

## Case studies

### The Latur Pilot

#### *Preamble*

One of our Field Research studies (covering Destitute Homes in Bihar and Adoption agencies in Orissa) conducted in 2004, brought out, amongst others, an alarming mismatch between children waiting to find homes on one hand, and Aparents waiting to find children, on the other. CSA found that, while most city agencies had several parents waiting for prolonged periods to find children, agencies just outside the metros, had several children, languishing in their wait for suitable homes. Many of the children, after a futile wait were moved into long-term institutional care, thereby closing the adoption option. Further exploration revealed that the (mismatch) situation prevailed in almost all states in India; despite the existence of a huge Government machinery apparently addressing the issue of finding homes for the destitute children and, despite well-defined procedures, somehow the mismatch appeared not to have been resolved.

In keeping with our objectives, we attempted to work towards a solution aimed at finding homes for the waiting children. A dialogue, with the agencies in Orissa and subsequently, with the Orissa Governmen, evoked an initial positive response. Unfortunately, the project had to be abandoned; the Government of Orissa seemed disinclined to move children and appeared to prefer institutional care. CSA shifted base to Maharashtra where the Government was much more responsive. We focused on the following 7 Adoption agencies in Marathawada- in Latur Nanded and Udgir.

1. Bal Vikas Mahila Mandal Shishu Sadan
2. Shri Ganesh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal
3. Dnyan Gangotri Mother Teresa Shishu Greh
4. Sandhi Niketan Shikshan Sanstha
5. Smt. Narshabai Mahila Mandal Shishu Greh
6. Jyotiba Phule Seva Trust - Sunita Gutte Shishu Greh
7. Mahila Mandal ( Sunitibai Phule Shishu Greh)

#### *Objectives*

1. to work towards placement of 121 waiting children
2. to generate local awareness and promote legal adoptions through registered agencies instead of illegal through nursing homes and hospitals
3. to promote adoptions from non-metro agencies.
4. to improve capability standards-both, childcare and administrative...

#### *Methodology*

One-on-one interaction with the agencies to assess:

1. Waiting children and duration of wait.
2. Position regarding local placements and support.
3. Childcare standards in the agencies.

#### 4. Quality of documentation and record keeping.

#### *Findings*

1. Approximately 121 children across the agencies were languishing in their wait for parents.
2. 15 children could, under the CARA guidelines, be transferred into agencies that could place them. However, nothing had been done about them and in the absence of any placement prospects, they were likely to be moved into institutional care.
3. Registrations for adoption were very few; there was almost no demand for the girl child.
4. In the absence of any local demand for the children, one agency that was permitted to do inter-country placements had received NOCs for inter-country placement for 10 children from the Adoption Coordinating agency.
5. The capability standards of the staff at the agencies was inadequate.
6. Paper work and record maintenance standards were extremely poor.

#### *Action Plan*

#### *Up gradation*

An opinion often expressed by both, Social Workers and Aparents (who have already adopted), is that Aparents are generally, apprehensive about the prevalent quality of childcare, and are therefore, reluctant to adopt from non-metro agencies. CSA first initiative thus, was to focus on the quality standards at the identified agencies. CSA began working extensively with Bal Vikas, the agency that had the largest number of children. We also, to a limited extent, worked with the other 6 agencies. Up gradation involved:

- o Provision of equipment (baby warmer), solar heater, cupboards, clothes, Linen, toys, provisions, medicines, etc.
- o renovation of the premises , improving health standards, painting, mosquito netting, provision of a Sick room, improving hygiene in the kitchen, etc.
- o Providing a play pen, books and music system for the children.
- o Providing uniforms to childcare workers.
- o Extending the services of a full-time Teacher-cum-Supervisor to oversee childcare.
- o Training the Agency workers .
- o Fun and games events for children.

The effort was well-coordinated with both CSA and the Agency moving together to implement change.

#### *Capability-building*

CSA have conducted training programmes for Childcare workers from the participating agencies. The training was facilitated by representatives from Adoption agencies in Pune, Mobile crèches, Mumbai and Child Development specialists.

We have taken up a case by case assessment of the documentation requirements for all waiting children and are facilitating completion of paper work wherever required.

### *Local Promotion*

CSA learnt that the numbers of local adoptions were very low. Very few parents had registered with the agencies and there were no takers for the girl child. The concerned local authorities did not rule out the possibility of illegal adoptions happening directly from hospitals. Also, we informally learnt that some agencies from Pune, scouted for babies from private hospitals. We felt it was imperative to create local awareness and generate local response. CSA,

- o conducted sensitisation programmes for representatives from the Government Departments, Police, Judiciary and the Media.
- o conducted workshops for parents from neighboring regions who had already adopted and set the base for the formation of an Aparents Asociation in Marathawada.
- o focused on extensive Print and Media coverage
- o involved the local community in executing the programmes.

### *Promotion across Maharashtra*

CSA believe that waiting parents across Maharashtra can be motivated to adopt from the Marathawada agencies. We have a compilation of all waiting children and hope to promote their adoption through all agencies in Maharashtra. We propose to reach waiting parents by/ through

- o circulating the information regarding waiting children, amongst all Maharashtra agencies and ACAs, and urging them to inform waiting parents about the possibility of speedier adoptions from the identified agencies.
- o working on a website for the Marathawada agencies. The website will indicate details of waiting children.
- o approach the community at large through Fertility clinics, Gynecologists, Rotary and Lions Clubs, Private nursing homes , Police Departments, etc.

