

Annual Report

2007-08



Salaam Baalak Trust

2nd Floor, DDA Community Centre, Gali Chandiwali, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055 Tel:
91-23589305, 23584164 Email: salaambt@vsnl.com Web: www.salaambaalaktrust.com

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SALAAM BAALAK TRUST

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.

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-Badhate 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, Miditech, DS Constructions (Toll Plaza), and Teamwork Productions.

Overview of the year 2007-8

Every year, we are able to send more children to school.

And every year, we are able to help children train in the vocation of their choice.

These two forms of empowerment are the foundation of the future of our children.

Other aspects of our work, too, have become regular features – a display of dramatic talent at the annual SBT play; girls and boys trekking into valleys high in the Himalaya, and summer tours to the Sat-Tal-Nainital region of Kumaon, and the Mussourie region of Garhwal.

In addition, the year 2007-08 bore many gifts that serve to strengthen our commitment to our mission and commitment:

- One of the most significant has been the completion of Arushi, a center for girls in Sector 21 of Gurgaon a thoughtfully designed green building that can house 60 girls in comfort and security.

- Our educational initiatives have expanded to reach out to children living with their families in communities in central Delhi. *Chalta Phirta School*, a mobile school van leased by the Government of National Capital Territories of Delhi, enables Salaam Baalak Trust to participate in the Universal Elementary Education Program. The mobile school route halts at four communities - Kalibari-Gole Dak Khana, ITO, GB Road and Guru Nanak Eye Hospital. The program targets children between 6 and 14 years who have never been to school, and aims to stimulate their interest in education, sensitise their parents, and eventually enroll them in school.

- Vicky Roy and Haran Kumar have both been in the public eye for their passionate photography. Both were invited by Indian Express to exhibit their work at Express Tower, Mumbai. Earlier in the year, Vicky's work was exhibited along with that of four other photographers at the prestigious Hansard Art Gallery, Southampton University, UK. Their work was showcased in South Africa traveling to Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg at prestigious public galleries. Vicky has been selected by the Maybach Foundation to be one of four photographers chosen world wide to record the re building of the World Trade Center.

- Many of our former volunteers have become our ambassadors. One such group runs the One-Percent Scheme, which organized a charity event at Nehru Centre in London. The program screened the film, *Salaam Bombay* and exhibited photographs by Vicky Roy.

- *Lakshya –Badhte Kadam*, a program set up by former children of Salaam Baalak Trust, received a grant of Rs.9 lakh from the Embassy of Denmark in India. This grant, which supports education and vocational training initiatives, requires SBT to act as technical advisor to the project.

- Our new contact points at Saket and Old Delhi Railway Station have been strengthened, enabling us to multiply our outreach to children.

- We have taken on a project that provides cycle rickshaws to those who are looking for self-employment, and commit to the education of their next generation.

Highlights of the year 2007/8

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

We worked with a total of 3290 children during the year.

We have three primary means of contact: - 2161 of these children came to our shelters and contact points, 640 called us on the Chidline phone service, and our Chalta Phirta School worked with 489 children.

551 children were restored to their families, 153 were referred to or placed with other NGOs, and 930 were sheltered by Salaam Baalak Trust.

The number of children who:

- received non formal education	2484
- attended formal school	184
- received education through NIOS	72
<i>Basic Education</i>	37
<i>10th and 12th</i>	35
- attended Delhi University	3
- received vocational training	104
<i>Computer job training</i>	41
<i>Computer literacy</i>	34
<i>Other trades</i>	29
- were employed	38

Health intervention is a major requirement for the children we work with, and during the year, we conducted a total of 3678 medical checkups, resulting in:-

-hospital referrals	422
- hospital stays	44
- surgeries	6
- medical investigations	182
- voluntary HIV tests/counseling	146
- referrals to mental health program	10
- eye check up and care	54
- long-term TB treatment	24
- mental health treatment	113
- referral to detoxification	21

In addition to our regular medical schedule, we conducted 4 health camps, including special eye and dental health camps and a total of 250 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 2007, this contact point worked with 381 children, all of whom received non-formal education. We were able to restore 51 children to their families, 7 children were admitted to formal schools, and 8 were placed in jobs.

