

MITRA
2015-2016

Core Area – Education and Nutrition Support for Children of Sex Workers

Mitra- the collective of children of sex workers are leading initiatives to increase access to education and nutritional support for children. Currently, seven adult children of sex workers are part of the staff of SANGRAM and VAMPs targeted interventions. They are also working as community coordinators of the VAMP Institute a peer to peer training program for sex workers across South Asia. The adult children play a crucial role in motivating mothers to send their children to the hostel so that they can access adequate nutrition and receive support for their education. 28 children were admitted in the hostel run by VAMP for the academic year.

Additionally, five students who were in the hostel were taken out of regular school to provide more intensive schooling in preparation for 10th standard exams. A crucial achievement celebrated by all was that of Miss.Anjali Kanchknawar who obtained 97 % in 10thstandard, which was one of the highest in the State. The community celebrated the achievements of this young child. She thereafter expressed an interest in pursuing studies for medicine. SANGRAM has helped her gain admission in Mangalore in a college of her choice which will help her prepare intensive for medical entrance. The college and coaching fees, hostel and all related expenses will be borne by SANGRAM for a period of two years. This result has energised and motivated some of the women to send their children to the hostel.

AIDS CONFERENCE, DHAKA AND COMMUNITY SHOWCASES HIV PREVENTION WORK

MITRA collective used the 12th International Conference of AIDS in the Asia-Pacific [ICAAP12] in Dhaka to advocate for both sex worker rights and for the rights of populations marginalised due to HIV and as persons from sexually diverse communities.

Encouraging and empowering adult children of sex workers to collectivise and work for the upliftment of sex workers and their children - the Mitra experience.

ANNIVERSARIES, CELEBRATIONS AND COMMEMORATIONS, CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

A public event was held in Sangli attended by the district judge, district superintendent of police and the district collector. The recognition has enabled the transgender community get access to more social welfare schemes.