

APNE AAP WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE



AAWC

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

NEWSLETTER. 49 | APRIL - JUNE'2021



“ Apne Aap Women’s Collective (AAWC) organized the first Covid-19 registration & vaccination camp in Kamathipura, Mumbai

In the last quarter, our outreach team helped the women in the red-light areas face their fears and break the myths about the Covid vaccine. In a community, that chooses quacks and superstitions over doctors and hospitals, our team could successfully establish the importance and relevance of the Covid vaccination. With focused efforts, well-planned awareness sessions and efficient communication, the team turned tables to counter one of the biggest challenges of the quarter. The extent of impact reflected not just in the number of women getting the first doze of the vaccine shot; our women beneficiaries now educate and urge others in the community to get vaccinated at the earliest!



Outreach visits reflect an increase of **2000+** as compared to last quarter



Medical Referrals reflect an increase of **200+** as compared to last quarter



New Enrolments reflect an increase of **150+** as compared to last quarter







40+ women beneficiaries registered for vaccination and were given the first dose of Covid vaccine in the month of June.



This quarter reflected an increase of **100+** in new enrolments for the Umeed Program



The data reflects a steady increase in number of new identity documents like Ration card, Aadhar card, Voting ID, etc.



Empowerment activities decreased from **190+** in previous quarter to **140+** this quarter to avoid gathering the women unless absolutely necessary. There was more emphasis on conducting the activities individually.



SUCCESS STORIES



OUTREACH

Sarina was spotted by our outreach team during one of their daily field visits in the Red Light Area. She was visibly intoxicated, brutally beaten, and distressed. Yelling in a language, no one could understand, she stood in front of a brothel, in raging helplessness. While the community around wanted to get rid of her, since they feared the involvement of police forces; our outreach team immediately sensed a need for intervention. Sarina was unwilling to speak or listen to anyone initially. The language barriers also created multiple obstacles for the outreach team to establish trust with the woman. However, our years of experience and perseverance helped us get through to her. She was given water, asked about food, and offered consideration and solace with non-verbal communication. Our efforts calmed her down a little and she tried reciprocating responses using hand signals. We soon learned that she was trafficked to Mumbai and had managed to escape a nearby brothel. Prompt action was initiated to provide her foremost with medical care and then legal aid. The team took her to a nearby police station where she was assisted by the authorities. Her wounds were dressed, her statement recorded and her pain empathized with. She was referred to a government shelter home that would host her until more information was to be received. Our outreach team ensured to do whatever it takes to make her feel safer and more stable.

In the following week, the entire case history was revealed to us in a news story. Sarina was a resident of Bangladesh, who was drawing 1400 Taka per week, by working at a Jute mill. She saw the prospect of saving her family from the financial struggles of Covid-19 when a colleague lured her with the promise of a per day pay of INR 1000 at a beauty parlor in Mumbai. The colleague and her husband smuggled Sarina to Kolkata from where she was sent to Mumbai. Once in the city, she overheard a conversation between the traffickers, that she was to be sent to Hyderabad and she had been sold for INR 2 Lakh. Sarina fought and resisted the exploitation of the pimps. Even though she was forced to consume alcohol, she managed to escape the space she was caged in, with persevering resistance and determination. It was during this escapade that our outreach workers had encountered and assisted her. Fortunately, Sarina's husband had filed a 'Missing' complaint in Bangladesh and both the forces of Bangladesh, as well as Mumbai had managed to find the culprits of the sex racket and trace Sarina down. She is soon to be sent back to her home country. With such on-field action, we ensure that our anti-trafficking initiatives are not just limited to our enrolled beneficiaries but extend to the entire community and the cause.

