

# Annual Report 2008 - 2009



## Salaam Baalak Trust

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**Children - Our trust**

These children are special

You only have to look at them to see it in their shining eyes.

Listen to their stories, and you hear it in their incredible resilience.

And consider this – how many children look at their life, say "This isn't good enough; I deserve better", and strike out for the city, the magnet of their dreams? Only one in a thousand.

We are privileged to work with these children, to show them that dreams must be nurtured, that their fate can be crafted by their own hearts and hands, and that the crowded, sometimes threatening world makes way for those with a firm resolve.

Sometimes, the stories of children we have worked with sound like fairy tales – a boy from the railway tracks selected to spend 6 months photographing the reconstruction of New York's World Trade Center. But it is not alchemy. The gold was always there, but buried by the grime of poverty, tarnished by the acid of mistrust and prejudice.

Over the years, we have learned to combat the prejudice, and replace it with displays of talent, whether in theater, dance, sports or academic study. If there is a magic in our work, it lies in the fact that the simplest of provisions – a safe place to sleep, a kind word at lunch – can transform injured souls into soaring lives.

Our work has expanded well beyond our early plans, driven by the courage and promise of these young people. And yet, we have only scratched the surface. Millions of dreams need our help to stay aloft. Be with us.

# **Genesis & Development**

## SALAAM BAALAK TRUST Genesis & Development

Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT) grew out of Nukkad – a street-based intervention program that began working with street children in and around New Delhi Railway Station in 1987. After the success of Mira Nair's film 'Salaam Bombay' in 1988, Salaam Baalak Trust was established to help promote such work, and took over Nukkad's activities a couple of years later.

Salaam Baalak Trust is dedicated to the care and protection of neglected street children, regardless of caste, color, creed or religion. We work in areas that are the raw, harsh underbelly of the city- on railway platform, at crowded bus stops, and in the bylanes around temples.

Our comprehensive services includes four long-term, full-care residential facilities, seven on-going contact point programs, and an emergency telephone help line for children in distress.

The mission of Salaam Baalak Trust is to provide a sensitive and caring environment to street and working children and children in distress. It seeks to provide such children a real childhood, and create an environment which allows them to explore and discover their skills and talent, and to realize their rights as citizens of this nation.

This 20 year young organization has already supported more than 50,000 children from all over the country. Our Children from early batches have returned to work with us and have joined the organization as employees. One group of SBT boys have taken our mission one step forward through *Lakshya-Badhte Kadam or Goal -Forward Step*. This is a peer-run community initiative that supports 100 street children with food, education and vocational training.

Children, who have left SBT and gone on to establish meaningful lives for themselves, embrace a wide variety of jobs and vocations. Our roots in the performing arts have enabled some to become highly regarded freelance photographers, dancers, choreographers, film makers, actors, puppeteers, and theatre directors. Others have been absorbed into steady jobs with companies such as Matrix, Café Coffee Day, Benetton, Pizza Hut, Meditech, DS Constructions (Toll Plaza), and Teamwork Productions.

# **Structural Components**

## Highlights of the year 2008 - 09

### STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF SALAAM BAALAK TRUST

We worked with a total of 2905 children during the year. (2075 of these children came to our shelters and contact points, 493 called us on the Chidline phone services, and our Chalta Firta School worked with 337 children.

Shelter provided	---	797 children
Restore back to families	---	414 children
Placed to other NGO	---	147 children
Children in formal school	---	200 children + 70 (chalta firta school)=270
Received non formal education	---	1914 children (1577+ 337 through CFS)
Received education through NIOS	---	65 children
Through DU	---	06 children
Multimedia course	---	03 children
Polytechnic	---	01 child
Admitted to vocational training course	---	146 children (indifferent trade – 50 Computer training – 96)
Placed in different jobs	---	30

Health intervention is a major requirement for the children we work with, and during the year, we conducted a total of 5347 medical checkups, resulting in:-

Ref. to hospital	---	404 + 61 (health post) = 465
Hospitalization	---	46
Operated	---	14
Tetanus injection	---	152
Medical investigation	---	223
STI/UTI case	---	19
Dog bite case	---	05
Eye check up	---	15
Dental check up	---	75
Long term treatment	---	21 (TB, injuries etc.)
HIV test	---	84 + 24 (health post) = 108
Ref. to mental health	---	129
Ref. to detox.	---	16

In addition to our regular medical schedule, we conducted 5 health camps, including special eye and dental health camps and a total of 77 Life Skills education sessions

## **CONTACT POINT**

As suggested by the name, contact points are our first meeting place with children who have 'landed' in the city, which is alien and often hostile to them. Contact points are located at railway stations and crowded places in the city, and are run as day care programs. The first objective is to send children back to their families. Where repatriation is not feasible, children are encouraged to join our shelter homes for full-time care. .

One important feature in most of our contact points is the peer education program, in which children who have a long association with SBT reach out to new arrivals, sharing their own stories, building trust, sharing information about SBT, and encouraging them to visit our contact points.

