

Jyoti Program and Activity 2019-20 report



Name of the Organization: Stepping Stone Charitable Society

STEPPING STONE CHARITABLE SOCIETY, is a registered charitable society serving the poor for over 30 years as of date. Having Charity Commission Registration number: F11425 under the BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST ACT (registered on 4/8/1986) and Maharashtra State Reg. No.: Bom 404 1986 G.B.B.S.D. registered under the Society Registration Act XXI of 1860.

R. K. Khanna & Associates, Chartered Accountant, Mumbai is appointed to duly audit and certify the Accounts of every financial year.

Mumbai houses the richest of the rich and the poorest of the poor. Over 54 % of Mumbai's 22 million population lives in slums. Many of these slum dwellers cannot afford basic amenities like medical care, sanitation and a proper education for their children.

Stepping Stone Charitable Society has a proven track record of serving the underprivileged of Mumbai city in particular. At the same time we are aware that forging partnerships with likeminded people will enable us to provide extensive care and services where they are needed the most.

Jyoti Project -

Jyoti Kendra, Disha Kendra, Pragati Kendra, Widows help and Covid relief are activities and programs run under the Jyoti project of "Stepping Stones Charitable Society". The Kendras have been serving in 3 slums in Mumbai. So our Kendra feels called to get involved and make a difference in these lives. We are serving the underprivileged, the pitiable conditions of the people and particularly the children caused us to start the first Kendra in the slum of Lal Dongar, Chembur in 1996. completed almost 6 years of service in the Indira Nagar slum, Kalyan now and about 2 year in the community centre in Mahul, Chembur. For 6-8 years now we are helping elderly widows

Hundreds have benefited through the Kendra, as we have provided child care, medical assistance, initiatives in education and care to widows.

Jyoti project programs and activities –

- 1. Jyoti Kendra, Chembur**
- 2. Disha Kendra, Kalyan**
- 3. Pragati Kendra, Mahul Chembur**
- 4. Support to the Widows.**

1- Jyoti Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Chembur

An English Nursery. We have an English nursery with a desire to motivate parents to educate their children as well as they can. It is difficult for slum dwelling parents to cross the bridge of educating their children in English, but also to admit the children in other mainstream nurseries because of the high fees, social standing etc. Ours is the first English nursery in these slums which are in the community for the community.

We have been serving the Lal Dongar slum community for over a decade. 2019-20 was our **12th year** of our English nursery & this has been the biggest year for us in terms of our admissions in the Nursery . On an average we have served over 25-30 children per year which is quite a lot given the space & the team capacity we have. The children, parents & community continue to be blessed as these little babies start their education with the English Nursery & the younger ones having a safe & healthy environment in the Crèche. Over the years hundreds of children and parents have envisioned a better education for the children and work hard towards making that happen. Hundreds of children have passed through our English Nursery and have been admitted to English speaking schools.

With surveys showing over 53% children are abused and this happens mainly in slum communities, our mission is to protect and care for the children allowing the parents to be tension free as they go to work. The children are fed and cared for, as well as the parents are released to earn more hence improving the living conditions



Anvita- She was ill due to which she had become very weak and could not attend school daily. As kept encouraging her and she able to finished well

Vihang- He is a child with a few abnormalities, part of which is that he cannot speak properly. His parents are still trying to get admissions for him in a good school after nursery school and they got admission .

Rudra - He was an introvert and wouldn't relate to anyone. We have helped him come out of his shell.

Disha - She was a child who couldn't focus in class. She would hardly reply to any of the questions asked during class. We have kept encouraging her and she has become very attentive and answers all the questions. She is turning out to be one of the brighter ones.

We had helped 20-25 children during this academic year for nursery

B- Creche facility - We also serve in the area of creach from 11 plus years now and children from community who has been not cared sufficiently from the age group 10 months to 4 years who would otherwise be home alone or are left at the mercy of the neighbours, are cared for through the day while their parents earn their daily bread. The children play with the team of caretakers and also learn the alphabets, colours, animals etc. Parents are from different vocations such as house maids, daily wage labour, drivers etc. per month. Children are cared for and fed nutritious food. again from last years we have helped and been blessing blessing for numbers of parents and childrens and seen many stories that brings happiness in our hearts and satisfaction because of our work and how children been really grow in good environments and cared for

We have around 18-20 children for period of 2019-20

C- Counselling Due to massive challenges that these people face they are subject to a high level of physical, mental and emotional stress. The pressure to put food on the table, the husband-wife fights, alcoholism, domestic violence, living in debt, physical illnesses all these and more are challenges they face daily. Our team is available to provide a listening ear and that vital bit of encouragement and counsel.

