



KHULA AASMAN

2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT



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The Year That Was: From the Director's Desk

2015-16 was an eventful year for Khula Aasman, packed with exciting and challenging new ventures. At the same time, we also moved our ongoing programmes to a new level.

In terms of our community-level intervention, we initiated a programme for engaging the Head, Heart & Hands of children from a community in our neighbourhood – *Lallubhai Compound, M-Ward, Mankhurd* infamous for its low parameters for all quality-of-life metrics. This venture was in collaboration with another NGO working in *M-ward* - Doctors For You (DFY). Here, our facilitators used Play For Peace sessions combined with drumming, music sessions, and creative activities to engage with the children, making this Creative Community Centre as a 'must-go-to centre' for activities.

This year saw some more interesting and creative people link up with KA. We were excited to collaborate with artist Niharika Lohia under the *Shakti Speaks* programme – a creative process of expression and catharsis through painting.

Our continuing programmes with women and children were given a new momentum as each of our staff members added fresh fervor to the units they were handling. We continued to work with women under-trial in prisons and with rescued women at Navjeevan Centre- the wall painting exercise we conducted there was a big hit. The painted wall became a symbol of hope, an aspiration, a dream and an achievement for the residents, made stronger by the participative nature of its creation.

With the support from Tata Trust, we could engage with children in three observation homes more intensely. This boosted our confidence, and we are now in a position to create an arts-based module for the recovery of the children in Observation homes, working on their fears, anger, and uncertainty about future violence against themselves or others. Working with the children has not only been nourishing for them but also a powerful experience for the team.

As a result of the intense engagement with the children, we could paint a 100 foot-long wall at David Sassoon Industrial School, with participation from the children. Artist Manoj Bhandare, along with the KA team, made sure that all the images drawn were from the children's worldview, their dreams and aspirations. The wall is a tribute to the hidden creativity of the children and the joys that participation can bring.

The Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) programme, which was done in collaboration with Kolkata Sarved at the Deonar Special Home for girls, received a radical change as six of the sixteen girls we were originally working with decided to become trainers, and put all their energies into learning the DMT programme, and communication skills for transformation. They were given certificates that qualified them to be first level trainers.

Project Sukoon members received the opportunity to showcase their hard work and creativity at Kala Ghoda Fest, 2016. This was a huge confidence-booster for them. Some members of Project Sukoon have developed their communication and training skills to such an extent, that they can go as trainers to spread Up-cycling, and the delights of creation, in prisons and homes.

Through our Clay Ganesha Campaign, we reached out to over a hundred people, and did our bit for protecting the fragile ecology of Mumbai's water bodies. We also made a short film, to educate people on the ill-effects of Plaster-of-Paris Ganeshas, on our water bodies.

Our vision of blending art to bring about social change has witnessed individual success stories. We aspire to continue touching the lives of people who need us in the near future.

We are aware that it will take us some time to establish art as having the potential for bringing about resilience and positivity in people, in changing their perception of the self and the surroundings. However, we can see the change in perception towards our work from our own fraternity as well as government homes. This is evident from the fact that Khula Aasman was invited to take sessions with the trafficked women under the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission of the State Government. Similarly, we are seeing more openness from various government and non-government bodies about the use of art as an essential component of the rehabilitation process for vulnerable people.

It is our ardent wish that artists and social change makers benefit from each other's knowledge, different vision, unique skills and chart new pathways for practice. We enter the year 2016-17 to make this wish a concrete reality.

Sarita Ganesh



Why Art For Transformation?

Our Premise

- Creation of art can induce and increase positive experiences and emotions (Wilkinson and Chilton, 2013)¹.
- Art therapy allows participants to communicate that which is sometimes difficult to put into words. It is a powerful tool for healing and transformation, not only because of its inherent quality of *safe expression*, but also because of its innate ability to help people of all ages explore emotions and beliefs, reduce stress, resolve problems and conflicts, and enhance their sense of well-being.²
- Art therapy helps clients feel understood. It helps clients gain skills and a sense of achievement, and encourages them to build trust in a safe environment. Art therapy also helps to foster general group cohesion (Hartz et. al., 2005)³.