Over a decade ago, Shakti was brought to the lanes of Kamathipura, with the promise of a job, a reliable income, and stable life. She was lured by her friends and sold in the dark world of flesh trade; unequipped with absolutely any ability to resist the exploitation of trafficking. Left in an unknown place, stripped of her dignity, oblivious to the local language, and with an after-taste of broken trust, she has been trapped in the lanes of the red-light area ever since. When our outreach team first met her 12 years ago, she was identified as an HIV-positive beneficiary and was immediately initiated into the ART treatment. Our field workers visited her regularly, ensuring that her nutrition and medicine not just reached her but was also consumed on time. In the counseling sessions and activities conducted by AAWC, she sought some relief and reason to keep going. The trauma of being trapped in a life she didn't choose, got her addicted to alcohol and other intoxicants early on in her life in Kamathipura. When the lockdown of 2020 hit, the lack of income, uncertainty of survival, and inability to buy intoxicants affected her tremendously. She was losing her mental balance and her constant breakdowns led her to yell on the streets, throwing stones, talking to herself, and resorting to potentially dangerous behaviors.

Our outreach workers, who worked uninterruptedly throughout the lockdown, took prompt action. She was counseled and cared for for weeks, while we prepared her to consider availing the provision of a rehabilitation center. During this time, she was also detected with TB. Our team's perseverant efforts, soon helped her gain some grounding in reality and she agreed to go to the rehab center. She spent six months in a de-addiction ward at a government hospital, where she was also being assisted to get her TB in control. Within a few months, she started interacting with the other women in the ward. The staff at the hospital admired her willingness to help them. Shakti was often seen assisting other patients, taking them to the washroom, and showing care and affection when they needed it the most. Today, she is back from the hospital and warns the other women of the red-light area against intoxicants and substance abuse. She is actively involved in spreading the word about the consequences of intoxication and has left it completely, leading by example. Her story inspires us to find a reason to keep going even in times of adversity and hopelessness. She is Shakti.

AAWC was the first organization to conduct a vaccination drive for the Red-light Area in Kamathipura. This quarter, a majority of our efforts were focused on helping our beneficiaries develop stronger coping mechanisms and have a problem-solving approach towards the lockdown. In-depth awareness and myth-busting sessions about the Covid-19 vaccinations led to a big turnout during the registration for the vaccine last month. Despite the initial fear and stigma around the vaccines, our Umeed beneficiaries showed encouraging participation and chose to take the first dose of vaccine, when we organized the drive. A few women even enquired about the second dose. Ration, toiletries, and masks were distributed in the area and the beneficiaries particularly expressed their gratitude about the quality of the ration. They expressed how relieved they were, on being provided a ration kit complete with oil and good quality rice. This quarter, many women came up to us confessing how they did not understand the importance of sanitizers until recently. Lack of water in the area, helped them realize that hand wash was not always a convenient choice and the sanitizer we provide in the toiletry kit, proves extremely useful at such times. They acknowledged and appreciated how thoughtfully the ration kit was made and expressed the same on more than one occasion.



Nutrition distribution in the Red-light area

The enrolment numbers are increasing progressively as more and more women are becoming aware of our activities. Our beneficiaries voluntarily spread the word about our organization and its services, many times introducing their friends and other women of the area to our outreach team. The women who are new in the area, have started coming forward to get themselves enrolled with the organization and our older beneficiaries are uninhibited to share any problems with us.

Our rapport in the community has helped us establish a relation of mutual belongingness in the area. We can depend on our beneficiaries and other residents of the area to come forward to help us in tasks like putting up tarpaulins for community classes, finding a better space or seating arrangements for conducting activities and practices, etc. Regular individual visits and area activities were conducted throughout the quarter. Simple exercises were taught to the women to help them counter back pain and inertia; practice for the same was taken regularly. Discussion on the changing seasons and specific precautions for the summer and the monsoons was prioritized. The correlation between hygiene, sanitary health, and skin diseases was also established as a major theme for the quarter. Women participated in these interactive sessions, sometimes confessing their unhealthy habits, giving examples of their progress, and always encouraging each other to speak up, discuss, and help our outreach workers conduct efficient need assessments.

EDUCATION

Regular adult literacy and financial literacy classes were taken in this quarter. Since the women weren't able to come to the center due to the lockdown, our outreach workers visited the beneficiaries in the area to ensure their practice as well as progress. More women beneficiaries have enrolled in the adult literacy classes as the older beneficiaries motivated the newer ones for the same. We have observed progress in the pace of learning for many beneficiaries. While there are women, who are still learning to hold a pen, there are also many who are now able to recognize simple words. One of the major impacts of our adult literacy classes is that we have observed the brothel owners motivating the women to learn how to write. This reflects the consequence of continuous rapport building. The pride of signing their names in English gives our beneficiaries an unparalleled sense of achievement. Being able to sign their names, instead of using thumb impressions, helped the women receive their Pan cards at a cheaper cost and a faster pace. They specifically narrated incidents to the outreach workers, when certain bank officials or authorities who created their identity documents, enquired about them signing their names. In response, they were able to answer clearly and confidently with our organization's name, its adult literacy activities as well as impact.