In terms of health support, 275 children underwent medical checkups, resulting in:

- hospital referrals 53
- medical investigations 23
- voluntary HIV tests 25
- referrals to mental health program 10

In addition:

- The center referred three very young children to SOS Children's Village, Udayan and Don Bosco.
- Three children received artificial limbs at Mahavir Vikalang Samiti, New Delhi
- Two children received long-term tuberculosis medication at DOT centre
- Five health camps were organized at the centre, including two special camps for dental and eye care
- Five excursions were organized - to Delhi Zoo, India Gate, Indraprastha Park, Purana Kila and Doll Museum
- 30 children and 4 staff went to Dehradun for their annual holiday

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 179 children, all of whom received non-formal education. 15 children were restored to their families.

100 children underwent medical checkups, resulting in:

- hospital referrals 17
- medical investigations 7
- voluntary HIV tests 12
- referrals to mental health program 2
- long-term treatment 1

Highlights of the year's work include:

- Allocation of a permanent spot on the Platform for our work.
- A volunteer program ran jointly with the Railway Protection Force (RPF), to help passengers' board trains at New Delhi railway station
- Sensitization of children of the trust who have molded to work as peer educators

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 201 children, of whom 57 were restored to their families. The number of children:

- referred for shelter	36
- admitted to formal school	12
- receiving non formal education	189
- receiving education through NIOS	06
- provided vocational training	13
- placed in jobs	6

A total of 450 medical checkups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

- hospital referrals	50
- medical investigations	16
- voluntary HIV tests	56
- hepatitis B inoculations	16

In addition,

- 21 tours were organized to Delhi locations such as India Gate, the Zoo, Children's Park, Lotus temple, Rajghat etc.
- 19 children went on a summer holiday to Dehradun and Mussourie
- 18 children were admitted to detoxification programs, and many were successfully rehabilitated
- 32 Life Skills sessions were organized at the center.

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:

-provided shelter	55
-receive non formal education	377
- receive education through NIOS	06
- provided vocational training	13
- placed in jobs	6

A total of 75 medical checkups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

- hepatitis B injections	13
- long term treatment	1
- voluntary HIV tests	8

In the relatively short time here, we were able to conduct 6 Life Skills sessions, and have already been able to build a good rapport with various stake holders at the railway station

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 198 children, of whom 2 were restored to their families, and all of whom received non-formal education inputs. A total of 147 medical checkups were conducted during the year, resulting in 7 hospital referrals. In addition, we conducted a total of 19 Life Skills sessions.

Our work here is just beginning. We are working towards finding a permanent space to work out of here.

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 89 children, of whom 4 were then given long-term shelter, at Arushi- our girl child shelter. All the children received non-formal education, and a total of 198 medical check-ups were conducted, resulting in:

- hospital referrals	19
- medical investigations	24
- voluntary HIV tests	12
- mental health referrals	10
- admission to drug de-addiction	3

12 children from Prerna were taken to a summer holiday in the Dehradun-Mussourie area.

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 101 children here, of whom 62 were admitted to formal school, 23 received non-formal education, and 10 were enrolled in the Open School program. 2 young people joined vocational courses, and 3 were helped to find jobs.

A total of 348 medical check-ups were conducted, resulting in:

- hospital referrals	11
- voluntary HIV tests	5
- long-term treatment	1

Through the year, we organized 28 Life Skills sessions.

CHILDLINE

A lost child, an abused minor, a victim of forced labour or exploitation – these situations are part of the daily landscape in our cities. Regardless of the situation, Childline aims to provide succour via a single telephone call.

Childline is a national telephone helpline supported by the Ministry of Women & Child Development to support children in distress. Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT) implements this project in the central zone of Delhi, covering the three most important transit points: New Delhi Railway Station, Old Delhi Railway Station and Inter State Bus Terminus; as well as the central shopping area of Connaught Place. SBT handles the largest number of calls to the service, and has received a total of over 56000 calls since Childline was launched in 1998. The service provides immediate assistance to callers, including medical assistance and emotional counseling, and also aims to integrate the children with the longer-term objectives of Salaam Baalak Trust.

Though many of the calls to Childline are crank calls and silent calls, we take each of them seriously, and use every call to spread awareness of the service. This is especially important because many children need to be reassured that the service will really help them, before they reveal their identity and seek help.

During the year, Childline-SBT received 640 intervention calls, and took action on 553, leading to:

- 114 Repatriations
- 188 children being provided shelter by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)
- 67 referrals to other NGOs
- 21 hospital referrals
- 5 cases requiring special handling

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.