Though not much researched in India, Art Therapy and creative forms have helped people in stressful situations to find their real potential. KA started its work with vulnerable women in a Government-run residential institution in 2013, and evolved a functional arts and body-based module. This was expanded into an Expressive Art-based therapy (EABT) module, which was then implemented with rescued girls living in *Deonar Special Home*, Mumbai, in 2014. Having seen it succeed with girls, we ventured into Observation Homes for boys in 2015.

KA's Art-centric Bouquet

We generally have a two member team which is aimed at providing a 1:10 ratio of trainer-trainee. The members are either trained social workers or counsellors who have also received ABT training. The trainers work out a plan of action, for each group as per their needs, and time given for each session. We combine and merge tools and techniques for each session so that each one is complete and impacting.

Khula Aasman focuses on group work as the number of counsellors in homes is usually quite small.

¹ Wilkinson R. A. and Chilton G. (2013) 'Positive Art Therapy: Linking Positive Psychology to Art Therapy Theory, Practice, and Research', *Art Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association*, AATA, Inc.

² Malchiodi, C. (2003) : Handbook of Art Therapy, A Division of Guilford Publications, Inc. 72 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012

³ Hartz, Liz et. al. "Art Therapy Strategies to Raise Self-Esteem in Female Juvenile Offenders: A Comparison of Art Psychotherapy and Art as Therapy Approaches." *Art Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association*, 22 (2), pp. 70-80. 2005. Downloaded from <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ688441.pdf>

Tools of transformation:

- *Non-competitive games and activities to encourage participants to have child-like fun, reduce inhibitions, and encourage focus, use of communication skills, and non-aggressive behaviour, while reducing feelings of isolation and rejection*
- *Dance and body-based work for loosening the body, de-stressing the physical self and opening minds into accepting positive thoughts and emotions, and simultaneously encouraging the participant to reconnect with their own bodies and others.*
- *Clay work, enables us to understand the connection with nature, which in itself is soothing, as well as to channelize energy into creative expression and ground oneself.*
- *Drawing and painting, not only to facilitate self-expression, enhance group work, give and receive positive feedback, and provide channels for self-exploration and contemplation.*
- *Chanting and guided meditation, to create a relaxed environment and develop calmness and focus.*
- *Music sessions to encourage participants to make rhythms using everyday objects; helping them to relax, bond with other group members, and work in coordination, enhancing brain activity.*
- *Story-telling that encourages participants to engage with metaphors, and creates a safe space to share their own stories, relate to the stories of others, and gain different perspectives on situations.*
- *Craft work with friends can aid in developing patience, problem-solving skills, perseverance and mindfulness, enhancing hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness and memory formation and retrieval. It also gives a sense of pride and achievement⁴*
- *Reflection and Discussion- Each activity is followed by a reflection and discussion process to help group members share personal experiences with one another, gain insights, and support and empathise with one another*



⁴ <https://www.davidwolfe.com/why-crafting-is-great-for-mental-health/>

Project Inner Light with Under-trials in Prison

Why are we working with under-trials in prison?

The realities of prison are harsh. Here violence, torture, abuse, physical manhandling are common. Beyond that there are systemic problems that result often in serious lack of even basic amenities like toilets, food, basic health care facilities to name a few. The situation of under-trials is all of this and much worse too; over-crowding, frequent postponements of court hearings causing stress, all contribute to increasing agony and insecurity. Little effort is made to take care of the mind, which is least considered in the equation even. Does punishment really result in a change of attitude? Can isolation and segregation lead to change? Perhaps it is required in some cases and not all-- but can the system segregate them at all?

Our rationale:

- Under-trials have Human Rights which need to be respected.
- The mental health of under-trials is important.
- There is compelling evidence that a well-developed right brain correlates with focused attention, creativity, intellectual flexibility, patience, self-discipline and the ability to work with others. This can help under-trials understand and deal with depression, trauma and, drug addiction.

Our Work with Prison Under-trials:

Khula Aasman decided to intervene with groups of female under-trials at Thane prison and at Adharvadi Prison in Kalyan. The initiative was taken in collaboration with Prayas, a field action project of the Centre for Criminology and Justice, Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Objective:

- To work with female under-trials in two prisons using arts-based therapy (music, drama, story-telling, drawing, painting, clay-work, theatre-based activities, dance, games, wall-painting, collage art, low-cost jewellery making, yoga and pranayama)
- To enhance the mental health of people in prison.
- To create moments of joy and forgiveness as well as to let go of the past and move ahead

Work Done in 2015-16

In this year, Khula Aasman's intervention is divided into two parts- mid 2015 and early 2016.
Intervention I: July, August and September, 2015

Intervention II: January, February and March, 2016.