Women practicing for Adult Literacy



Adult Literacy Class in progress



We are delighted to see the women's enthusiasm, especially as we observe them trying to use the golden words "Thankyou", "Sorry", and greetings like "Good Morning" in their everyday conversations. They make sure to clarify and confirm whether they are pronouncing the words right. Many beneficiaries have learned to read bus numbers, train times, taxis, and rickshaw meters. Educational activity in the area revealed that many women are now able to recognize one official document from the other. They are keener on learning how to read their names to ensure that their spellings remain accurate on the identity documents. We have observed a considerable boost in the problem-solving abilities of the women. The women beneficiaries reflect and share with the field-workers, incidences wherein they created an action plan in the face of a difficult situation instead of reacting with panic. An annual adult literacy event was conducted this quarter. Old and new beneficiaries, brought along their friends and other women, and there was an elaborate interaction on the importance of literacy. The women related to the day-to-day challenges that were discussed during the event. The beneficiaries who were already enrolled in the program, came forward to share their experiences and motivate other women to pursue the adult literacy classes with more dedication.

EMPOWERMENT



Skill training practice



Women receiving stipend for skill training

Bank account and identity document creation have been in progress throughout the quarter. The team has specifically prioritized ration card creation to ensure that the women benefit from the government welfare scheme, to avail free ration. While a few ration cards were activated, our outreach workers have also established rapport with the ration shopkeepers in the area. This ensured that the beneficiaries who do not have a ration card yet could get ration on their Aadhar cards. The beneficiaries now understand the importance of having Voting IDs and Aadhar cards and come forward to make the same. Multiple women were motivated to create their documents on their own, instead of depending on the field workers. The women are hence less scared to go to the banks or document offices. This reflects the impact of our adult literacy and financial literacy classes. Their ability to sign their names has helped many women get ATM cards, for easy cash withdrawals. Our beneficiaries are extremely grateful for this convenience and spread the word in the community to recommend literacy classes to other women. Additionally, having a bank account has helped many beneficiaries receive INR 15,000 in their bank accounts under a government welfare scheme. These funds came at one of the most crucial times of the lockdown and hence the women were relieved and filled with hope. They constantly thanked our team as they were overjoyed with the relief amount.

Tailoring and Mehendi classes are being conducted in the area regularly. The beneficiaries recently gave their Mehendi Exams and were very inspired by each other's designs. A few women have even started teaching their daughters and practicing Mehendi designs together. However, the lack of space and light in the small corridors in the area, makes it challenging for many to continue the practice. The women have hence, expressed their wish to learn at the center. However, due to the pandemic restrictions, we are not able to do the same. We have seen an increasing interest in the embroidery and tailoring classes as well. Our beneficiaries are now stitching cloth bags; some have even started stitching pillow covers and using them at home. We see progress in the embroideries and the finishing of their stitches. The women are eager to start practices on machines at the center, instead of hand stitching their embroideries. The beneficiaries in the community are also being taught simple products like paper bags, paper cups, letterboxes, present pockets, pen holders, and other sellable cut-stick and sew products.

Owing to new skills and newfound possibilities, several women were able to create a separate income source for themselves. Many have started earning by applying Mehendi for other women in the area. They have also learned how to create, market, and sell herbal facewash powders in the area. Our job placement assistance helped a few women secure employment in housekeeping, a hospital, the garment industry, and an associate NGO. A few women beneficiaries have started small businesses selling tea, water, buttermilk, etc. Seeing the beneficiaries explore newer ways of earning takes us a step closer to helping them live a life of dignity and respect. One of the major impacts of last quarter involved a few beneficiaries completely leaving the profession and the red-light area too. Two beneficiaries have rented houses outside of the red-light district, while one has been sent to a shelter home, where she is being trained in baking and beauty parlor services. Owing to the constant support, counseling, and assistance provided by the organization, several beneficiaries have quit prostitution entirely in the last quarter.