1) **Haysabai Dhotre-** Her son Chandrakant used to drink and would not go to work. He was unwell and had a lump on his neck. His mother had helped and so we counselled and then the situation became better .

2) **Suman Bansode** - She had put her house, in the native place, on rent but she wouldn't receive rent on time. She asked for help and with our help she started to get her rent regularly. Also her blood pressure was high due to which she was not in the best of health. so we did helped her

3) **Padma Alte** - She had a hole in her heart. She would always be present at the prayer meetings. We prayed for her and now she is completely healed. She can now go to work and carry out her other duties.

4) **Soni Alte** - Her sister Anju got married and her husband was ill treating her. He used to consume alcohol and beat her. Soni asked for our help . As we came together and helped them her husband has changed and has begun to work as well.

D- KIDS CLUB - 20 children come to play carrom, ludo, puzzles, housie, listen to songs, stories. They also do drawing and colouring.



2. Disha Kendra, Kalyan

This slum where we are working is called Indira Naga, Sidharth nager and some other area which is located in a North Eastern suburb of Mumbai called Kalyan. This slum has an approximate population of 40,000 - 45000 people. This slum community mainly consists of different religions and cast people staying mostly muslims, buddhist and hindus

Here we have started work same like chembur jyoti kendra we have work here similar programs from 5 years



Here we have seen many families and childrens have benefited through our programs and activities in this year 2019-20

A- Disha English Nursery -



An English Nursery . We have an English nursery that started in 2014 and is almost 6 years old to motivate parents to educate their children as well as they can. It is also difficult for slum dwelling parents to cross the bridge of educating their children in English, but also to admit the children in other mainstream nurseries because of the high fees, social standing etc. here also our is the first English nursery in these slums which are in the community for the community.

We have been serving the Kalyan slum for over 5 years and have seen almost 18 plus admissions in the Nursery . Which is quite a lot given the space & the team capacity we have. The children, parents & community continue to be blessed as these little babies start their education with the English Nursery .

With surveys showing over 53% children are abused and this happens mainly in slum communities, our mission is to protect and care for the children allowing the parents to be tension free as they go to work. The children are fed and cared for, as well as the parents are released to earn more hence improving the living conditions

Ronit Gupta: He was very fearful, timid, shy and afraid of crowds, even if some guest or unknown person visited the Centre, he would talk so much that he was fearful of any noise in the community, vehicle or any music speaker. But as he stayed with us this year we have seen changes like he became active, now he is a little bold and not fearing like he used to.

Dhanashree : She is 3 year old and always sick. Even when she joined the Kendra, she was sick, her mother had a fall which resulted in her hand getting fractured. She also suffers from piles and malaria but as she stayed with us the last two years and as we cared for her every day she is much better & healthy. Her parents are also happy seeing her at the nursery. She stays at the Nursery thinking it is her own house.

Saurab - used to stammer while speaking but now after continually helping him he is much better in his speech.

We had 17-20 student benefited for this academic year 2019-20

B- Creche facility - We also serve in the area of creche from 6 plus years now and children from community who has been not cared sufficiently from the age group 10 months to 4 years who would otherwise be home alone or are left at the mercy of the neighbours, are cared for through the day while their parents earn their daily bread. and family's condition is very diverse and so our creche has helped them by keeping their children in our place and feeding and caring for them. The children play with the team of caretakers and also learn the alphabet, colours, animals etc. Parents are from different vocations such as house maids, daily wage labour, drivers etc. per month. Children are cared for and fed nutritious food. again from last years we have helped and been blessing blessing for numbers of parents and childrens and seen many stories that brings happiness in our hearts and satisfaction because of our work and how children been really grow in good environments and cared for