The sessions were held once a week.



Figure 1 Wall painting conducted with the women undertrial in Kalyan Prison. This was one of a two part wall painting venture, exploring themes of support, wellness and creating positive experiences

Response/Feedback from participants

Most of the women connect beautifully with the sessions. Of these-

- Four women have taken particular interest in visual art activities, making requests to facilitators for extra art materials. Each week, they present the facilitators with their self-imposed homework. This is extremely encouraging to us at Khula Aasman, as it is an indicator of the impact of the work we do and the relevance in the women's context!
- Women who had children engaged in the sessions along with them. They dance, sing and play music for their children and thus feel greater joy.

In their own words:

"We wait for the KA trainers to come."

"Thank you for coming. I feel fresh and alive when you come to see us. I want more of this every day. I do not want to get into useless talk. I would rather spend that time with you [the KA therapist] and work on myself."

"The session re-introduced me to myself. All these days, I was running away from myself but now I can face myself. So much peace!"

"I want to learn more. I want to be this tension-free always."

Their experiences with the Wall Painting

"I cannot believe I painted on a wall..!"

"I have never even held a pencil in my hand and today I feel like an artist..."

Comments/Suggestions

The officers in the Prison expressed their satisfaction with the project by asking the Khula Aasman team to conduct the sessions on a more frequently.

Creative Community Centre

Why do we need Creative Community Centres?

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children... Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear." ~ Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa

Our rationale for the Creative Community Centre at Lallubhai Compound

- We found one of the neighbourhood boys in an Observation Home and realized that 'it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.'
- We chose Lallubhai Compound in Mankhurd, Mumbai M-Ward, infamous for its vertical slums, where people displaced by infrastructural development projects are relocated. This relocation has meant new neighbors, new environments, and new infrastructural challenges- like water, sanitation, waste dumping and air pollution. The people have yet to develop trust and supportive behaviors towards each other. Most parents strive hard just to stay above poverty and socio-economic marginalization. Children exist in stressful

homes and emotionally-strained environments. They are exposed to anti-social and risky behaviours such as drug addiction, alcoholism and criminal activities.

- To create safe and creative space for entertainment; to create a positive, supportive environment for children.
- To connect the Head, Heart and Hands of young adults, and guide their inherent energy in a positive manner, so that they become responsible citizens and caring humans and so that they refrain from self-destructive behaviours such as substance abuse and violence.

Our Work within the Community

Khula Aasman, in collaboration with Doctors for You (DFY) started working with children at Lallubhai Compound who were in the age bracket of 8-15 years. The aim of the project is to engage with children through a package of activities like games, music circles, drama, dance, art and craft activities with health and safety message woven within the sessions. Khula Aasman meets an average of 30 children twice a week for 2 hours. Through our efforts, the children have learnt life-skills such as non-violent communication, helping each other, learning to do street plays, sing songs, expressing their dreams for social change, dance and play in a cooperative manner.

Sessions in 2015-16

| SR. NO. | VENUE | NO. OF HOURS | TOTAL NO. OF PARTICIPANTS |
|---------|--|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Fun activities for children at <u>Lallubhai compound</u> | 2 hours | 50 |
| 2 | Fun activities for children at <u>Lallubhai compound</u> | 2 hours | 40 |
| 3 | World Peace Day celebration by children and youth (with street plays, slogans, posters, songs and games for peace) | 5 hours | 120 |
| 4 | 2 days workshop for Youth from <u>Lallubhai community</u> | 2 days | 9 |
| 5 | Play and imaginary story-telling, writing and sharing session. | 2 hours | 30 |
| 6. | Craft session | 4 hours | 55 |
| 7. | Drums session Average 20 in each session | 8 hours | 20 |

Responses/feedback from participants

Most of the children always talk about the safe space they have at Khula Aasman and many have reiterated that earlier their parents would not send them outside. Now with Khula Aasman, they are sending them to play.