HEALTH

Last quarter, we reiterated the importance of maintaining health and hygiene through various awareness sessions, as well as through individual visits. Monthly ration and cooked meals were distributed among women most in need, as part of our covid-relief. The monthly essentials also included a safety and hygiene kit, complete with masks and sanitizers. A session on blood pressure and its management was conducted with the women, discussions on water intake, calcium, timely nutrition, and home-cooked food motivated women to adopt healthier habits. We have observed that the women have become disciplined and wait in queues during lunch distribution. They express relief on receiving their daily meal and share that they don't worry about surviving anymore. Our beneficiaries demonstrate their loyalty and gratitude by volunteering to help during the meal distribution on Sundays and at other times with our field workers aren't around. They constantly make themselves available to help our outreach team. Several women beneficiaries were identified with TB and assisted with medicines for the same. An HIV testing camp was held in the last month, where women showed up in encouraging numbers. The positively tested women were promptly initiated into ART treatment. All the women were counseled to help them, get over their fear of hospitals and myths about non-consensual covid tests, vaccines, or forced quarantine. Constant counseling about timely medication has led the women to go to the hospital with their friends and collect their ART medicines without any dependence on the outreach workers. One of the major impacts also includes the punctuality of their medicine and nutrition intake. The new ART drugs include a comparatively lesser number of capsules, hence the women feel relieved and voluntarily share the details about their follow-ups and improvement in health. The team has been closely involved with the counseling of ANC-PNC mothers, given the financial and emotional burden of the



pandemic. Few major impacts included, reduction in intoxication in an expecting mother, earlier hospital enrolments in both ANC and PNC mothers, an initiative by women to understand and take up doctor's follow-ups actively. The women were advised against applying excessive oil, kajal, etc. on the newly born kids. They were informed about the importance of immunization and processes for the same. We have observed that women, who used to earlier get hyper due to the post-immunization fever in the child, are now a lot more aware and calm about the situation. They reflect on their changes and share the same with our field workers. A few beneficiaries who were not prepared for a child were assisted with due doctor's follow-ups, counseling, and abortions. Constant reiteration about family planning also led to a women's partner agreeing for vasectomy. He was assisted with the medical procedure for the same. Major counseling sessions were conducted to counter addiction and intoxication. Due to the persistent efforts of our outreach team, a few beneficiaries have completely stopped consuming intoxicants and many others have reduced. The women are now motivating each other, to keep their addictions in control. They also claim that the positive changes in them would not have been possible had, AAWC not intervened. One of the most impactful achievements of counseling reflected in the women beneficiaries getting over their fear about Covid vaccines and taking the initiative to register and take their first dose, to fight the battle against the virus.



Ration distribution in collaboration with BMC



Iron tablet distribution in the Red light Area

RECREATION

Multiple recreational activities gave the women opportunities for entertainment and relaxation amidst their everyday struggles. On Mother's day, the women shared about their childhood and their mothers. Our beneficiaries got nostalgic and shared their feelings about their children as well. They expressed their longing to provide warmth and love to their child and shared the joys of motherhood with each other. Eid was also celebrated in great zest. Many beneficiaries came forward to convey the religious importance of the festival, while others listened intently. The music, dance, and special meals made it all the more exciting for our women beneficiaries. They loved a chance to dress up and get together for an occasion. Apart from festival celebrations, regular recreational activities were conducted to help the women de-stress. Games like Antakshari were hosted, where the women even sang songs in their mother tongue. They expressed how they enjoyed and looked forward to such informal candid gatherings with our team. Many beneficiaries reflected on how these are the only few moments they can smile, laugh or even feel joy. They expressed gratitude and wonder at how our outreach team's presence relieved them of their pain, even if for a few moments.





Number of school admissions have **doubled** as compared to the last quarter



New enrolment numbers increased by **25 times** as compared to the last quarter



Home visits and boarding follow-up numbers show a **steady increase** as compared to the last quarter



In the previous quarter mothers could open a zero-balance account owing to a government welfare scheme. However this quarter the number of bank accounts opened dropped considerably. Since there was no relief scheme and the bank required a minimum deposit of INR 2000 which the women of the Red-light district were unable to afford.