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 10th 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.

During the year, Apna Ghar sheltered 61 children. The number educated:

- in formal school	40
- educated through NIOS	17
- admitted to Delhi University	3
- admitted to vocational training	9
- placed in jobs	5

A total of 512 medical check-ups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

- hospital referrals	110
- medical investigations	41
- surgery	1
- hospitalization	1
- mental health referrals	9
- long-term treatment (TB)	8

During the year 11 Life Skills Sessions were conducted.

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 95% of our children cleared their annual school exams
- Our annual play "Baje Dhindora" was a grand success.
- 37 children who had graduated from the center participated in our annual get-together
- The annual educational tour to Sat-Tal in Uttarakhand was a grand success.
- We collaborated with Chronic Foundation to organize street plays on various health issues.

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 326 children provided shelter here, 177 were restored to their families, and 45 were placed with other NGOs. 304 children received non-formal education while they were here, and 22 were admitted to formal school.

A total of 299 medical check-ups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

- hospital referrals	27
- medical investigations	15
- hospitalization	13
- mental health referrals	15
- long-term treatment (TB)	8

During the year, 29 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.

241 children were provided shelter at Armaan during the year, out of whom 62 were restored to their families, and 9 placed with other NGOs.

The number of children who:

- received non formal education	196
- attended formal school	17
- received education through NIOS	25
<i>Basic Education</i>	21
<i>10th and 12th</i>	4
- received vocational training	79
<i>Computer job training</i>	41
<i>Computer literacy</i>	34
<i>Other trades</i>	4
- were employed	15

A total of 270 medical check-ups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

- hospital referrals	58
- medical investigations	14
- hospitalization	12
- surgeries	4
- mental health referrals	7
- long-term treatment (TB)	1

During the year, 33 Life Skills Sessions were conducted.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Armaan organized Inter Centre Carrom competitions for Salaam Baaalak Trust
- Raju Thapa played in the National Football Championships in Uttarakhand and Chandigarh
- In the “Goal of Life” football tournament, Sumeet won the best player title and was the highest scorer
- The Armaan Football team participated in the Kutumb Foundation Tournament

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.

96 girls were provided shelter at Arushi during the year, out of whom 35 were restored to their families, and 7 placed with other NGOs.

The number of children who:

- received non formal education	59
- attended formal school	24
- received education through NIOS	14
<i>Basic Education</i>	7
<i>10th and 12th</i>	7
- received vocational training	13
- were employed	5

A total of 570 medical check-ups were conducted during the year, resulting in:

- hospital referrals	49
- medical investigations	14
- hospitalization	7
- surgery	1
- mental health referrals	63
- long-term treatment (TB and heart ailments)	1

During the year, 47 Life Skills Sessions were conducted.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 24 children attended a formal English medium school and all of them qualified in their annual examinations, with an average of 90 % marks
- 5 girls found meaningful jobs – in puppetry with Ishara Puppet Theatre, as independent care-givers, in an export house, and as a receptionist at VIMHANS
- When we moved to Gurgaon, Anantam School stepped forward to admit our girls, facilitated their transfer from the earlier school, and organized special summer coaching to help them cope with the change in syllabus. Most generously, the school also provided transportation during this period.

Programmes

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 10th 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.

Open Basic Education (OBE) is a distance mode of learning by NOS that covers up to standard 8. The levels A, B, and C are equivalent to grade 3, 5 and 8 respectively. Interestingly, Salaam Baalak Trust is one of the agencies accredited to prepare school curricula, teach, as well as certify students for these levels. Currently, 65 SBT children are enrolled in OBE, 33 appeared for their exams, and all of them have qualified.

Apart from OBE, we coordinate with NOS for the students who appear for class 10 and 12 examinations. Special coaching classes are arranged at shelter homes for these students. This year 19 children enrolled in NOS 10. However, all of them chose to appear for only three subjects out of six, and all of them have cleared the subjects they chose. Apart from this group, four children from the previous year cleared class 10 exam.

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. This year 162 children went to regular 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.