We currently have seven contact points. The main activities are:

- reaching out to new children
- counseling children to return to their families and helping trace them
- providing nutrition, clothing and toilet facilities
- education: non-formal, formal and open school
- comprehensive medical support
- counseling and referral to drug de-addiction programs
- recreational facilities: art and craft, music, out-door indoor games, local excursions, - and annual holidays in the hills
- creating awareness on child rights and adherence
- fostering a sense of communal harmony and an awareness of other religions, through observance of all major festivals
- creating an enabling environment for children through sensitization of stake holders
- networking with authorities such as law enforcement agencies, local civic bodies, and railways
- sensitization of adults who live on the streets with their children

### **GRP, New Delhi Railway Station**

Situated on the first floor of the General Railway Police (GRP) station at New Delhi Railway Station, this is the first contact point we established, and is still a base from which to reach out to children who have 'landed' recently at the station. Young adults who have graduated from SBT provide peer outreach, which is key to the success of this center. Our long-standing presence here has also helped us build an excellent rapport with railway officials, the array of law enforcement agencies (Delhi Police, General Railway Police, Railway Protection Force, and Central Reserve Police Force), as well as other key constituencies such as porters, rickshaw pullers and shop-keepers.

In 2008, this contact point worked with 370 children, all of whom received non-formal education. We were able to restore 74 children to their families, 9 children were admitted to formal schools.

In terms of health support, 682 children underwent medical checkups, resulting in:

- |                         |     |    |
|-------------------------|-----|----|
| • Ref. to hospital      | --- | 89 |
| • Hospitalization       | --- | 03 |
| • Medical investigation | --- | 40 |
| • Long term treatment   | --- | 01 |
| • HIV test              | --- | 35 |
| • Ref. to mental health | --- | 36 |
| • Ref. to detox         | --- | 02 |
- Centre coordinator Mr. Praveen Jha nominated as a member of Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) by DCP, Railways and crime.
  - 74 children restored back to families
  - 95 children referred to shelter home.

### **Platform, New Delhi Railway Station**

Our Platform contact point currently caters to about 25 children a day. Often serving as an informal contact point in the past, the Platform we use is near the Ajmeri Gate Car Park, and has become a regular place of work since the year 2000. This contact point focuses on children who have recently arrived at the station. Peer educators and staff members try to identify such children before they fall prey to antisocial elements active in the area. Some of the field work also reaches out to rag pickers and children from adjoining communities.

Last year, the Platform reached 171 children, all of whom received non-formal education. 18 children were restored to their families & 1 child placed to other NGOs.

Medical investigation	---	02
Long term treatment	---	01
HIV test	---	09

## **Kishalaya- Hanuman Mandir**

Kishalaya – a day-care center behind Hanuman Mandir near Connaught Place has been operational since December 1999. Most of the children who come to this centre have spent a fair amount of time in Delhi, and have migrated here from the railway station area. Our interventions here focus on behaviour modification, especially the drug use habits that many children have acquired. About 30 children receive support from this centre every day.

During the year, this contact point served a total of 136 children, of whom 30 were restored to their families. The number of children:

• Placed to other NGO	---	02 children
• Children in formal school	---	12 children
• Received non formal education	---	136 children
• Received education through NIOS	---	08 children
• Admitted to vocational training course	---	03 boys
• Placed in different jobs	---	04 boys

A total of 502 medical checkups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

• Ref. to hospital	---	34
• Hospitalization	---	06
• Operated	---	02
• Medical investigation	---	18
• HIV test	---	04
• Ref. to mental health	---	02
• Ref. to detox.	---	04

In addition –

- 2 Eye camps, 2 HIV/AIDS Awareness camp and one camp on drug issues organized at the centre
- Brought 4 children from Muskan after completion of their detoxification
- Program ' court of children' organized in regular basis.

## **Old Delhi Railway Station Contact Point**

Work began here in February 2007, as the first step in a plan to expand our services to children at Old Delhi Railway Station. By October 2007, we were allotted a permanent space. We cater to about 25 children every day - both girls and boys – providing them first aid, non-formal education, supplementary nutrition and life skills. This program also caters to rag pickers and children from nearby communities.

During the year, this contact point served a total of 377 children, of whom 38 were restored to their families.

The number of children who were:

- Placed to other NGO --- 01 child
- Children in formal school --- 07 children
- Received non formal education --- 165 children

A total of 264 medical checkups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

- Ref. to hospital --- 02
- Medical investigation --- 07
- HIV test --- 09

## **Saket Contact Point**

This is our newest contact point, and has extended our reach into South Delhi. We work near an electric sub-station behind PVR Anupam cinema at Saket. We cater to between 20 and 25 children each day, many of them from families living on nearby streets.

In its short existence, this contact point served a total of 224 children, 8 children were received formal school and 216 children received non-formal education inputs. A total of 199 medical checkups were conducted during the year, resulting in;

- Ref. to hospital --- 17
- Hep-B injection --- 03
- Ref. to mental health --- 01

In addition:

- Find the space for center renovated the space
- Children participated for the first time in play with 'Circle of animal lovers'
- Getting so many volunteers from South Delhi
- Dr. Taruna Coming for medical check up of the children regularly.

## **Prerna Centre**

Prerna is a unique intervention, with children who live with their families on the street but are in danger of missing out on a real childhood. The world of these children is limited to the prospective customers of the balloons, small toys or flowers they peddle. Many of them live with single parents, who are often drug-dependent.

Prerna offers such children food and nutrition, clothing and primary health services and recreation with their peers, while also trying to inculcate healthy habits, an interest in education and social awareness. Life skills education is an integral part of this initiative.

During the year, Prerna worked with 102 children, of whom 4 were placed to other NGOs & 7 children placed in different jobs. All the children received non-formal education, and a total of 501 medical check-ups were conducted, resulting in:

• Ref. to hospital	---	22
• Hospitalisation	---	01
• Medical investigation	---	39
• HIV test	---	22
• Ref. to detox	---	04

## **Akanksha- Railway Community outreach**

Akanksha is an outreach program in the slums near the New Delhi Railway Station, at State Entry Road. Started in 1993, Akanksha aims to prevent community children from becoming street children, primarily by facilitating formal education and providing alternate, remedial education. Over time, though, the center has evolved an integrated approach towards working with the community, especially in matters of health awareness, such as sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternal health, HIV/AIDs, tuberculosis, and other life threatening diseases. We also encourage savings, promote income generation, provide vocational training to the young, and organize recreational activities.\_

During the year, we worked with a total of 110 children here, of whom 80 were admitted to formal school, 07 received non-formal education, and 12 were enrolled in the Open School program. 7 young people joined vocational courses, and 2 were placed in jobs.

A total of 634 medical check-ups were conducted, resulting in:

• Ref. to hospital	---	41
• Hospitalisation	---	02
• Operated	---	01
• Medical investigation	---	01

- HIV test --- 04
- Ref. to mental health --- 19

Through the year, we organized 06 Life Skills sessions

In addition:

- 6 girls admitted to vocational training course
- First time boys and girls of Akanksha center participated in Annual play program
- 3 girls sent for detoxification
- 2 children rehabilitated through job placement

Short stay

235 children benefited through short stay centre. All the children got shelter at least for one night.

## **CHILDLINE**

CHILDLINE is a project of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India, in partnership with NGOs, UNICEF and Corporate. This project is nationally facilitated by Mumbai based CHILDLINE India Foundation. CHILDLINE is the first national 24 hours free emergency phone outreach service for children between the age group of 0 – 18 years in need of care & protection and linking them to long term services. It has a unique toll free no-1098, operational in 86 cities around the country.

During the year, Childline-SBT received 822 intervention calls, and took action on 361, leading to:

- 28 Repatriations
- 172 children being provided shelter by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)
- 91 referrals to other NGOs
- 56 hospital referrals
- 10 children were hospitalized
- 4 cases requiring special handling

## **Mobile School – Chalta Firta School**

This is an initiative conceived and supported by Government of NCT of Delhi and the UEE (Universalization of Elementary Education) Mission. The customized mobile van is equipped with the basic infrastructure of a classroom and a variety of teaching and learning aids. It focuses on children who are out of school and

ensures that they received non formal education and subsequently attend a regular school.

At each of its four stops – Kali Bari, Gurunanak Hospital area, I.T.O. and G.B.Road, the van spends two hours in activities such as television screening, games, non-formal education, group discussions, and counseling on health, hygiene, social skills, and child rights. At the end of each session, supplementary nutrition is also provided, and first aid made available. On Saturdays, our staff organized sessions on drug de-addiction, the problems of girl children, and HIV/AIDS.

Children registered for NFE classes at place during 2008 – 2009 are given below:

• Kalibari	---	73
• Gurunanak Hospital area	---	104
• I.T.O.	---	95
• G.B.Road	---	65

70 children admitted to regular schools

### **CITY WALK:**

We started a unique City Walk project which is guided by former street children from with the trust. The boys take people around the New Delhi Railway Station area sharing their personal experiences and giving people a feel for the life of street. Children and also how SBT is providing opportunities for these kids. They also show some of the impressive culture and history of the area.

The walk has proved popular with school children, corporate, students and tourists from all around the world and we take around 25 people on the walk each week. It has acted as a great platform for the children of SBT to develop their English and communication skills and 4 boys are currently involved in the project. This year 396 walks organized and 1812 people have gone through this walk.

### **Health Post:**

Health Post started at GRP, New Delhi Railway Station for all the street children need of medical support – especially screening for Tuberculosis, since tuberculosis rampant amongst the runaway kids.

• Total No. of new children in OPD	---	944
• Total Health services provided	---	2148* times
• Refer to hospital	---	61
• Investigation	---	197*
• Hospitalized	---	10
• Long term treatment	---	04
• HIV test	---	24

• STI	---	19
• Referred to detoxification	---	16*
• Dog bite case	---	05
• TT vaccination	---	152
• Eye checkup	---	15
• Dental checkup	---	75
• First aid	---	703

## FULL-CARE RESIDENTIAL CENTRES

Street children are extremely vulnerable to crime, disease, and sexual abuse. Because of their vulnerability, gang leaders are able to coerce them into drug-peddling and other organized crime. Aside from sending them home, the optimal solution for such children is a secure full-care shelter that is a refuge from the harshness of life on the street.

SBT has four full-care residential programs – Aasra, Apna Ghar and Armaan for boys, and Arushi for girls. Our seven contact points help to build awareness of our residential programs, as well as a sense of confidence in the organization. Some of the children who live in our shelters first learn of us when they call 1098, our Childline telephone number.

### All SBT shelter homes offer:

- **Security:** Having faced physical and psychological trauma, these children need to get a sense of stability. SBT aims to provide a safe place that these children can call their own. Our experience shows that providing shelter is the greatest milestone in rehabilitating and mainstreaming these lost children.
- **Education:** Great emphasis is laid on formal schooling i.e. admitting children to regular private or public schools. Apart from this, some children also go through non-formal schooling, and the National Open School system of education. Children are assisted in their homework and are provided extra tuition/remedial classes as and when needed
- **Clothing & Nutrition:** Proper school uniforms, shoes, summer and winter dress and other daily wear clothes are provided to the children. Emphasis is laid on the provision of a balanced diet and nutritious food. The food is supplied through SBT's central kitchen.
- **Health:** The Trust employs full-time doctors to ensure the health of the children. Individual health records are maintained for each child, and regular medical check-ups track their progress. When pathological tests or detailed investigation are required, these are conducted at appropriate clinics. If necessary, external doctors or specialists are consulted.
- **Sports:** We have a full time sports coordinator for SBT. The children are trained in various sports like cricket, soccer and squash. Children also

attend swimming and karate classes and participate in various local and inter-organizational games and sports competitions.

- **Recreation:** Boys and girls of the shelters learn dance and music from artists. Annual excursions and holiday tours are organized for children for at least 10 days to hill stations and tourist spots within the country. In addition, sight- seeing, outings, and movie-screenings are regular recreational activities for the children.
- **Life Skills:** Includes enhancing the decision-making ability of our children in their daily lives, as well as providing them with livelihood options through vocational training, education and job opportunities. The program is supervised by a full-time life skills coordinator within the organization, and implemented by counselors throughout SBT, who work with structured modules and guidelines that have evolved from our extensive experience in the field.
- **Income Generation:** SBT children are involved in candle-making, macramé and papier *mache* work. Our products all at highly visible outlets such as Fabindia and Dilli Haat. The profits received are put into the bank savings accounts of children responsible for their production.
- **Saving Schemes:** Children whose earnings are banked are encouraged to maintain their balances, and incentives are given to them to build up their savings.
- **Mental Health Programme:** A team of mental health professionals headed by a senior psychiatrist. A core group of counselors and a clinical psychologist deliberates on issues like mental stress, depression, anxiety, communication skills, and techniques of counseling. SBT children undergo intense 'one to one' counseling and also 'group counseling' from time to time.
- **Vocational Training:** Is provided to children above 15 years, according to their interest and aptitude. SBT children have been trained in a wide variety of trades, such as multi media animation, film editing, photography, desk top publishing, web & graphic design, care- giving, housekeeping, computer applications, puppetry, karate, theatre and macramé.
- **Skill development:** training in crafts, music, needlecraft, handicraft etc are given to the children.
- **Job Placement:** After providing vocational training, SBT also assists children in gaining suitable employment. The trust supports promising candidates by providing small loans in order to help establish them in small-scale businesses or jobs.

### **AASRA: a safe haven (shelter home under JJ Act 2000)**

Aasra, a 'safe haven' for street children, was established in the year 2004, to provide a safe space for boys between 5 and 13. It used to be called a 'night shelter, since a secure place in which to sleep was the most precious dream for children living on the street. With an in-house capacity of 50 children, Aasra is a recognized children's home which goes far beyond that basic need: we try to provide a nurturing and loving environment in which these boys can enjoy their childhood. All our boys are provided education (formal or non-formal), medical and health care and four meals a day. Since the children here are often very young, the primary task is to repatriate them to their families – which makes for a very mobile population.

This year 294 children provided shelter here, 196 were restored to their families, and 23 were placed with other NGOs. 294 children received non-formal education while they were here. A total of 217 medical check-ups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

• Ref. to hospital	---	30
• Hospitalization	---	04
• Operated	---	04
• Medical Investigation	---	19
• Ref. to mental health	---	22

During the year, 04 Life Skills Sessions were conducted.

In addition –

- First time annual tour organized to Dehradun and Masoorie with 50 children
- 2 children transferred to Apna Ghar for formal education

### **APNA GHAR: a home of achievers**

“Our Home” is a literal translation of Apna Ghar, which has been the launch pad for dozens of children at SBT, who have been inspired to achieve something unique in their lives. Established in 1999, this shelter houses boys between 12 and 18, and is designed to intensively support those who have been with us for a long time. Every boy in Apna Ghar is encouraged to complete the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, which requires continuous academic and psychological support. At the same time, these boys are being groomed to enter mainstream society, which can be extremely stressful for those emerging from life in an institution. This grooming requires counseling and intervention in the areas of rational and independent thought, behavior modification, and adolescent stress. Theater and the performing arts, which have always been part of our work, help all-round development of the children. Depending on their abilities, boys at Apna Ghar either move on to higher education, or are enrolled in career-oriented courses.

• Restore back to families	---	01
• Children in formal school	---	37
• Received education through NIOS	---	09
• Through DU	---	06
• Admitted to multimedia course	---	03
• Admitted to polytechnic	---	01
• Admitted to vocational training course	---	21
• Placed in different jobs	---	04

A total of 675 medical check-ups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

• Ref. to hospital	---	13
• Hospitalization	---	01
• Operated	---	01
• Medical Investigation	---	09
• Ref. to mental health	---	11
• Long term treatment	---	06

During the year, 10 Life Skills Sessions were conducted.

## ARMAAN- an aspiration

Armaan is the new face of the “Drop-In shelter”, which was started in the year 1997 for older street and working children. With an in-house computer learning facility, education and life skill activities, this shelter provides a new lease of life to its beneficiaries. A shelter for the boys in the age group of 8 to 16 year, the important features of this shelter is the vocational training and job placement opportunities. It also caters to the specific needs of adolescents and respects their longing for freedom, their need to experiment and their eagerness to be self dependant.

136 children were provided shelter at Armaan during the year, out of whom 22 were restored to their families, and 4 placed with other NGOs.

The number of children who:

- |                                   |     |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--|
| • Received non formal education   | --- | 90   |
| • Attended formal school          | --- | 24   |
| • Received education through NIOS | --- | 21   |
| • Received vocational training    | --- | 105 (computer job training 96<br>Other trades 9) |
| • Placed in jobs                  | --- | 02   |

A total of 225 medical check-ups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

- |                         |     |    |
|-------------------------|-----|----|
| • Ref. to hospital      | --- | 53 |
| • Hospitalization       | --- | 08 |
| • Operated              | --- | 02 |
| • Hepatitis B injection | --- | 22 |
| • Medical Investigation | --- | 60 |
| • Long term treatment   | --- | 03 |
| • HIV test              | --- | 01 |
| • Ref. to mental health | --- | 07 |

During the year, 40 Life Skills Sessions were conducted.

## ARUSHI- a ray of hope

Arushi- is a ray of hope for many girls who had little chance of a healthy, secure childhood. This is an initiative to offer 24 hour shelter to young girls living on the streets. Begun in 1999, with support from USAID and FHI, Arushi is now located in an airy and aesthetic new building in Gurgaon. Arushi shelters about 50 girls, ranging between 4 to 18 years. While SBT offers these girls all the educational and vocational inputs required for them to lead an independent adult life, we also educate them about their sexuality, reproductive health and rights.

75 girls were provided shelter at Arushi during the year, out of whom 13 were restored to their families, and 10 placed with other NGOs.

• Received non formal education	---	35
• Attended formal school	---	23
• Received education through NIOS	---	14
• Received special education	---	03
• Received vocational training	---	10
• Placed in jobs	---	06

A total of 489 medical check-ups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

• Ref. to hospital	---	73
• Hospitalization	---	01
• Medical Investigation	---	28
• Long term treatment	---	04
• Ref. to mental health	---	31

During the year, 17 Life Skills Sessions were conducted.

## **Our achievement**

- 414 children restored back to their families, 202 through CWC and 212 directly
- 30 children placed in various jobs in pizza hut, Ishara, City Walk, Toll Plaza, Comp.solution private Ltd. Etc.
- 5 children admitted in Delhi University in correspondence. 3 children got admission in multimedia course, 1 in polytechnic, and 1 in computer networking course
- 70 children admitted in schools through Chalta Firta bus program
- Vicky gone to New York to capture the reconstruction of World Trade Center through photo shoot with Mayback Foundation
- Rahul got.....
  - a) Bravery award of Rs.5000/- from Delhi Govt. on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2009
  - b) National Bravery award on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan.09
  - c) Award from Anti Terrorist Front
- Laxmi enacted in a documentary – Naya Bharat
  - \* 6 girls selected for job training at Pizza Hut
  - \* A girl initiated job with Ishara Puppet group
- Gaizal selected for Movie – “Road” and completed shooting at Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- 8 children worked as volunteer with Delhi Metro
- Girl child center shifted from rented space from to our own premises
- Celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration of SBT with play and dance show at Chinmaya, Lodhi Road and epic Center, Gurgaon for 3 days each. A lot of guest school children, visitors and dignitaries including Wife of Hon. Prime Minister of India graced the occasion. Around 5000 audience viewed the program.
- Annual Tour
  - \* 90 children from Boys shelter home to Kerala
  - \* 84 children from Contact points to Sattal
  - \* 40 children from SBT Shelter Home to Dehradun

- *Apna Ghar recognized as “Children Home” under JJ Act.*
- *Advance Computer Lab has been set up with the help of “Home of Hope”*
- *3 staffs from SBT recognized as “SJPU member” of Railway and Crime & Central Zone, Delhi.*
- *Senior staff of SBT took session with 35 Labor officer on “Child labor Protection” at HIPA, Gurgaon*
- *30 senior Police officers sensitized on “Mental Health Need of Street children and JJ Act” at HIPA, Gurgaon.*
- *30 senior Police officers sensitized on “Mental Health Need of Street children and JJ Act” at DCP office Daryaganj.*

# Programme Components

**EDUCATION:** Salaam Baalak Trust believes that “Education is the window to opportunity and the key to development”. Investment in the education of our children is the best and foremost means of empowering our children to become responsible citizens of the country. Education at SBT is not confined to school curriculum, but includes training in life skills, the performing arts, computer literacy, and exposure to tourist sights and the outdoors. We try to ensure basic literacy to every child that comes in, and for those children who stay with us, we aim for them to complete their 10<sup>th</sup> grade exams at the very least. Some of our children have done us proud by reaching university level.

We have a range of educational systems to cover the needs of every child we work with.

**I-National Open School (distance mode of learning)** The open school system is a blessing for street children, since many of them start schooling very late, and find it difficult to adapt to the formal and rigorous syllabus of school teaching.

Apart from Open Basic Education (OBE), we coordinate with NIOS for the students who appear for class 10 and 12 examinations. Special coaching classes are arranged at shelter homes for the students.

**II-Regular School Enrollment:** (Formal Education) There is no substitute to school education. It enables children to mix with other children from family-oriented backgrounds. Schooling also gives them a sense of routine and permanence in their lives. SBT children go either to local private schools situated in the vicinity of their shelters or to government schools.

**III-Elementary education (Non Formal Education):** Our elementary education program aims to stimulate an interest in education, as well as mainstream children into formal education. Virtually all children coming in contact with the trust are initially put into elementary education and later into other streams.

Our flexible non-formal education modules provide basic education and literacy, and cover child rights, computer literacy, general information, reading and recitation, health and hygiene, social skills, moral values, basic mathematics, and money management.

**IV-Bridge courses & remedial education:** Bridge education helps children to make up for breaks in their education .When the children flee their homes, education is a major casualty. The children find it difficult to get admission, especially in higher classes after a break. Our bridge courses enable them to cover the missed portions of the syllabus and make up for the lost time with intensive study and concise courses.

**V- Mobile School-Chalta Phirta School:** This is an initiative conceived and supported by Government of NCT of Delhi and the UEE (Universalization of Elementary Education) Mission. The customized mobile van is equipped with the basic infrastructure of a classroom and a variety of teaching and learning aids. It focuses on children who are out of school and ensures that they receive non formal education and subsequently attend a regular school.

At each of its four stops, the van spends two hours in activities such as television screening, games, non-formal education, group discussions, and counseling on health, hygiene, social skills, and child rights. At the end of each session, supplementary nutrition is also provided, and first aid made available. On Saturdays, our staff organizes sessions on drug de-addiction, the problems of girl children, and HIV/AIDS.

**HEALTH:** Health is invariably a neglected issue amongst street and working children. They live in unhygienic conditions, have poor nutrition, and cultivate unhealthy habits, all of which makes them vulnerable to various contagious diseases. For example, tuberculosis is a curable disease which is life-threatening if ignored, but those living on the street have little access to medical services and health information which we take for granted. Our health program includes a number of components which take care of the special needs of these children. These include an awareness of safe sexual practices, in the absence of which they are susceptible to STD's and HIV/AIDS; interventions to deal with substance abuse, and mental health programs.

SBT's medical program is headed by a medical coordinator, while two doctors regularly visit the centers, and one covers the health post at GRP, New Delhi Railway Station. At the same time, each of the centers has a point person for the health care of children, a medical social workers trained on regular basis to deal with various health issues.

The important health care activities are; first aid, screening and medical check-ups, medical investigation, referral for treatment and hospitalization, screening and treatment of STD/STIs, and voluntary tests for HIV/AIDS etc. We also support the long-term treatment needs of children through institutional linkages and referrals. SBT also organizes health awareness camps.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** If mental health problems amongst the children and adolescents of developing countries is found to be 10 to 20 %; if ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) study reveals it is 12.8 % in India, and WHO predicts a 50 % increase in prevalence by 2020, one can imagine the gravity of this issue amongst street children, who often live a traumatic life on the streets. The fact that they are not nurtured in a family environment probably increases their vulnerability to emotional and behavioral problems. It is against this backdrop that the mental health team in SBT was constituted in 2003.

The objectives of this program are: identification and management of mental health/ behavioral problems in children and adolescents; building awareness of mental health issues amongst all staff; developing protocols in key areas such as child abuse and protections, suicidal risks; dealing with learning difficulties and academic issues of children through special education program; and supporting staff through individual and group work.

The team operates through mental health assessment and interventions. The interventions include individual counseling, pharmacology, rehabilitation, psycho-education, and supportive work all tied through comprehensive case management. During the year, 505 children received psycho-social support, and 35 special cases went into referral.

**LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION:** Life skills education aims to develop the ability of an individual to deal with the variety of situations that life throws up. Such education helps in the overall development of children, including physical, mental and social well-being, building greater self-confidence in life.