SUCCESS STORY



17 years old Aarzoo* has been with Apne Aap Women's Collective since her Balwadi days. She is an extremely ambitious girl, with a flair for fine arts. Over the years, she explored her potential and flourished in studies as well as vocational activities conducted in our Udaan program. Her enterprising attitude led her to create her very own Instagram page where she uploads her sketches and artworks for the world to see. When the Udaan program beneficiaries got an opportunity for sessions with Red Nose Entertainment, funded by CWB - Clowns Without Borders, Sweden, Aarzoo demonstrated a keen interest. She was amongst the six Udaan beneficiaries who were shortlisted by Red Nose Entertainment to be a part of Red Nose Juniors, a commercial drama group. She, along with the group, performed acts across the city, in theatres, and other organizations. She excelled at the art and demonstrated not just conceptual understanding, but also implementation and leadership qualities through the duration. Her potential was promptly recognized by the team and she has been offered a fellowship with Clowns Without Borders, Sweden. Aarzoo, who is currently being assisted with her admission to JJ School of Arts, will now also be trained in the skills and technicalities of drama, scriptwriting, direction, lighting, stage, humor, etc. across the span of three years during her fellowship. Additionally, she'll be provided a yearly stipend for the same and also has the opportunity to learn the art in their main center in Sweden. We are delighted that the international charity has recognized her potential and given her a platform that will prove to be a remarkable milestone in her journey into the mainstream.

OUTREACH

The outreach team directed focused efforts in building awareness and trust in the community about the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of District Women & Child Welfare Department (DWCD) intervention and their decision for children's placement in various shelter homes. The option of a safer, and healthier environment of the CWC referred shelters, as opposed to the non-conducive atmosphere of the red-light area was constantly reinforced in the mothers. Given the uncertainties of income, the indefinite lockdown, and the hazards posed by the pandemic, the women were more willing to listen and learn about alternative options for their children. Multiple awareness sessions were conducted in the area to inform the women about the CWC procedure, to bust myths about the same, and also to encourage women to help their children live better childhoods. We observed that multiple beneficiaries came forward after these sessions to initiate an inquiry. A few women were prepared and willing to place the child in a shelter; they were counseled and guided for the same.

The women attended mother's meetings punctually. Through these sessions, many crucial issues, like school admissions for the academic year, the need for documentation, online schooling, etc. were addressed. The mothers were advised to focus on their child's education despite the schools being closed. They were also informed about the hot meals served to their children, during the classes and how their nutrition quotient helps the child develop a healthy disposition. Women listened intently and agreed how it is important to inculcate a habit of a home-cooked balanced meal in the child's routine. The mothers have started showing an interest in the child's school activities and readily give the required documents as opposed to the previous reluctance. This is an impact of regular rapport and trust-building activities of our outreach team. The mothers of the girls who currently reside at the shelter were requested to visit the girls only once a month, instead of once a week, given the stringent lockdown restrictions.

Mothers of the young non-residential beneficiaries in the community were oriented about teaching the child at home and maintaining regular communication with the toddlers, by playing counting games, asking questions, or simply reciting and listening to poetry and songs. They were counseled about how these activities would stimulate the child's brain and help his/her cognitive faculties develop healthily. The outreach team is constantly in touch with non-residential community-based Udaan girls and their school teachers. Girls share any challenges they face in academics or their personal life, and prompt action is taken by the team to resolve the same. Regular follow-ups and communication is maintained with associate shelter homes, and mothers can talk with their children VIA phone calls or video calls. We faced a challenge in explaining to the mothers why one-on-one visits were difficult since they were used to meeting their children often. However, through persistent counseling of the women, our team was able to counter the challenge.