We had 20 plus children for period of 2019-20



C- Counselling Due to massive challenges that these slum people face they are subject to a high level of physical, mental and emotional stress. The pressure to put food on the table, the husband-wife fights, alcoholism, domestic violence, living in debt, physical illnesses all these and more are challenges they face daily. Our team is available to provide a listening ear and that vital bit of encouragement and counsel.

we have regular session of counselling happening during week time so some of parents whose children is with us in nursery and creche also been benefited of this counselling

many families we have counselled couples to have to take care of children hygiene and provided then some help

Around 70-80 ladies we done counselling whenever they are available and most of these are ladies very few are mens and we have helped also some couples to restore their relationship

D - Kids works -Kids work in kalyan disha has been really exciting stuff that happened from the last 6-7 years. many childrens we have n touch of them personally

Growing in slum is not been easy because of family background you came from and bad friendship you connect with and that was story of many growing kids

we are involved with these kids from 6-7 years and some have grown some and still in schools but its really helped them

we used to have weekly activity

on some festivals and summer we have celebration

many of our friends have volunteers for this work



We have helped around 70-75 kids and growing children during this year 2019-20 they have been benefited through our programs and activities

We have also distributed around 150 snacks packers during festival



3. **Pragati Kendra, Mahul Chembur** - Similar like Jyoti and Disha work we started Pragati kendra we called

last one year back

This settlement has come up in the last 4 years as part of a slum rehabilitation scheme run by the government. The approximate population would be 25,000-30,000 people as more people are placed here.

The Kendra started from 4th September with a crèche / play school. We have number of children and families has been benefited from last 1-2 years

- Pragati English Nursery -

An English Nursery . We have an English nursery that started almost one years back to motivate parents to educate their children as well as they can. It is also difficult for slum dwelling parents to cross the bridge of educating their children in English, but also to admit the children in other mainstream nurseries because of the high fees, social standing etc. here also our is the first English nursery in these slums which are in the community for the community.

We have been serving the Mahul SRA place for over one year and have seen almost 15 to 20 admissions in the Nursery . Which is quite a lot given the space & the team capacity we have. The children, parents & community continue to be blessed as these little babies start their education with the English Nursery & the younger ones having

a safe & healthy environment in the Crèche. children have passed through our English Nursery and have been admitted to English speaking schools.

Our mission is to protect and care for the children allowing the parents to be tension free as they go to work. The children are fed and cared for, as well as the parents are released to earn more hence improving the living conditions. Many parents have stories about how their child has blessed being in our nursery.



We helped around 15-18 children for this year for Nursery

B- Creche facility - We also serve in the area of creche in Mahul one year now and children from community who has been not cared sufficiently from the age group 10 months to 4 years who would otherwise be home alone or are left at the mercy of the neighbours, are cared for through the day while their parents earn their daily bread. and family's condition is very diverse and so our creche has helped them by keeping their children in our place and feeding and caring for them. The children play with the team of caretakers we have helped and been blessing blessing for numbers of parents and childrens and seen many stories that brings happiness in our hearts and satisfaction because of our work and how children been really grow in good environments and cared for



We had helped around 18-20 children for 12 months period for daily creche

C- Counselling - SRA people who used to live in slum areas but shifted to these SRA buildings there are several challenges these people face they are subject to a high level of physical, mental and emotional stress. The pressure to put food on the table, the husband-wife fights, alcoholism, domestic violence, living in debt, physical illnesses all these and more are challenges they face daily. Our team is available to provide a listening ear and that vital bit of encouragement and counsel.

many families we have counselled couples to have to take care of children hygiene and provided then some help



4. Support to the Widows. From last several years we have supporting elderly and needy widows by giving them monthly aids @1000

This is an emerging and real need in the time, having seen in many families their childrens have been left alone and not really looking after their old widows /mothers and relatives - some we have supported do not have children also. We and team used to regularly visit them and look after this elderly 20 widows every month



Name - Parvati
Age - 70
Work- No work
Health- Old age

Address- Mhada vashi naka



Name - Subhdra Pawar
Age - 72
Work- selling toiletries
Health - Old age ailments

Add:- Laldonger Chembur



Name - Drpati Shinde
Age - 73
Work- Vegetable saling
Health- Old age

Address - Ajij baug Chembur