

## **First Newsletter of Yuvak Pratishthan for the Month of July 2005**

Dear Friends,

All of you are aware that **Yuvak Pratishthan** is devoted in social, cultural and constructive causes for last 25 years. This year we are celebrating its 'Silver Jubilee Year'. We have been recognised and awarded an ISO 9001 : 2000 certificate this year.

On the eve of our Silver jubilee, we have launched a new campaign 'Cataract Free Mumbai' following our previous major health related projects as part of Prevention and Care & Support with all other projects for instance projects related to environment, sports, culture, patriotism, and of course, the 'Slum Development', which are our ambitious project. We are having direct involvement in number of activities in slums.

Time to time we have been organising public function to inform you all about our activities by publishing our annual reports, booklets, IEC materials and many more. Now, we are pleased to circulate our first monthly newsletter about our ongoing activities. One can also visit our website : 'www.ypmumbai.org' for all of our activities.

### **Highlights of a few of our activities are mentioned as below:**

**Jeevan Aasha** - We all need a healthy living but each one of us is not capable enough to afford a healthy lifestyle. The poor are one such people. They constantly encounter ill health and they are not capable enough to meet the expensive medication for the treatment of the same. For such people Yuvak Pratishthan initiated Jeevan Aasha. It financially helps patients with surgeries involving Heart, Kidney, Brain, Cancer & Chemotherapy. They are supported by forwarding their requirements to various trusts and getting it financially approved. Patients to be screened for CT-Scan & MRI are forwarded to institutions to be done at concessional rates. Jeevan Aasha provides monitory and subsidiary benefits to people and helps them with their medical expenses. To support the costly medical treatments and surgeries for the patient coming for below poverty line.

In this activity, we continuously receive gratitude from the patients and their families for supporting and saving their lives. We receive regular supports, co-operations, from political leaders, hospitals, doctors, social workers with our personal touch.

As our record we have given assistance to about

In the month of July,

**Jeevan Aasara** - The project was started on December 2001. We have been running 6 centres with govt. hospitals PPTCT Centres namely J.J. Hospital, Cama Hospital, Nair Hospital, Sion Hospital, Veer Savarkar Hospital and K.E.M. Hospital. Till date we have enrolled 250 children under this project for their care and support under which 178 children are in regular follow-up. 80 children have been provided mediclaim, 28 children have been provided Piggi Bank, and 44 children have been provided with educational support.

In the month of July, 6 new children have been enrolled which includes 5 female and 1 male child. 3 children has been sent to shelter home in 'Vatsalya Trust'.

We receive full support / cooperation from the centre staffs, counsellors, gynaec doctors, pediatric doctors.

In the month of July, 56 patients have visited and 27 have inquired about Jeevan Aasha. Out of which 9 patients have received financial help and rest of them are under process due to incomplete of proper documents. 19 general cases are handled directly with the hospitals and concerned departments and they have been received proper treatment and care. The following chart is showing the category of the patients / cases:

Heart	- 28
Kidney	- 7
Cancer	- 4
Brain	- 2
General	- 19
Enquiry	- 27

Apart from this, we have received more than 300 phone calls for enquiry / assistance during the month.

They all belonged to very poor family and was unable to bear the expenses. It is observed that most of the cases of Hearth disease are found between the age group of 01 to 15 year. (Approx. 8)

**Jeevan Aadhar** - In this project, till date 146 ladies have been enrolled. We are visiting them regularly for counseling. Workshops / vocational training programmes are organized from time to time. Yoga classes are also arranged for them in Nair and Sion Hospitals.

**Jeevan Amartya** - It is actually a research project under the name of "cause of death study among prime age adults in Mumbai". It is funded by National AIDS Control Society & commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2004. Initially we

had collected data of 5000 young deaths in North - East Mumbai, which revealed a shocking fact of 950 cases of death primarily due to HIV / AIDS & T.B. till date.

Again at a survey conducted in the month of July, it was noticed that in one month alone 70 cases of death resulted from HIV/AIDS in which 80% of the cases belong to low income group. It was further observed that the sex ratio in this category is 6:5 between the age group of 15-45 years. Only 5% are found graduate, while 10% are found passed SSC, rest of them are either uneducated or under 10<sup>th</sup>. 60% cases are found alcoholic.

We received full co-operation, support in gathering information from almost 75% of the families, private doctors of slum areas, social workers, while 25% families have not intended to give information about the death. It has been observed and experienced during the survey that the families of the victims are looking forward for constructive support from the society, from the social organisations, and from the government.

**CATARACT FREE MUMBAI - Netra Suraksha Abhiyaan** - To celebrate its silver jubilee year, Yuvak Pratishthan has launched 'CATARACT FREE MUMBAI - Netra Suraksha Abhiyaan' with a target of 400 Free Eye Check-up camps, 10000 Operations and 100000 Beneficiaries throughout Mumbai.

Till date, 145 camps covering 30,000 beneficiaries and first 1,300 Free Operations have been done. We are also having a massive eye awareness and check up campaign for children in schools. The Children camp is also inaugurated at the hands of Shri L.K. Advani in the month of May, 2005.

We receive regular support from the Bombay City Eye Institute & Research Centre by providing the ambulance equipped with all the latest check-up instruments. Apart from the general camps, we had been organized free camps in the Shraddhanand Mahila Ashram, Bandra Hindu Association, Arthor Road Jail and many more such organizations / institutions. It has been observed & experienced during the camp in Arthor Road Jail that there is a need of one more camp for the prisoners while the police personnel also demanded a camp especially for them / their department. We are now planning to organize such a camp. Bifocal glasses will also be distributed in the Jail.

**Courses in Slum Studies** - Courses in Slum Studies (CSS) is another example, practically useful and socially oriented educational programme conducted by Yuvak Pratishthan in association with Ramnarain Ruia College & All India Institute of Local Self Government. Certificate course and P.G. Diploma Course affiliated to Mumbai University is running successfully. The second batch of DSSD is commencing from 15<sup>th</sup> of August this year.

**Workshops under the Slum Studies Programme** - Workshops are being conducted every month with the joint collaboration of Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Council and Ruia College. This month it was planning to conduct the workshop on 28-29 of July, but due to heavy rainfall and disaster in Mumbai and Thane Districts, it was not possible to do so. In the last month's workshop about 150 women had participated from slum areas to discuss on the amenities /needs of the people in the slums, their rights and their participation in social work. We are planning to organize such type of workshops in New Bombay, Mira Bhayender, Ulhasnagar, Badlapur and Bhiwandi with the objective to bring the problems faced by these people to the notice of higher authorities, which shall then draft out action plans to solve the same.

**Slum Intervention Project** - As you are aware that we had launched a massive campaign 'AIDS Free Mumbai - AIDS Free Next Generation' four years back and organised major events, International / National conferences, Street Plays, and many more to make the people of Mumbai aware about HIV / AIDS. It is found that the HIV/AIDS Epidemic is already knocking the doors of general public. In continuation with this, we have started Slum Intervention Project in association with AVERT Society from Sept. 2002 with an objective to Reduce impact of STI/STD and HIV/AIDS in the community in Tulshetpada/ Khindipada (Bhandup Mumbai) where we have targeted a population of 47000 residents in these areas. We have also started condom promotion in this area.

The target group is Youth-Male, Female, +ve Women, Widows, Pregnant Women, General Children, Children of +ve families, Orphans, Senior Citizens, High Risk Group Construction Workers, Truckers, Doctors, Paramedical Staff & Chemists & Druggists

For the awareness of HIV/AIDS and STI/STD we have adopted various methods for counselling the people like 1 to 1 session, 1 to group, BCC Events for the Institutions, Marker Events during festivals and mass events. We have also started pre & post counselling services and referral services.

In the condom promotion we have adopted the outlet method in which we have promoting Traditional Outlet and Non-traditional outlet under which we have motivated Juice Center, Pan Bidi Shop, Mochi, Tailor, Barber, General Stores, Private Dispensaries for free distribution of condoms.