Other developments in education:

- SBT has a centralized education system, through which any child's educational progress can be assessed at any point in time. An education committee has been constituted to steer the Trust's program, and to ensure a streamlined approach in coordinating educational activities of the different SBT centers.
- Salaam Baalak Trust hired Learning Inq. to conduct a study of the capability of our teachers in addressing educational requirements and coping with change. Based on this study, the consultants organized a three day in-house workshop for teaching methodology and pedagogy.
- Mrs. Bhama, an educationist who assessed the education program, emphasized the need for an English teaching module. This has materialized with the help of Youthreach; five teachers have been trained to use this module.
- Ten teachers participated in a workshop on teaching methodology for street children at Amity School.
- There is a steep increase in the success rate of children who appeared for their examinations. 98 % children have qualified with an average of 60% marks.

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.

In a study conducted by SBT at contact points this year, 70% of the children reported having consumed drugs at least once – substances ranging from paper whitener to *charas*, *ganja* and smack. An increasing proportion of these children are addicted to drugs; therefore, de-addiction is one of the major components of the health program. Though in-house counseling is the first step in overcoming addiction, we also seek specialized medical attention and de-addiction treatment from reputed centers.

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 250 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.

We shelter 22 children affected by AIDS across our full-care centers. Creating an enabling environment for such children is one of the most critical areas of our work.

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.

This year's production was "Baaje Dhindora" - a musical satire directed by Rajiv Singh Gaur. Pankaj Kumar, one of the senior boys, assisted Rajiv in directing and producing the play. Written in the 'Nautanki' folk form, which uses whacky characters, song and dance, the play shows how powerful and corrupt people exploit the poor and innocent.

The play was organized at Sri Satya Sai International Centre auditorium from 12th-15th November 2007. 2200 attended the five shows, including children from public schools such as Green Field Public School, Sant Nirankari School, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, and Delhi Police Public School. The chief guests for individual shows included Rina Ray- Education Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Tarun Tejpal- author, and M.H. Dalmia- Industrialist.

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.

In collaboration with Chronic Foundation, children developed a new play "Ye Sach Hai, Jaan Lo" on diabetes, under the leadership of Pankaj Gupta- an Apnagar boy who is now a theatre teacher. Five shows were staged at Salwan Public School, Rajender Nagar and Dilli Haat.

A new play, "Jite Hain Shaan Se", was developed around HIV/AIDS, dealing with drugs and street children, with a focus on HIV prevention. The play was performed for the high-risk and highly vulnerable groups living near railway stations. Five shows were staged during the year.

"Main Bhi Ek Bachha Hun", one of the popular street plays of Salaam Baalak Trust, deals with child rights, and was staged eight times, at different venues like Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Pathways International School, and the US Embassy.

The satirical play on health and hygiene, "Yamlok Mein Halchal", was staged twice for two sets of audiences in Delhi.

"Ek Nayi Shuruat", which carries a message of hope for drug dependents, was performed three times.

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.

- 40 children from Apnagar and Armaan go to play football regularly at India Gate. The football players have played about 10 matches and won most of them.
- Cricket is a favorite feature of our sports program. 28 children from Apna ghar and 26 children from Armaan regularly play at popular Delhi venues such as India Gate, Aram Bagh and Bhuli Bhatiyari.
- Shivalak has been a regular student of kick-boxing, at Karnail Singh Stadium and Chhatrasal Stadium.
- Sudhir, an SBT graduate and karate champion conducts karate classes at Old Delhi, Saket, Kishalaya and Aasra contact points.
- The Annual sports day of Salaam Baalak Trust featured 100, 200, and 100 X 4 meter track events, sack race, spoon race, three-leg race, a football match, and a cricket match. Sudhir and Shivalak demonstrated their abilities in karate and kick-boxing respectively.
- Soccer players from Liverpool Club organized a day-long coaching camp for our children at India gate.
- 40 of our children watched the final match of the ONGC Nehru Cup football tournament. India won the match and clinched the title
- Raju Thapa, the football star of SBT, was selected by the Shimla team to play the under-15s in England, which led him to be featured on DD News and NDTV. He then selected for Delhi's under-17 team, which played in the National Open Football Tournament in Uttarakhand and Chandigarh.
- Shivalak won the Gold in the South Asia karate championship held in Allahabad. He also participated in the National kick-boxing and in the North Indian karate championship held in Delhi, where he won a Gold Medal. In addition, he played in the third National karate championship organized at Sholapur, Maharashtra, where he won a Gold medal and received his second Dan Black Belt.
- 14 boys participated in the Goal of Life football tournament. Sumit from Armaan won the 'Best Player' title of the tournament.
- 5 children participated in the Delhi squash tournament at Kendriya Vidyalay School

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 16 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, 104 children received vocational training during the year, including 34 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, 43 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 shelter homes (110 children and 15 staff), and contact points (52 children and 7 staff) went to Sat-Taal-Nainital and Mussourie-Dehradun in Uttarakhand.