In their own words:

"Everywhere we can see the dirty water, dust air, more mosquitoes, and every season there are so many diseases Typhoid, Dengue, Malaria and also so many TB Patient. And the youngster misbehaviours are so bad that using bad word, using drugs, smoking..."

"...this area youths are so bad, they are behaving so badly with girls using such abusing words, so we couldn't feel safe to come outside in certain times... the youth in the area use bad words and look at us in bad manner so we do not like to get out but Khula Aasman place is safe and we like to go there..."

"I don't like to play in this area because the area is not clean very dirty, so I never think to play in these places, so I am feeling better and safe to play in Khula Aasman space, I feel happy..."

"This place is bad. It is bad for the future for the kids like us. Lot of people are alcoholic, smoke use drugs and hence we do not like to get out or even interact with others in this place..."



Children performing street plays on
Alcoholism, domestic violence and education



Project *Hansi-Khushi* – Working With Vulnerable Children

Why we are working with vulnerable children?

Children under 18 are extremely vulnerable, as they are coping with the stress of growing up. When they face several socio-economic adversities and find no positive social support, their problems are compounded. Incomplete education, lack of employable skills, low awareness, lack of family support and missing positive role models add to their vulnerability. Most boys find it difficult to cope with their emotions. Adolescent girls are trapped by a lack of education and livelihood skills, leading to 'opting out' of oppressive family environment, finding a 'good job' in the city or marrying someone with an income. Most fall prey to false promises.

Art therapy is a way for troubled adolescents who're experiencing abuse, low self-esteem, depression, and/or other psychological issues, to be expressive in a non-judgmental environment (Bitonte and Santo, 2014)⁵. "Expressive arts encourage healing from childhood trauma and aid in overall mental health by providing opportunities to share experiences in an empathic environment through symbolically expressing emotions in a concrete way" (Smilen, 2009, p. 381)⁶. In observation homes, art therapy has been found to reduce boredom, provide stress relief and relaxation, increase confidence and enjoyment, improve the ability to concentrate and help juveniles work through frustration (Persons, 2008)⁷.

Our rationale:

- These young people need to be treated as deprived and exploited youth who need opportunities of change.
- To respect them as growing people who have made mistakes, and have a right to change, and grow into healthy, happy individuals and citizens.
- To give them their rightful constitutional rights to essentials as also to education, vocational and livelihood skills, recreation, dignity, and life free from discrimination (as 'offenders').
- Their mental health and well-being within Observation Homes will leave a deep impact on their life outside of it.
- Their need to communicate their confusions, express their emotions and get positive, constructive support for a better future can be provided by Khula Aasman.

⁵ Bitonte, R. and Santo, M. (2014) 'Art Therapy: An Underutilized, yet Effective Tool', *Mental Illness*, Open Access Article by PAGE Press

⁶ Smilen, C. (2009). Building resiliency to childhood trauma through arts-based learning. *Childhood Education*, 35(5), 350.

⁷ Persons R. W. (2008) 'Art Therapy with Serious Juvenile Offenders', *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, Sage Journals

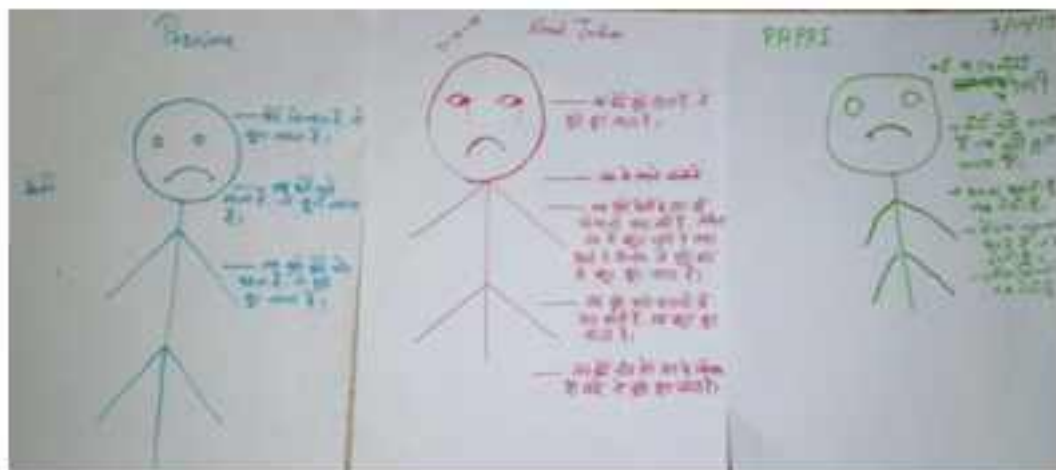
Our Work within the Juvenile Justice System