The modules that we follow are developed jointly by Family Health International and HIV/AIDS Alliance, and include subjects like: knowing myself, communication, relationships, decision making, coping with emotions, growing up, preventing and living with HIV, substance abuse & reaching one's goals. These modules are facilitated through discussions, stories, drama, puppets and role play, songs and poems, indoor and outdoor games and question box.

The modules have been modified to suit the needs of street children. Last year, we conducted 77 life skills sessions, and we can now emphatically state that they have had a huge positive impact, which is tangible in increased self-awareness, less risky behavior, greater ability to deal with peer pressure, and a greater commitment to their future and their careers.

**HIV/AIDS PREVENTION & CARE PROGRAM:** Today HIV is the largest health and development problem in the lives of street children. Children live on streets without any support network and are a high-risk group for HIV due to –

- Lack of knowledge of sex, sexuality, HIV/AIDS, STDs and Condom usage.
- Lack of access to health services for treatment of STDs
- Un-protected sex practices including multiple partner sex, rape of young boys and girls and various forms of drug abuse.

SBT started addressing the HIV issues in the year 1997 with a small-scale prevention intervention program, and became a partner of the NGO AIDS Forum that ran the model counseling centre at Safdarjung Hospital. Today, the Trust has a comprehensive HIV/AIDS program of prevention, linked with care and support.

The safe space that we provide in our shelters is a key contributor to AIDS prevention; the other strategic components of the program are value education

(physical, mental & spiritual development), peer education, information, education and communication inputs; life skills education; and early diagnosis for STD/STIs.

**PERFORMING ARTS:** Creative and performing arts has always been one of the mainstays of our work with the children. For many children, performances provide an avenue to express themselves, and to gain self-confidence. Our work in this field covers a variety of disciplines, including street plays, theatre for the stage, dance and puppetry.

**Annual Play:** Over the years, SBT has built up a well-grounded reputation in terms of the quality and commitment of its theatre. Since 1997, the SBT theatre group has given a public performance every year. Aside from acting, the children play a significant role developing or adapting the script, designing costumes and producing masks.

**Street Plays:** The theatre group of Salaam Baalak Trust created and modified several street plays on issues like health and hygiene, re-forestation, child rights, HIV/AIDS, diabetes and drugs.

**SPORTS:** Sports are an integral part of the upbringing of the children at all SBT shelters and centers. Sports not only help the children keep fit and athletic, but also give them an opportunity to learn about group dynamics and teamwork. We have a coordinator for sports and games to organize various events for children, and to network with outside events and competitions.

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING:** Vocational training becomes a critical link for our children to enter the mainstream of society. In order to qualify for vocational training, SBT children have to complete 17 years, or clear their 10th standard board exam. Children choose a vocation according to their interests, but the assessment of a career counselor and staff is available to help them match their ability with the training they want to undergo.

In total, 146 children received vocational training during the year, including 96 children who went through computer literacy programs. The popular choices were Master Desk Top Publishing, web and graphic designing, multi-media animation, film editing, C++ software, care-giving, house-keeping, puppetry, karate, theatre, macramé and photography. Some of the institutes which provided training were VIMHANS, ITI- Push Road, MAAC, Arena Multi-media, Taj Mahal Hotel, Mansingh Road, Vivek Sahni's Design House, The Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust, YMCA & Ramakrishna Institute of Computers.

**JOB PLACEMENT & REHABILITATION:** Placement in jobs is the final act in the process of bringing children into the mainstream. However, we maintain contact

with these young adults to ensure that they find stability, and then growth, in their work. During the year, 30 children became independent as a result of finding jobs with organizations that include DS Constructions, Unitech International, Vivek Sahni's Design House, Pizza Hut Inc, Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust, Teamwork Films and Tata Sky.

### **ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL TOUR:**

SBT organized its much-awaited annual educational tours in June this year. Two groups from Boys shelter homes (90 children and staff) went to Kerala, 40 children & staff from SBT Shelter Home went to Dehradun and one group from contact points (84 children and staff) went to Sattal and Nainital.

These tours, which take the children away from the rough environs of the streets and the railway station, give them the space to think of a vastly different life. This time, set in nature, inspires and supports activities like the study of flora and fauna, creative writing, painting and drawing. Outdoor sports like trekking, swimming and boating open up new realms of fun.

**CELEBRATIONS:** In celebrating the spirit of childhood, celebration of festivals play an important role. At SBT, we celebrate every festival that interests our children, including Christmas, Holi, Diwali, Id, Lohri, and Children's Day, as also the national festivals of Independence Day and Republic Day. Special meals on all such occasions are greatly anticipated.

**REPATRIATION:** We believe that the "family is the best place for a child". When we come into contact with a child, we try to trace his/her family through a process carefully developed and implemented by professional counselors and trained staff members. Wherever possible, we ask the family members to take their children back from the trust; if this is not feasible, children are escorted home by the staff. When girls are being restored, female staff are engaged. During restoration of a child, the staff counsel and sensitize the family members to prevent the child from running away again. We also enlist the village head and school headmaster for support and supervision during the process of reintegrating the child into the community. This year, 414 children were restored to their families.

**VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:** Over a period of time, SBT has developed a structured program for better facilitation of the volunteers and interns in the organization. We receive volunteers from all over the world who come to spend time with the children in teaching a skill, or to participate in various activities. The areas in which volunteers participate are teaching english, training tour guides with communicative skill, marketing the Salaam city walk, documentation, teaching school subjects, non-formal education, general knowledge, computers, theatre activities and counseling.

The process of induction of a volunteer starts with a city walk, goes onto meeting with the volunteer coordinator, visiting project sites and finally imbedding into our activities. Each volunteer receives an information docket, with the details of projects, contact information, code of conduct and emergency procedures.

# **Collaborative projects**

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### **Samarth- A project on HIV Prevention funded by USAID/FHI:**

After the successful implementation of IMPACT project, in October 2006 Salaam Baalak Trust received the mandate to implement Samarth- a demonstration project aimed at strengthening the ability to effectively deal with HIV/AIDS. If successful, the project will reduce the risky behaviour of street and working children and youth in New Delhi, and reduce their vulnerability to HIV.

There are four strategic components of Samarth:

- 1: Undertake strategic behavior communication (SBC) initiatives to reduce the risk behavior of street youth and children, and create an enabling environment.
- 2: Address basic needs of street and working children through provision of child and youth friendly services.
- 3: Develop and implement a quality assurance and quality improvement system.
- Strategy 4: Serve as a learning site for other organizations working on HIV prevention among vulnerable youth and children.

### **Community Based Care & Support (CBCS), funded by MAMTA Health Institute for Mother & Child /Abbot**

The CBCS project is an extension of our prevention effort. The goal of the project is to enhance the quality of life of the children living in and around the New Delhi Railway Station, Paharganj and in our new areas of work, at Saket and Old Delhi Railway Station. It targets 1800 vulnerable children and CAAs (Children Affected by AIDS).

The important program components are: formation of children's support group; effective peer education; involvement of community stakeholders/inducers; strengthening linkages with service providers; capacity-building of project staff and Childline staff, and provision of ongoing support services such as non-formal education, nutrition, health, and vocational training to the children.

### **Salaam Award Project:**

The Salaam Award is a special program of the "Duke of Edinburgh" International Award Program for Young People in India, and began in 1999 with 20 young participants from SBT. There are three levels of the award: bronze, silver and gold. To gain an Award, the participant has to fulfill requirements in four sections: service, adventurous journey, skills and physical recreation. Participating in a residential project is mandatory to receive the gold award.

**Community Foundation for Children & Aging (CFCA):**

Care Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA) is a US based agency that facilitates a sponsorship program over 26 countries globally. It focuses on fostering and enhancing comprehensive and holistic development of children, and care for the Aging. The sponsorship program was initiated through Trees for Life in the year 1996.

It is a unique program which ties people with resources with people in need, and in the process, seeks to build bonds of love and friendship. For the street children who have been with us for long, and aspire to a better future, CFCA has played a vital role in their holistic development.

Our association with CFCA began with the sponsorship of 25 children, and has now benefited more 300 children from our shelters and from the community. Today, 34 of our children are sponsored by this program.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Ministry of Women & Child Development** Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India supports the shelter home run under the provision of JJ ACT 2000. This shelter runs under the supervision of Child Welfare Committee of Delhi. The Ministry also supports two projects, Aasra & Apna Ghar, through grants-in-aid. In addition, Childline-1098, the emergency helpline for children in distress in central Delhi has been funded by the ministry. We are thankful to the Government of India and Ministry of Women & Child Development.

### **Department of Women & Child Development/ Social Welfare:**

We are grateful to the Departments for providing recognition to our boys home under the JJ Act 2000 and rendering support for running of the same. We are also thankful for providing assistance through Grant-in-aid and various other schemes to accomplish our endeavors.

### **Youthreach**

Youth Reach has been playing an important role in providing technical support and skill enhancement. Youth Reach developed a module for English teaching through action research. This module is helping us significantly in streamlining our English program and enhancing the skill of teachers. Youth Reach also has provided us many dedicated volunteers, who have imparted skills and a positive outlook in the lives of children. We extend our gratitude to Youth Reach for its continuous support.

### **Charities Aid Foundation**

The mission of CAF has been to enhance the fund raising capacity of the voluntary organization committed to the cause of humanity. It also encourages individuals and organizations to donate and help generously to voluntary organization through its program "Give as you earn". It has supported SBT for the last seven years. We salute their efforts.

### **Give Foundation**

Salaam Baalak Trust has gained enormously from its association with Give Foundation in ways more than one. We sincerely acknowledge their endeavors.

### **Children's Hope Inc.**

We are grateful to Children's Hope Incorporated (USA) for extending support to the cause of street and working children. The Samtani family, through Children's Hope, has been a very generous donor and supported SBT for the past six years.

### **U & N Foundation**

We thank U & N Foundation for providing us food (dry ration) for hundreds of children at our various shelter homes.

### **List of Donars**

We are also thankful to number of individuals who have supported and encouraged us in our endeavors

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91	Rajeev Bhatnagar	113	Siddarth Rathi

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