

MITRA 2013-2014

Provide children of sex workers access to education, nutrition

There are currently 41 children of sex workers who are receiving direct benefit of education, nutrition support through a hostel based facility that has been established and is run and overseen by the VAMP Collective in Nippani.

The hostel is managed by the women from VAMP who take turns to oversee the running of the hostel, cook food and ensure overall discipline.

All the children attend regular schooling and supportive coaching for their education from the hostel.

In addition, children who are eligible for state level exams (10th board) are pulled out of the hostel and provided further supportive education and are home schooled under the supervision of the VAMP community in Sangli. Their education, food and nutrition for the year long period is directly supervised by the VAMP community and teachers are appointed for each subject that the child is appearing for. For instance in 2013- 14, two male children of sex workers became eligible for appearing for State level exams and were supported. Two children who were supported in the previous year 2012- 13 have obtained jobs in small scale units in and around Sangli.

Right to Education for Children of Sex Workers

Class	Girls	Boys	Total
Pre Primary	1	0	1
First	2	2	4
Second	1	3	4
Third	6	4	10
Fourth	4	2	6
Fifth	1	2	3
Sixth	3	3	6
Seventh	1	2	3
Eighth	1	0	1

Ninth	1	1	2
Tenth	1	0	1
Total	22	19	41

The continued commitment of sex workers towards their children is maintained through the voluntary and other forms of support. In addition to the food and provisions

given by the women, the VAMP collective instituted a nominal fee for educating each child in the hostel facility. This fee will be kept aside as a fund for each child. There are regular health check - ups organised by a doctor to monitor the nutrition and health status of the children. They are accompanied to a private doctor or government hospital during any instances of illness.

IMPACT

- Children at the hostel have reported a high level of bonding with other children and have expressed an interest in continuing education in order to return and support their mothers.
- Children who were school drop outs are now attending school regularly due to regular follow up and supportive monitoring by the VAMP collective.
- Their interest towards the education has been increased. This has showing through their annual exam report cards.
- It has enabled them to come to terms with and understand their work done by their mothers with any stigma or discrimination.
- Responsibility of children has been taken by the hostel without stigma and discrimination, which has positively impacted the mental health of children and their mother.
- Child marriage of the girl child has been prevented and they have been supported to continue their education.
- Young adults are supporting through providing tuition for Lower Kindergarten to 5th standard tuition.