Delinquent children in India, when caught by the police and juvenile board authorities, are placed in Observation Homes that work under a system laid out by Juvenile Justice Act. These Homes provide basic services like food, shelter, clothing and educational facilities with the aim of protecting the child and temporarily rehabilitating them until the family/relatives arrive to take them back.

KA works with the 'rights' perspective in providing much-needed support.

| Sr. no. | Observation Homes for children | Time frame (April 2015- march 2016) | No. of sessions | Average no. of children in each session |
|----------------|---|--|------------------------|--|
| 1 | Dongri Children's Home, (Girls section) | September 2015 - February 2016 | 12 | 15 |
| 2 | Bhivandi Observation Home, (Boys) - ABT | December 2015 - January 2016 | 16 | 15 |
| 3 | Bhivandi Observation Home, (Boys) - Skill development | July 2015 - November 2015 | 15 | 15 |
| 4 | David Sassoon Industrial School, (Boys) | December 2015 – January 2016 | 6 | 15 |
| 5 | Yerwada Observation Home, Pune, (Boys) | December 2015 – March 2016 | 8 | 12 |

Responses/ Feedback from participants



“Removing anger and frustration on self and others”; here expressed through drawing and dance movement. {

Feedback from boys

“Nothing is good here. Everything is awful! However, when I sit in the sessions, I feel that everything can be handled. I don’t need to take any tensions. There is a boy here with whom I am on bad terms; after attending this session with him, I realized he is just as frustrated as I am. So, there is no point of fighting”.

“I am sixteen years old. When you said, today we shall be playing games, I thought it was going to be a big bore. But I enjoyed it. After a long time, I felt like a child. I was reminded of the times in my village where, as a child, I used to run about with my friends and just play”.

Feedback from girls

“I am short-tempered but when I was doing the Mandala painting, I felt at peace. I stopped thinking of the other things.”

“My mind became very peaceful when I hugged the tree, and when I made things out of clay, I felt very nice.”

Project Ehsaas- Working with Vulnerable Women

Khula Aasman works with women and girls rescued from trafficking. It is one of the oldest running programme. We initiated this project in 2013, at Navjeevan Mahila Sudhar Griha, a shelter home for women rescued from trafficking. Since then KA has worked with similarly vulnerable groups of women at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruha in Thane, Maharashtra, under the pilot project of Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission (MSRLM).

Our aim has been to help them deal with their deep-rooted insecurities, fears and trauma. The goal is to empower women at a physical, mental and emotional level through dance movement therapy, literacy classes, and arts-based activities so that they are able to rebuild their lives from a newer, fresher perspective. Along with the use of art as a therapeutic tool, we emphasize the use of hands-on activities as catharsis, for learning new skills and gaining confidence. Most of the time, the activities chosen are slow-paced and meant for increasing attention span and focus.

Work Done

| Sr. no | Particulars | Time frame (April 2015- march 2016) | Total No. of sessions | Average No. of Participants in each session |
|--------|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Navjeevan Home | April – Sept 2015 | 36 | 15 |
| 2 | Navjeevan Home (Literacy classes and library) | May- August 2015 | 40 | 10 |
| 3 | Shakti Speaks (Kshamta project) | July-September | 12 | 12 |
| 4 | Special Home for Minor Girls, Deonar | April 2015 | 35 | 12 |

The sessions with the Navjeevan group took place on a regular basis along with the literacy and library programme.

The *Shakti Speaks* initiative was undertaken with a group of girls from *Kshamta*, an NGO working for the rehabilitation of trafficked girls. Ms. Nihanka Lohia, an artist, offered to guide a group of 12 to 15 girls. A series of workshops helped the girls to express themselves through art, which resulted in five beautiful canvas paintings of size 28" x 40".

