

MITRA REPORT

2010-11

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES, RESULTS, AND OUTPUTS

MITRA Hostel

Last year, 32 children were accommodated at MITRA Hostel. 19 boys and 13 girls will continue to access the hostel facility this year.

Along with other members of VAMP, adult children of sex workers are progressively taking on the role of working with the children. The commitment to their education and well-being is high. They feel natural empathy for the children – they do not want them to experience the discrimination they went through, resulting in dropping out from schools and colleges. At Mitra hostel, emphasis is given to formal education; regular school visits are made, sensitising teachers to specific issues affecting the children of sex workers. This helps towards being treated equally and not singled out because of their parents work. We have observed that children are increasingly academically motivated. Their performance, as compared with before they arrived at the hostel, is significantly improving while living in the hostel.

A decision was made to build a new hostel, due to the poor infrastructure of the existing building. The site has been selected and it will take six to eight months to complete. Hence, we are currently not increasing number of children in the hostel.

Supplementary education continues to be important - for children living in the hostel localities, and other children in localities where sex workers live. The importance given to supplementary education revolves around building self-esteem, learning how to deal with stigma and discrimination, talking about respecting self and parents, and breaking down stereotypes and moral judgements that children inculcate about gender, sex, and sexuality.

The next table indicates the number of children of sex workers accessing the supplementary education classes in various towns in Maharashtra & North Karnataka.

City/town	Boys	Girls	Total
Sangli	21	6	27
Mudhol	10	10	20
Karad	11	7	18
Mahalingpur	9	6	15
Total	51	29	80