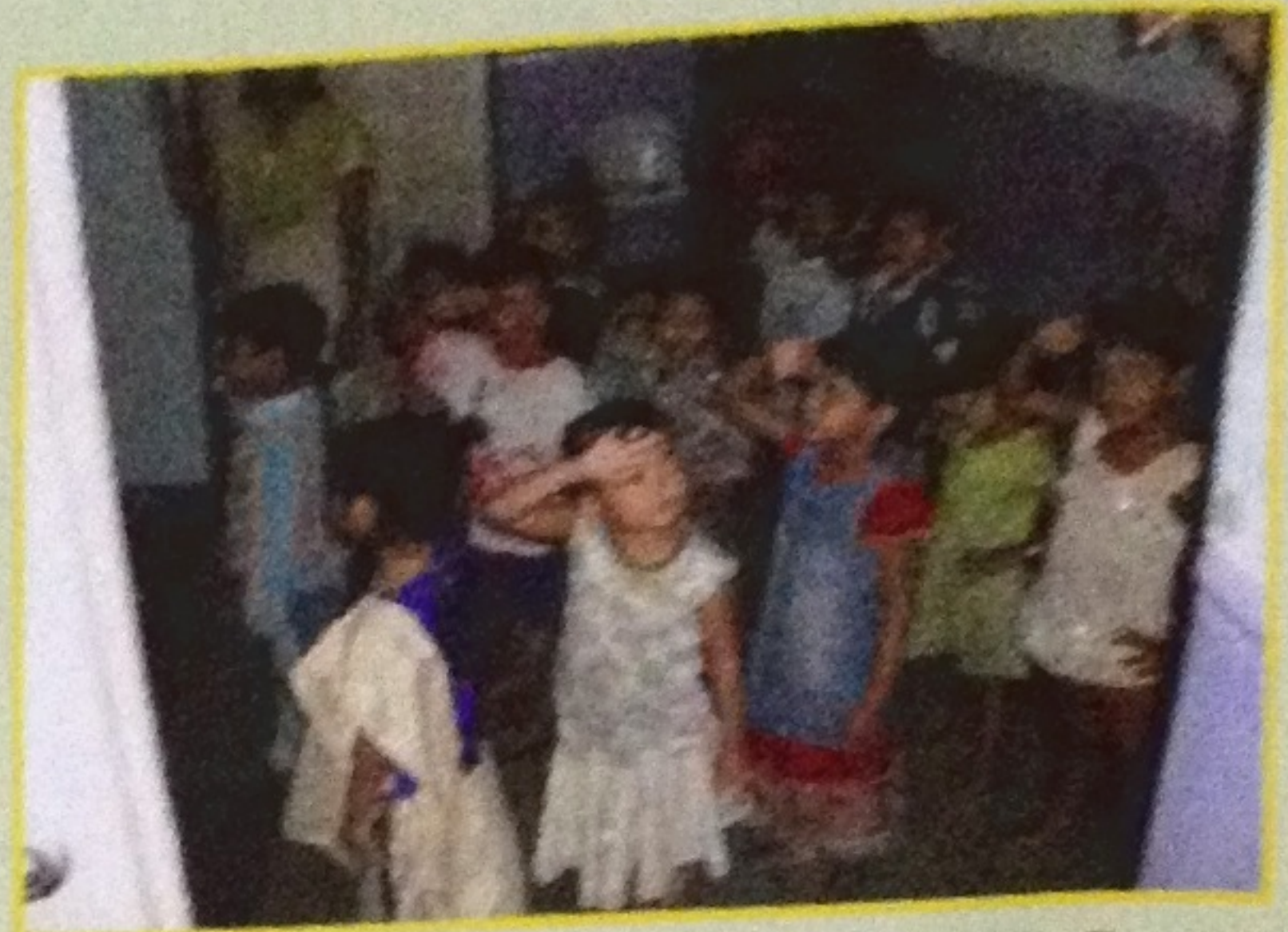
Kindergarten children enjoying cake on birthday celebration of a staff.

Had a meeting with the parents of the Balwadi children at which they were informed about the schools / boarding the children will be sent to after the holidays.

The children enjoyed the last two days of Balwadi on 30th and 31st. It was a very happy and sad moment. Chocolates were distributed to them on the 31st.

During this quarter "Special Play Therapy" was introduced to learn simple manners and etiquette.

Movie "My Friend Ganesha 2" was shown to them. They were thrilled whenever Ganesha appeared on screen.



Kindergarten children celebrating Republic Day.