Feedback/comments & suggestions from participants

We can be free, laugh; there is no lecture, right or wrong.

Don't realize how the time passes so easily and get involved in all activity conducted here in Khula Aasman session.

Forget worries and forget about family tensions when play games.

Got to know about new things in this session and learnt new skill like wall painting.

Don't get bored or tired.

In very less time get friendly with new people.

Feel relaxed and light after chanting, get better sleep.

Can see hope in life.

Feel less scared.



Working with Minor Girls at Deonar Special Home for Girls

In 2015-16, we undertook a collaborative project titled "Restoring Smiles through Dance" with Kolkata Sanved in Special Home for Girls, Deonar. The module was specially designed for minor girls who were survivors of trafficking. The project started with 18 girls. Some girls were released over a period of time, but six girls from Bangladesh remained with the group until the end. They realized that dance had changed their perception of themselves and the world around them. They reported feeling calmer, lighter and happier. They expressed their desire to help other victims of human trafficking. KA and Kolkata Sanved decided to give them additional training input to make them first level trainers. This process began in 2015 and will be completed in 2016.

mumbai.newsline
@expressindia.com

Dance therapy helps trafficked minors leave past behind

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, JUNE 26

A MINOR trafficked into the city from Bangladesh is determined to ensure other girls do not get trapped like she did. She is one of the six victims between the age group of 14-18 years lodged in the Special Rehabilitation Centre in Deonar. The girls recently completed a nine-month programme of Dance Movement Therapy, which they say helped them deal with their experience. They are now raring to work against sexual trafficking of minors.

Dance Movement Therapy (DMT) attempts to address emotions through the use of physical movements. It was used at the Centre for the first time by NGOs Khula Aasman and Kolkata Sanved. Initially, the programme started with 12 girls, with sessions at intervals of eight to 10 days. While other participants left the centre, the long repatriation the six needed ensured they completed the programme. On June 22, they received certificates for their training.

"These girls suffer from loneliness. They feel that they are not supported and are left out with the feeling of shame and guilt. There is a need to give them a non-judgmental space. We understand that our mind and body is connected, and through DMT, we try to address emotions at a physical level," said Santa Ganesh, director of Khula Aasman.

For instance, after the initial apprehension that the girls showed in being part of any programme at the Centre, they were encouraged to release their anger through DMT, Ganesh says. Many find ways to express emotions from their past, which have experiences of abuse.

"The trainees were determined to become trainers. They plan to go back to their country and help other girls caught in the trafficking trade," said Renell, a trainer with Kolkata Sanved. She said the girls also feel a sense of responsibility towards other girls in the home, determined to ensure that they too are assisted in their journey out of their past.

sadaf.modak@expressindia.com

PROJECT SUKOON

Rationale

Project Sukoon is a support program run by Khula Aasman for women who have been rescued from the human trafficking circuit or are in difficult juncture of their lives and are in the process of rehabilitation. Women under this program are trained in various art and craft activities such as jewellery-making and furniture making out of waste. In order to do our bit for Mother Earth, we make products out of recycled and eco-friendly materials.

The women at Sukoon are provided a small stipend to supplement their income. Some women have been with us for the past two years and are trained enough to conduct craft training workshops on their own.

Work Done

Last year, Khula Aasman got an opportunity to experiment with discarded tyres and turn them into new pieces of craft. Project Sukoon up-cycled old tyres by turning them into colourful pieces of furniture, which was showcased at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival of early 2016.

The small team of one full time assistant and three trainee women were able to develop the following products:

- Paper Earnings – 400 pieces
- Paper Mache Tables -15 pieces
- Tyre Settees -21 pieces
- Mounting of Paintings (28' X40 ") - 5
- Clay- 500
- Coasters from waste- 4 dozens



Mounting of paintings by participants



Clay work by participants



Colourful Paper Earrings



Coasters (Big and Small) made from waste



Settees' made from tyres



Paper quilling curios



Paper-based stools



Paper-based tables

Other Initiatives - 'Play for Peace'

Rationale:

Khula Aasman sees peace, sustainable development and democratic social change going hand in hand. Khula Aasman is also officially a part of the Global Club of Play for Peace and a training centre under its aegis. We therefore invited a Play for Peace (PFP) Trainer to be part of the team and conduct sessions at Khula Aasman and the various homes at which Khula Aasman was working, as well as other institutions. Sessions were held in Observations Homes for children, Rescue Homes for women, Creative Community Centre. Below is a list of PFP sessions conducted for various groups of people-

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| SR. NO. | VENUE | DATES | NO. OF DAYS | GROUP TYPE | NO. OF PARTICIPANTS |
|---------|---|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Rotary Club, Alandi Pune | April 2015 | 2 days | Visually challenged girls | 40 |
| 2. | Belapur School for Deaf and Mute children | May 2015 | 3 hours | Children & adults (parents) | 30 |
| 3. | PFP-Module 2 for NGOs | June 2015 | 2 days | Adults | 15 |
| 6 | Team building for KA staff | February 2016 | 2 days | Adults | 9 |



Eco-friendly Ganeshas

Khula Aasman has always had a special place for clay, the earth that is the source of our life. We have been doing clay workshops even before formal launch. Out of our concern for this earth arises our work to preserve water bodies in our neighbourhoods. Every year the sea, rivers and ponds of Mumbai take in tonnes of Ganesha idols made from Plaster-of-Paris. Our solution is to conduct workshops for eco-friendly clay Ganesha making.

Through our Clay Ganesha Campaign, we reached out to:

- Teach for India children at KA office - 25 children.
- Creative Community Center at Lallubhai Compound - 30 kids.
- Bhivandi observation home Boys and girls- 45 girls and boys

We developed a short film to educate people on the ill-effects of Plaster-of-Paris Ganesha on our water bodies.



GOVERNANCE

Executive Team

- Executive Head - Ms. Sarita Ganesh
- Programme Officer- Mr. Stalin Boudh
- Play for Peace Trainer & Media Incharge- Ms. Archana Magar
- Programme Assistant - Ms. Snehal Gaikwad
- Counsellors – Ms. Trupti Pandya & Ms. Divya Shrivastava
- Consultant, Ms. Neha Bhat (drama therapist)
- Office Assistants and craft trainers - Ms. Shabana Khan and Sonali Mhapralkar
- Sukoon Trainees – Pooja, Sunita Baile, Prajakta, Sadhana Kambale, Kalpana

Staff Development

- Sarita Ganesh - Was selected by Knowledge Whiteboard and Kshitij, NGO for a course in Strategic Management of NGOs supported by Tata Trust.
- Snehal Gaikwad - Successfully completed the Dance Movement Therapy Practitioner Certificate Course from TISS.
- Stalin Boudh – Joined Yoga Classes on a regular basis.
- Sonal Mahpralkar and Shabana Khan - Attended the Papier Mache training at Bal Kalyan Sanstha, Pune.
- Neha Bhat - joined further studies in Arts Based Therapy at a college in Chicago, USA.

Trustees

- Ms. Shaku Kothari, Artist & Entrepreneur - extended support through overall direction and planning of the organization.
- Mr. Akhil Oswal, Designer & Artist - gave creative ideas for the website.
- Ms. Roopashri Sinha - provided documentation support to the executive team.

Advisory Committee

Ms. Gauri Deshmukh- Educator. Leads Abhay Abhiyan Andolan in schools

Dr. Mohan Deshpande- Artist and Health educator

Dr. Rekha Mammen- Associate professor TISS

Mr. Sanjeev Khandekar - Artist and writer

Dr. Uma Shankar- Principal of SIES college

Dr. Vimla Nadkarni- Educator and ex professor TISS

Funders & Friends of Khula Aasman

Funding Support

MSPL - INR 18,75,000

Tata Trust - INR 8,33,850

Donations in Cash

Aditi Chitre - INR 15,000

Venkatesh Rukmini- INR 25,000

Other Resource Generation

Through workshops and contributions for Sukoon products- INR 86,520

| |
|---|
| Total Budget for 2015-16 - INR 28,35,370 |
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Donations in Kind -

Anand and Ramya Krishnmoorti

Aditya Nair

Our Unconditional friend -

Rumya Natraj - Dance Movement practitioner and trainer

Khula Aasman is registered under Mumbai Charitable Trust Act. Reg. No. E-29735

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