### *Transfer of children across agencies in the State of Maharashtra.*

The CARA Guidelines provide for the transfer of a child with the prior permission of the competent authority of the State Government, if s/he cannot be placed in adoption with a suitable Indian family within 2 years of her/ his admission into the Agency, CSA have identified approx. 15 children across the 7 agencies who can be immediately transferred into agencies that have waiting parents and have taken up the matter with the State Government.

- o The State Government have issued Transfer orders for 6 children; 3 of them have already moved to SOFOSH, in Pune; The rest are pending completion of the required paperwork after which they will be transferred.
- o The State Government have vide a circular dated            directed all agencies within their jurisdiction, to transfer all such Children to other agencies that can place them. 2 children each, have moved to Preet Mandir, Pune and BSSK, Aurangabad.
- o CSA have facilitated a case-by-case and completion of the required paper work.
- o CSA have also, met the Chairpersons of the review Child Welfare Committees and the concerned Government officials of the respective regions

## **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Udyog Kendra (PJNUK), Pune**

### *Preamble*

The PJNUK, Pune is a State- run Special Home for children in conflict with the Law. With a capacity of 400 children, the institution currently has 174 children in the age-group of 8-18 years. During their stay here, the children are provided with both schooling and with vocational training. Spread over a huge complex, there are vocation centers for Computers, Carpentry, Tailoring, Fine Arts, Electrician, Welding, Printing, etc.

At the request of the Department of Woman and Child Welfare, Government of Maharashtra, CSA have undertaken the

1. up gradation of the facilities at the institute
2. better childcare initiatives.

### *Objectives*

The objectives of the assignment are:

1. to work towards keeping the children healthy in mind and body.
2. to equip them with skills that they may take up after leaving the institute, instead of graduating into the world of crime. Facilitating their employment through participating corporates, wherever possible.
3. Setting up a state-of-the - art facility which may become a permanent training center not only for the children in the institute but also, for children from other similar institutes as well.
4. involving the corporate community.
5. replicating the model in other states

### *Methodology and findings*

A visit, revealed that the Institute was spread across a wide area and had tremendous development potential. We also, felt that the Institute could emerge as a training facility, with employment (subject to regulation) possibilities not only for its own inmates but also, for children similarly placed in other institutes. We found that each of the vocation centers though reasonably well looked after, were to some extent handicapped due to non-availability of suitable equipment and, training staff. Also, despite huge spaces, Recreation facilities were grossly inadequate.

Discussions with the Superintendent and the Probationary Officers of the Institute and with officials from the Department of Woman and Child Welfare indicated their eagerness to a joint initiative- one that would work towards long-term facilitation.

The requirements at the Institute were categorized into, infrastructural, capability building, provision for equipment and self-development initiatives.

#### *Action Plan*

It was clear that the effort was rather big considering that there were 16 buildings including 8 vocational training centres. It was also, very clear that the effort could not be handled by CSA alone. Leveraging our corporate strengths, we decided to route the entire effort through Corporate support.

#### *Infrastructural Up-gradation –look and feel*

The up-gradation initiative was to improve the look and feel of the Institute. A face-lift through primary civil repairs and painting was an immediate necessity. CSA approached Nerolac Paints who willingly donated substantial amounts of paint.

CSA approached Solaris Fitness World , who offered to take on the responsibility for the civil work.

The huge complex did have some trees and plants. However, large portions were bare and more trees could be planted. Also, we found some of the resident-boys doing a bit of gardening on their own. The opportunity for achieving 2 objectives concurrently, viz, enhancing of the natural environment as also, training on gardening, came across as a clear possibility. CSA contacted Jagtap nurseries in Pune, who offered to assist. In the meantime however, courtesy, Solaris Fitness World, Mr. Khaire a reputed Landscaping Consultant in Pune, offered to take on the initiative.

#### *Capability building*

Each of the vocational training centres was expected to have training staff. However, we found that some of them did not.

#### *Computer centre*

The Computer Centre has 4 computers but did not have any instructor-support. An NGO had offered 1 month of training. CSA found that several resident-boys were interested in learning computers. Some had even acquired a fair knowledge of MS-Office.

CSA decided that here was an opportunity to lead by example. Kale Consultants Ltd., our parent company, has taken on the responsibility. The Computer centre was first given a face-lift with work stations and classroom facilities being provided. An instructor will be provided; so also, books and course material. CSA will explore the possibility of providing career-opportunities to the successful performers through donor-corporates.

CSA also, propose to teach the English language with focus on spoken English.

### *Other Vocational Training centres*

Carpentry, Fine Arts, Manufacturing, Printing and Tailoring are the other Vocational training centres that are operational. All of them need to be supported with both instructor-support as also, equipment and facilities.

CSA are in touch with Corporates and Retailers for supporting these centres.

### *Self development and recreation*

#### *Gymnasium*

At our request, Solaris Fitness World willingly agreed to set up a gymnasium inside the Institute. A state-of-the-art gymnasium is being set up. Solaris will also, provide the services of a Trainer on an on-going basis.

#### *Other recreational facilities*

Solaris Fitness World have also, agreed to set up Table-tennis and volley-ball facilities.

CSA has been closely coordinating the initiative with the Department of Woman and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra.