



Editorial

The two highlights at **AAWC** (Apne Aap Women's Collective) over the last few months are our rebranding campaign and the opening of our second centre in the heart of Kamathipura.

REBRANDING

The reason for our rebranding campaign is that our organization was being confused with another NGO called Apne Aap Women's Worldwide, started by Ms. Ruchira Gupta. An article was published by the Harvard Crimson Review, which exposed the misuse of funds by Apne Aap Women's Worldwide. As the names of the two organizations are so similar there was a lot of confusion about whether we were the same organization. The Harvard Crimson Review article can be found at <http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2010/11/2/apne-aap-women-organization/>

AAWC posted a response to this article which is as follows:

"Apne Aap Women's COLLECTIVE was founded in 1998 to work with brothel based women in prostitution, marginalized young girls and children of Falkland Road Kamathipura red light area of Mumbai.....Ms Ruchira Gupta was associated with us in the beginning but we parted very soon in 2002 due to various reasons. Later on Ms. Ruchira Gupta founded her own organization with similar name with last word changed as Apne Aap Women's Worldwide and continued using her organization name as "Apne Aap" which our organization was using. This caused and is still causing an immense confusion and misunderstandings in every aspect.

So we hereby want to clarify that our organization Apne Aap Women's Collective doesn't have any connection / affiliation / association with Ms. Ruchira Gupta or Apne Aap Women's worldwide / International in any way." We took this opportunity to undertake a long overdue rebranding exercise that will make us a distinctive entity. Apne Aap Women's Collective will now be known as **AAWC**. The women's program will be called UMMEED, the girl's program which was earlier called as Sparrows now will be called UDAAN and the toddler's program will be called UMANG. As part of the rebranding exercise we have come up with a new logo, website, brochure and a new email address. Our new website address is www.aawc.in and our new email id is aawc98@gmail.com

KAMATHIPURA CENTRE OPENED WITH HELP OF CRY

AAWC has been recognized by CRY (Child Rights and You) as a project partner NGO and has granted **AAWC** funds to do a baseline survey at Kamathipura centre. **AAWC** is the first NGO working in the red light areas to be supported by CRY.

AAWC Update



Best Group Award Ceremony

- We organize a 3 day Annual staff picnic at Mahableshwar & Panchagani for total relaxation & a good break from challenging work.

- A staff member attended a meeting organized by PSI, on "Care and Support of Children Addicted to Drugs". The resource person was Mr. Chin Somani, Project co-ordinator of PSI.

- To update the information on Government Health Services our new Project co-coordinator visited all health posts in Falkland road and Kamathipura area.

- Documentation Coordinator attended a one day workshop on "Building Resource Mobilization & capabilities" organized by International Justice Mission and S.P. Jain Management Institute.



Picnic at Water Kingdom

- 3 staff attended a monthly meeting of Lawyers collective on "HIV + child: Adoption and role of social worker / NGO".

Resource person was Advocate Mr. Rakesh and Social worker cum counselor Ms. Madhavi Mhatre.



Diwali Celebration



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Bakari Eid Celebration

• An AAWC volunteer, Ms. Emily Hanscamp from Australia came to meet us for a week. It was truly a pleasure to see Emily and girls meet again.

- Director and Documentation co-ordinator attended a three day workshop on "Creating an NGO Brand" organized by S.P. Jain Institution of Research and Management.
- 2 staff attended 3 days training workshop on "Learning through Play" organized by Mumbai Mobile Creches.
- AAWC Director, Manju Vyas and Trustee, Ashika Mehta attended a one day conference on "Women Mean Business Conference" organized by Cherie Blair Foundation for Women.
- Attended a half day workshop on 'Dissemination Program on work of HIV / AIDS organized by Prerna organization.
- SAI organization opened a new hospital for HIV patients' treatment and opened a residential care home exclusively for HIV + women.
- Divyam age 2 yrs. and Ananya age 2 yrs two very young friends of AAWC, celebrated their birthday with our girls and day care children.



Women's monthly meeting

Umeed Program (Women)



UMEED

- We held a meeting at our centre with the women to make them understand how to deal with Stigma and Discrimination. Along with the meeting we had a Ramzan Eid celebration.

- We started banana distribution to a total of 9 HIV+ women.
- We celebrated Dandiya with our women, who were all very happy dancing.
- One of our beneficiaries misplaced her child (who is deaf and dumb), with the help of other NGO we found that child at Thane railway station. The child is back in the mother's care.