One group of 110 boys and girls and 15 staff from shelter homes spent 10 days in the Sat Tal - Nainital area. Based at a campsite in the Sat Tal estate, they visited Garud Tal, Nainital, Naukuchia Taal, Bhim Tal, Golu mandir, and cave gardens.

Another group, of 52 children and 7 staff from our contact points camped at Karampur-Dehradun and visited Mussoorie and other places of interest like Kempty Falls, Sahasradhara River, Tapkeswar Temple and Tibetan Temple.

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. At Akanksha, community members are part of the celebration.

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, 551 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. This year we hosted 86 volunteers from 13 countries. Among them were 31 Indians, 22 from the USA, 8 from the UK, 6 from Australia, 5 from Canada, 3 from Ireland, 2 each from France and Japan, and 1 each from Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Norway and Italy.

SALAAM CITY WALK: Salaam Baalak Trust has developed an exciting city walk through the enchanting streets of the inner city of Paharganj and the New Delhi Railway Station area. The walk also includes the living and built heritage of the area, taking you down the back streets to find hidden cultural practices and gives you a feel of life of yesteryears. This walk is the brain child of a former British volunteer, John Thompson, who trained two boys as guides and launched the program.

Nobody knows Delhi's streets better than the young people from the Trust, who are fully trained as guides. The objective of the tour is to sensitize people and uniquely engage them in the lives of children in distress. The walk guides are former street kids who share the journey of their own lives. Thus, the walk provides an opportunity for the young people to improve their communication and speaking skills. The proceeds go directly to the Trust, and we acknowledge every contribution that we receive. Last year, 225 people participated in the walk.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

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.

In June 2007, we organized treks in the mountainous regions of Uttarakhand state for those aspiring to the Salaam Awards. A total of 44 candidates and 7 staff took part in treks along the Sunderdunga glacier trail in the Kumaon region, while another group of 11 Bronze

awardees trekked near Mussourie in the same state. Currently we have 19 children at the bronze level, 23 at the silver level, and nine children at the gold level.

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, 55 of our children are sponsored by this program.

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.

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 six 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 five years.

U & N Foundation

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

Our Facilities

Apnagar- Shelter for boys
2nd Floor, DDA Community
Centre, Gali No-11, Multani Danda
Paharganj, New Delhi-110055

Aasra- Shelter for boys
2nd Floor DDA Community Centre,
Chandiwali Gali Paharganj,
New Delhi-110055,

Drop-In – shelter -Shelter for boys
1st Floor, DDA Community Centre
Gali Telmill, Ram Nagar, Paharganj
New Delhi-110055

Arushi – Shelter for girls
Plot No- No.819, Pocket-E
Sector-21, Gurgaon, Haryana

Kishalaya
Day Care Contact point
Behind Hanuman Temple,
Near Regal Cinema, Connaught Place
New Delhi-110001

GRP/Platform –
Contact Point
1st Floor, GRP Station
Near VIP Car Parking, Paharganj side
New Delhi Railway Station
New Delhi-110001

Akanksha
T19, State Entry Road, Near Connaught Place
New Delhi Railway Station
New Delhi-110001

Prerna
Tourist Platform No.1
State entry Road
New Delhi Railway Station
New Delhi-110001

Saket Contact Point

Near electric substation,
Behind PVR-Anupam Cinema,
Saket (South Delhi)

Childline

H.N.1152, 1st Floor, Nayakwali Gali,
Paharganj Main Bazar, Paharganj,
New Delhi-110055

Chalta Firta School (Mobile School)

Spot- 1: Kalibari, Near Gole Dak Khana
New Delhi-110001

Spot- 2: Community, behind Guru Nanak Eye
Hospital, New Delhi-110002

Spot- 3: Community behind WHO office
ITO, New Delhi-110002

Spot- 4: GB Road, Near Ajmerigate
New Delhi-110055

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

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