EDUCATION

The residential beneficiaries at the shelter and community-based non-residential beneficiaries have shown quite some progress in the last quarter. The online schooling activities continued only for the first half of the quarter; however, the center's educational activities kept the children busy through the months. While the board exams for the year were postponed, other elder Udaan beneficiaries gave their exams online and continued with their online tuition classes. The tuition teachers were guided to shift focus from covering basics, to also incorporate the syllabus of the next academic year, ensuring that the child feels better prepared for the year. The girls initiate conversations with their teachers and mentors, especially in their spoken English classes, to clear doubts. Many beneficiaries are now able to hold conversations fluently. Some expressed their wish to move to an English medium school, the challenges and benefits of the same were discussed with the beneficiaries and due admission processes were undertaken. School admissions for the next year have been one of our major focuses in the last quarter. A few beneficiaries from the community Balwadi were initiated into formal schooling in the last quarter. We have also seen an increase in the number of enrolments in the Balwadi. The younger beneficiaries have been extremely punctual for their daily classes. They come to the classes in a more presentable manner than before. The child monitors keep a check on the masks and nails of other beneficiaries to ensure safety and hygiene.

This also helps inculcate a sense of responsibility in them. We have seen great progress in their academic as well as motor skills. The children fared well in their oral and written assessments, demonstrating accurate recognition of colors, vegetables, shapes, body parts, etc., better vocabulary in both Hindi and English, and also considerable improvement in multiplications and math. The newspaper reading sessions, GK talks, book reading, and picture books are particularly exciting activities that they look forward to. We recently distributed chalk and slates in the community, only to see the children over-joyed. They love writing and practicing on their slates. We have been told by the mothers that the child practices even after coming back from the class.



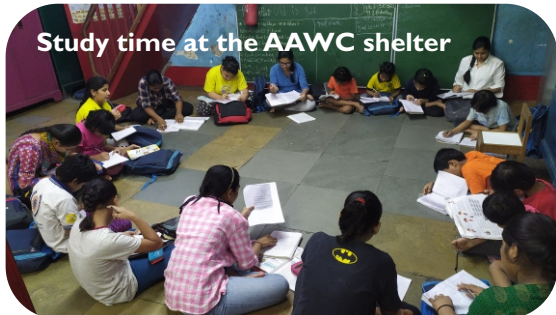
We have seen the younger beneficiaries being particularly kind to each other, especially when their peers are sick. They communicate their concerns by being helpful. They love solving puzzles and look forward to their E-learning classes as well. The regular social skills sessions coupled with motor skill activities make up for the holistic, gradual development we see in the beneficiaries.

Our residential beneficiaries at the shelter are being provided wholesome and balanced meals five times a day, as per their diet chart. Timely consumption of multi-vitamins, calcium, and moringa seeds continues to be a part of their daily diet. The children suggested a few changes to their diet chart last month. While certain suggestions were accepted as it is, a few others like cookies were altered for healthier options like wheat cookies. We have specifically focused on increasing the beneficiaries' water intake. The children were reminded to drink water at regular intervals at the start of the quarter; however, we have observed that as the months progressed, the beneficiaries became conscious about their water intake and didn't need reminders. The impact of the same was reflected in reduced digestion-related and other medical referrals in the quarter. Some older girls even commented on their improved skin tone after proper water intake.

The children used to start their day with daily exercise and Yoga, eventually, as the children requested to incorporate Zumba in their morning routines as well. The suggestion was promptly incorporated to the delight of the girls. The impact of a wholesome diet coupled with regular exercise was visible in the increasing height and weight of the children through the quarter. As per WHO guidelines, growth charts were maintained for the beneficiaries at the center. The indicators reflected a healthy pace of growth for each of the beneficiaries at the shelter. Medical referrals and immunizations were promptly undertaken as and when required. Daily breakfast is being served in the community along with multivitamins for the children. The young non-residential beneficiaries enjoy their hot Khichdi in the lunch, during the community classes. The mothers share how the kids have started waking up earlier for breakfast distribution. They look forward to their first meal of the day and have become disciplined about not eating outside food owing to the same. We have observed the children implementing the lessons taught in their health and hygiene classes. Supervision in terms of nail checks, clean clothes, clean masks, and well-kept hair was undertaken daily. Both mothers and children are starting to understand the importance of hygiene and the same reflects during their daily supervision.