Diya Painting Workshop

- We celebrated Bakri Eid with all the women; we played lots of games and also fed them all Biryani. All women enjoy a lot with games and dance.
- **AAWC** participated in the Dosti Anand Mela organized by Prerna. All the women rushed to our stall to play games because the game we organized was very simple and interesting.
- **AAWC** has been regularly attending Rationing Kruti Samiti monthly meetings, which is actively working for Right to Food. The main issues discussed in it were the rules and regulation of Ration card, minimum quantity of essential groceries, planning of two days training workshop, planning of the Mahila Andolan at Nagpur related to Rati



Dandiya Celebration

Udaan (Girls)



- We organized a Gokul Ashtami celebration with our Udaan and Umang beneficiaries. All children participated in that program and also enjoyed getting lots of

chocolates and snacks.

- We took all Udaan beneficiaries on our yearly Picnic to Water Kingdom. It was fun day!
- We organized monthly parents meeting, the core issues discussed in that are behavior of girls, and the importance of study and attendance in school and at centre, especially for Std. 10 girls.
- We took all our Udaan beneficiaries to Visit Ganpanti Mandals around the Khetwadi area to explore the creative aspects of an artist who creates Ganpati Idols.
- Mrs. Ashika Mehta, Trustee is lovingly called Ashika didi by the Udaan beneficiaries. Her birthday was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm.
- We organized a monthly meeting of all the teachers to understand their teaching methodology. Each teacher was also asked to give progress updates on each child. Teacher's also discussed their teaching plans for the rest of the year.
- On 9th Oct A A W C organized a Workshop on Andhashradh a Nirmulan attended by all Udaan beneficiaries



Christmas Gift Distribution

and staff. This was to educate children about myths and superstitions that they otherwise believed to be true. The Resource person did various demonstrations in front of Udaan beneficiaries. It was very interesting for all.



Diya painting workshop

- Dandiya celebration with our Udaan beneficiaries was organized on 16th October. After Dancing, they had a feast of delicious food and sweets.
- Before Diwali we organized Diya Painting workshop for all Udaan beneficiaries.
- Mr. Sudarshan Loyalka, Managing Trustee, to whom Udaan beneficiaries lovingly called Sudu Mama. He celebrated his birthday with all our Udaan and Umang beneficiaries.
- On 30th October, Udaan beneficiaries attended a Big Diwali Party organized by Salam Bombay Organization and Madhu Mehta Trust. Lots of gifts are given to all the girls.
- A Diwali celebration was held at AAWC on 2nd Nov 2010. Various kinds of competitions were held at the Diwali party like Drawing, Rangoli and Making different things from waste materials. We are extremely thankful to all our guest and specially Mrs. Gauri Pohoomul for generously donating special Diwali snacks and sweets to all the girls and the staff.
- All our Udaan beneficiaries celebrated Children's Day with children from other NGO's organized by Child Care Foundation with lots of fun activities and games.
- On 28th December was our X-mas and New Year party with Ananya's birthday celebration. We gave gifts to all our Udaan and Umang beneficiaries. Also it was an important day as we presented the trophies for "Teacher of year" to Mrs Sangita Satyam and "Best Younger Udaan Beneficiary" to Ms. Rani Patil, "Best Elder Udaan Beneficiary" to Ms. Surekha Jadhav.



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Balwadi Picnic at Kamala Nehru Udyan

- MDACS organized a session for all our Elder Udaan beneficiaries on basic facts of HIV/AIDS.
- Two of our Elder Udaan beneficiaries completed their vocational training course successfully and one of the girls got a job in a reputed bank and the other girl got a job at KFC restaurant in Mumbai Central.

Umang (Day Care)

- We have introduced uniforms for all the children at the Day Care centre. After wearing uniform all children look very neat and clean.



umang

- On 18th October we organized a Balwadi Dandiya celebration. On child dressed up like "krishana" and two other girls dress up like "Radha".
- We organized a Mother's meeting for those who placed their children at SOS boarding, to prepare them for their visit to their children. On 12th Oct we arranged a visit for all the parents to the SOS boarding.
- On 1st Nov, we celebrated Diwali with the Day Care children. The teachers burst all the crackers in front of the children. The kids enjoy the sweets and Pav-Bhaji.
- On 23rd Nov Children's Day was celebrated with the Day Care kids. Lots of play activities and games were organized. We distributed chocolates and soft toys to every child as prizes.
- Our Day care children had their picnic at Kamala Nehru Udyan!! All children were excited to be outside their classroom.... more so to play in the garden and see the Grandmother's Shoe.



Gopalkala Celebration

Stastical Data

- Total no. of new Women members - 8
- Total new balwadi admission 10
- Total New Udaan beneficiaries admission 4
- Apni Bachat Women new account 6
- Bank of Maharashtra women new account 4
- Bank of Maharashtra Udaan beneficiaries new account 6
- Udaan beneficiaries got ATM - 3
- Birth certificate no. - 3
- Women's death total no. 6
- Boarding drop out 3 balwadi children, 2 Udaan beneficiaries
- Boarding Placement - 3 Udaan beneficiaries
- Medical referral - 29



Sessions Myths and Superstition removal