The following chart is showing the activities done during past three years.

<i>SR. NO.</i>	<i>NAME OF THE ACTIVITIES</i>	<i>SEP02- AUG03</i>	<i>SEP 03- AUG 04</i>	<i>SEP 04- APR 05</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
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1	One to One Session	7858	6289	4410	<b>18557</b>
2	One to Group Session	2367	5607	3181	<b>11155</b>
3	B.C.C. Event	40	51	53	<b>144</b>
4	Mass event / Marker	6	1	2	<b>9</b>
5	Condom distribution	19607	61903	48174	<b>129684</b>
6	Condom Demonstration	914	10760	8343	<b>20017</b>
7	Condom Redemonstration	348	6568	5763	<b>12679</b>
8	Priced Condom Sold by Social Marketing	127	1815	330	<b>2272</b>
9	Free Condom Outlet Established	51	16	11	<b>78</b>
10	STD Referred & Treatment	73	404	307	<b>784</b>
11	Partners Referred & Treatment	4	132	23	<b>159</b>
12	Number of people Counselling	95	449	312	<b>856</b>
13	Peer educators	37	35	102	<b>102</b>
14	Peer Educators Trained	15	65	65	<b>145</b>
15	Meeting with Secondary Group	490	882	1274	<b>2646</b>
16	Meeting with HCPs	126	267	467	<b>860</b>

During the studies and survey it is found that awareness is needed due to misconception among the people. Technical knowledge is required to the migrant & construction workers. General public are eager to know more. We receive public support in this project.

**Environmental Activities** - We have started 'Highway-Greenway' project for the beautification of 'Eastern Express Highway' from Suman Nagar, Kurla to Mulund. Under this project we have planted 12,000 trees/plants alongside the E.E. Highway. During the ongoing works on E.E. Highway, the Contractor have started destroying of the trees. We have made complaints to various departments / ministries. After several discussions with BMC, Tree Authority, MMRDA, Contractors, they have agreed to re-plant about 5300 trees/plants on the site.

But, we regret to state that the destruction of trees / plants on the eastern express highway is still continue. Last month also our president Dr. Kirit Somaiya, have taken some photographs of destructed trees alongside the EE Highway while crossing it. Immediately, we did correspondence with the

concerned departments, authorities, government. A visit of BMC Officials, Tree Authorities, media representatives, was also arranged in this month. Protective measurements have been taken in this regard by the authorities.

**Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)** - Yuvak Pratishthan has set up Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), which is sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, for Raigad District of Maharashtra, for the purpose of education and increasing occupational skills, capacity building and knowledge of trainees so as to increase vocational and employment potential of the people in rural areas. Establishment and Registration of new independent organizations as directed in the JSS scheme will pave a way for Educational and education related social work which is very necessary to uplift the downtrodden population. The Head Office is established in Alibag Taluka in Raigad District of Maharashtra.

### **Mumbai Flood Disaster**

We have started relief measures to help the victims of the recent heavy rains and flood in Mumbai, which causes numbers of houses have been destroyed / damaged. Thousands of affected people in the slums are striving for their daily livelihood in absence of necessary goods.

YP with all its capacities and efforts is trying to cope up with the conditions and helping out the people by the medium of providing kits including goods required for day to day necessities and all other possible things to make them maintain their daily life.

Medical Camps are conducted at about 33 places in the 28 Bastis identified for 10000 families. Grains is being distributed, Lungars started at various places.

There is an urgent requirement of 28 lakh Notebooks in the Municipal School of Mumbai. Yuvak Pratishthan has decided to collect 10 lakh Notebooks for the affected students.

We would like to appeal to the public of Mumbai, government and the social organisations to help, support, cooperate us in our activities for making our Mumbai Healthy & Wealthy.

We sincerely thanks, appreciate our co-workers for fulfilling their duties, extending support in these activities. We would like to say, **“you have not only served the people, you have served GOD”**.

**DHEERAJ SHRIVASTAVA**

*Newsletter Editor, Yuvak Pratishthan*