Daily Community Classes



Study time at the AAWC shelter

EMPOWERMENT

Our Team is in the process of making Aadhar Card, General Affidavits, etc. for the beneficiaries who haven't been issued the same yet. In the last quarter, the Udaan girls got a chance to explore diverse learnings, since they had a month-long summer break. Various awareness sessions were conducted to help the beneficiaries open their minds and broaden their horizons. The girls attended a session on child marriage, and superstitions, discussing the same as a social evil. They went on to comprehend healthy and unhealthy relationships. They understood how to identify the difference between healthy and unhealthy behaviors of self and others. In the last quarter, their minds gradually grasped the evils of abuse and the courage of saying no. Even the younger beneficiaries were able to grasp the content of the awareness sessions. They were informed about various defense and coping mechanisms to employ when faced with an uncomfortable situation, and they learned how to find an anchor in a trusted adult.

Art therapy sessions and group counseling have led to positive changes in the beneficiaries. These activities help the girls understand the nature of various emotions, and personalities and also help them apply the knowledge for smoother interpersonal communication. The art therapy sessions initiated them into accepting diverse physical appearances, they have also learned how to see positive in dire situations. Additionally, their regular journal writing has helped them better introspect and express their thoughts and feelings in a more articulate manner. The therapy sessions helped a beneficiary who was previously feeling a little aloof, to gradually bond with her friends and the team. She could open up to them and trust the teachers with her emotions. The beneficiaries not only learn but also enjoy their sessions thoroughly. Apart from therapy sessions, the children attend sessions by interesting interactive sessions by volunteers and interns. A few volunteers conducted vocational sessions, wherein the beneficiaries learned a technique to make cloth bags and door hangings. These sessions motivated them to take initiative and employ their tailoring skills to stitch their clothes.

RECREATION

Several festivals and secular days were celebrated in the past quarter in the center as well as in the area. On Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanthi, children learned and discussed his contribution to society and reflected on how his teachings and sayings are relevant even today. Red Cross Day and Labour Day were also celebrated in a similar way at the center and the area. On the occasion of Eid, the children dressed up in their favorite clothes applied Mehendi and were extremely overjoyed that they had been allowed to hold a fast. They talked and discussed the values of forgiveness, sang songs, shared jokes, and danced to their heart's content. They relished the special meal served to them on that day.

Children indulge in art and craft sessions to unwind from the educational activities of the day. We have seen a boost in the imagination and creative capabilities of our elder beneficiaries. The younger ones have developed motor skills, which reflect in their ability to fold, cut, and stick their artworks. The children in the community as well as at the center indulged in watercolor painting, clay activities, collages, and best out of waste art. Their recreational activities also involved movie screenings on Sundays. Last month, the children provided us with a list of movies they would like to watch, the same was scrutinized and accommodated in their routines.



STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

In the last quarter, the AAWC staff attended multiple capacity-building seminars, each relevant, informative, interactive, and most useful to our work. The national legal services authority (NALSA) conducted an online session with the team to help them understand the multiple ways in which legal intervention can be initiated without the need for lawyers and time-consuming, bureaucratic processes. It was an informative session that was aimed to make the staff more self-dependent to take prompt action in case of emergencies on the field. There was another training session on the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA) by Project Kalki. The staff members indulged in an interactive discussion on various types of trafficking, their interconnections with child labor and prostitution. Our team realized that the ITPA act came into enforcement, especially to counter the trafficking done with the intent and purpose of prostitution. The discussion also tapped into the POSCO act and the dynamics of child sexual abuse. Another online session on Shravan Dosh Jagnikt Abhiyan informed the staff about the detection, causes, consequences, and the nature of hearing impairment in children. With each session, the AAWC staff contributed more to the discussion and gained insights for on-field action.



Craft Activity at the shelter



Udaan vocational training session by Interns



Craft Session with Umeed Women



Adult Literacy Class



Udaan girls decorating the shelter walls



Motor-skill activity for Umang children



Ration Distribution

FROM THE HEART



Character set made from scratch by the Udaan beneficiaries during Art Therapy



Nutrition distribution in the red light area



Social Skills session with volunteers



Eid celebrations at the AAWC shelter



Umang Art activity



Udaan girls making Wall Hangings



Pizza making activity



Art therapy Session

