



## **MO Report 2004 Asian Youth Centre**

Asian Youth Centre (AYC) was established in 1984 as a registered society to help youth and children from the deprived sections develop to their full potential. Program interventions in these areas have generated awareness about the problems and also have created new options for the deprived and marginalized sections of society. AYC started work with Young Hotel Workers and enabled them to explore new avenues of creativity and economic empowerment. Many of them have independently started their own business and have become role models to other youth in the area.

Asian Youth Centre is for the promotion of regional federation of Youth, Developmental and peace groups and for the support of world federalism and inter Governmental efforts beginning with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

AYC is endeavoring to

- Provide dissemination of global Information to those interest groups which are unable to have their own access and
- Provide for a feeling of regional, Global Solidarity and to arrange meetings and exchange programs.

AYC has member organizations spread over Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Japan, Thailand and Hong Kong (Now in China) and there are more than 2001 member? Apart from this AYC has associate organizations from different states of India. The General Assembly of AYC is called in different Asian Countries. Regular workshops are organized on different themes, importantly on Human rights, Development, Democracy and Good Governance, New International order, urban poor etc. in association with various organizations and assistance from various international agencies.

### **Street and Working Children Program**

AYC as member of the Child Rights information Network with a network of over 100 child rights organization, strives to improve the lives of children through various Intervention measures. As part of the children's rights agenda, AYC is striving hard so that the children, especially from the deprived and marginalized sections of the society can access to services such as Shelter, Food, Health care, Education and justice and protection and identity. AYC with support from both National and State Governments, provides shelter to the needy children who are roofless, who are identified at 24 contact, points like busy Railway Stations, Bus stands etc.. They are provided with food and regular medical checkup and recreation facilities are also offered. Apart from this they are counseled by professional curriculums and depending upon their needs and aptitudes, AYC arranges for vocational training and also provides non formal education and at the end of each academic year enrollment camps are organized and then they are enrolled in the nearby schools and their basic educational needs such as notebooks, pencils, and uniforms are provided. Our coordinators regularly visit the schools, follow up their education, attendance and if need arises they visit their homes and meet the parents. Periodical training program on personality development, confidence building and legal rights are organized. At the end of each year these children are taken out for a picnic which they enjoy very much. As these children are more vulnerable and are abused sexually, AYC takes care to screen and protect the children from AIDS. It is because all the more important as we understand that 50,000 Indian adults are getting infected every year by AIDS and so they are given sex education to enable them to protect themselves from AIDS.

### **Education Program**

Non-Formal Education (NFE) classes are conducted regularly in all the centers. There are many centers open between 4-6 PM. The play way method attracts more children thereby maintaining the strength between 35-40.

Periodic school visits helps them to monitor the school going children enrolled by the staff.

### **Enrollment Camp**

A ten day (19 to 26 May 2003 ) enrolment camp organized in ICF school. There were twenty dropout children who participated in the program. All the parents promised to send their children to school and due to the repeated visits to the homes and motivation of die patents ten children joined school. The basic educational needs of the children as notebooks, pencils were provided and uniforms were provided.

Asian Youth Centre provides night shelter to the street and working children. The working children can come and have a meal, bath and sleep and can continue their regular work outside. They start' use this opportunity and provide counseling to the children to undergo vocational training/education. The shelter home for the street and working children was initiated by AYC in 1990 with assistance of the Government of India, Ministry of Social Welfare. On an average there will be 40 children in the shells home and they are highly mobile and it is very difficult to see a boy continually for a month. In the shelter home the staff/counselor provide adequate counseling on their basic necessities, medical, educational and emotional needs.

### **Training and Awareness Programs**

Training programs were conducted regularly based on the needs expressed by the children every month. Three awareness programs were conducted on the ill effects of alcohol &.. on drug addiction And also on HIV/AIDS Prevention.

In August letters about, the services of Asian Youth Centre (Street and working children and child line) prepared and distributed in person to the suburban train station masters from Perungalathur to Beach. Some of the station masters appreciated the service and placed the AYC letter in the office notice board and one station master took photo copies and pasted all over the station premises.

A school dropout survey was conducted in the service area and the parent were education in a friendly manner about the need and importance of education of their wards, hi the month of September a workshop of child labor was organized at ICF school. Twenty mothers and twenty school dropouts took part in the program, Resource persons from Central Board of Workers Education, conducted the program.

### **Repatriation (restoring the child to parents)**

The Counselor of Asian Youth Centre is available at the shelter homo to help the children ventilate and motivate them to take appropriate decision. Runaway children are motivated and given counseling to rejoin their parents. Children motivated to go m for vocational trainings of their choice arc referred to other agencies accordingly.

A survey among the working children in die Marina beach during the month of May organized. The objective of the survey is to plan and start a packaged rehabilitation program for the less fortunate children.

### **Medical Camp**

Medical camps have been organized on a regular basis at the shelter home and contact points catering to the health needs of the children. Those who required treatment were referred to the government hospital and a follow up was conducted. During the month of July a dental survey was conducted to know the dental health of Urn area population at Sathya Nagar and Kakkanji Nagar.

Blood test camps organized and 174 slum dwellers availed; the program

### **Vocational Training**

On request, 18 children were referred to for tinkering, car mechanism, and electrician training.

## **Job Placement**

28 children have been placed in hotels, tailoring shops, and painting shops on daily wages.

## **Campaigns/ Rallies**

It is a known fact that the street and working children are harassed and deprived of the rights enjoyed by the normal child. Therefore issues pertaining to the violations of their rights were highlighted in the rally organized by Madras NOO forum in Mahabalipuram. 140 children from our service area took part in the program. Rallies and campaign on protecting child rights will be given priority in Asian Youth Centre programs.

## **Education and Sports**

Non Formal Education is being conducted regularly in all the centers and children from contact points are motivated to join the center. In order to wean them away from trade, AYC has decided to divert their interest and get them engaged in sports activities. This group, which gets together for sports, will be motivated to take up vocational training, which will help them to earn, and lead a decent life.

## **Self Help Groups**

In its special focus on the Girl Child., AYC initiated a project in 1996 for the Girl Child in Malligaipoo Nagar, Adyar, Chennai. This project targeted children of domestic workers in Malhgaipoo Nagar with the aim of enabling them to complete their schooling, reduce dropout rates among them, thus weaning them away from being child domestic servants, increase enrollment and retention.

As an off-shoot of this intervention, women in the slum were also organized into self help groups and sangams. This has had a chain reaction in the community which not only made the women self-reliant and independent but also prevented discrimination of the girl child in the society. AYC is continuing its work with these children and other groups on the pavements and streets. In the past one year 18 Self Help Groups were formed and registered with Nehru Yuvek Kendra. Some of the groups start producing products such as phenol, washing powder, chili powder and one SHG in Velacherry is planning to take marriage contracts. The Chennai Corporation is willing to market the products of the SHG's and samples of the groups were already submitted to the Corporation.

Eight poor women of the slums were taken and referred with a spring making company in Adyar, Chennai. The company promised to provide them training with stipend, bus fare and after the successful completion of the training the young women will be given job work and they can do at their home environment and earn sizable income.

## **Child Link**

In the year 1999 AYC was selected as a supportive organization of Child Link: a hotline (1098) which helps the children in distress and also helps the children who are abused, mentally ill children, children addicts, children affected deserted by families, victims of flush trade. So far 1.15 children have benefited through this project. In one of the peculiar cases a school girl called and complained that the noon meal served in the school is poor in quality. AYC took the matter to the District Education authorities.

As part of this project AYC undertakes regular campaigns to create awareness about the CHILD LINE among the public through handbills, stickers and street plays.

## **Sticker Campaign**

As part of the publicity auto drivers in Saidapet were approached and educated on Child line activities. During this reporting period stickers were pasted on 545 auto rickshaws and a strong network with them and sound awareness created in the areas such as Vadapalani, Saligramam, Kodambakkam, Nungambakkam, Anna Nagar, T. Nagar and Saidapet.

Awareness Program: A three day Awareness campaign was conducted through Street Play in which some of the

staff and also children from our shelter home took part and this was conducted at different places in Saidaopet area.. Handbills on child line were also distributed to the public in T.Nagar railway station and bus atop. More than 10 public call offices were contracted to create awareness on child line and they were requested not to charge for 109S calls as they are toll free.

### **Training Programs Attended by Staff**

3<sup>rd</sup> week of October Mr. Devaprasad participated a Training for Trainers program in Sri Lanka.

During the second week of February Mr. Ncdunchehaii and Mr. K. Arulraj attended a training program by South Asia Small Arms Network in Bangalore.

A three day program between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2004 by child line was organized in Coimbatore and Mr. Chelladurai attended.

### **Major Events**

- 7/8/2003 The evaluation officer for the street an working children program visited AYC
- 15/11/2003 Children Day celebration was conducted at Loyola College Premises. Children from all NFE Centers participated including AYC staff. In this celebration children of Villivakam area won a first prize.
- 16/11/2003 Ms. Ramya from Concern India Foundation visited NFE classes and distributed crackers and ice cream to the children
- 1/12/2003 A rally from Anna Samadha to Gandhi Statue was organized for AIDS day. The members from Sathya Nagar, Kakanji Nagar, Chunthadripet, Villivakam, and Ayanavaram participated.
- 5/12/2003 HIV/AIDS meeting was conducted by Nehru Yuva Kendra
- 10/12/2003 Anti child abuse rally was held at Mahabalipuram. Nearly 57 members participated in the rally
- 17-21/1/2004 World Social Forum Held in Mumbai. Mr. Abraham Pradeep Kumar and Mr. Arulraj attended the program
- 6-8/3/2004 Twentieth year celebration of the AYC held in Chennai. About 60 participants from all over Asia took part in the three day program. There were about 800 youth that took part in the peace march organized on the first day of the program. There was a seminar on the role of youth in peace and peace issues attended by 5000 youth.

### **Conclusion**

At this juncture, the Asian Youth Center would like to thank the Founder Dr. James Arputharaj, Executive Committee and members of AYC for their continued moral support, guidance and contribution in running the organization. AYC records us sincere thanks to Konko Church of Izuo, Japan, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Directorate of Social Defense. (Thermal, Nehru Yuvak Kendra, Women Development Corporation Ltd, Child line foundation, Concern India Foundation, Rajasthan Youth Association and local donors.