

Report of University Women's Association, Pune (UWAP)

Programmes Conducted by UWA Pune

INTERNATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY 11th OCTOBER 2013

The International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated by the UWA Pune Sucharita activity on 11th Oct.2013 with poster competition for the Premlilla Kanyashala school girls of underprivileged backgrounds to express their views on the rights of the girl child. There was also an exhibition of bead jewellery made by the girls, taught to them by the UWAP Sucharita committee members. The programme was very meaningful, with the Principal of the school, explaining the rights of a girl child and the need for a good education for girls.

The girls made speeches in English displaying their sense of confidence and achievement. The girls also put up a play on the issue of female foeticide, which was very sensitively portrayed. The Sucharita class girls had put up a dance, choreographed by UWA, Pune member, Ms. Jyoti Maté. Prizes of the poster competition were distributed by the IFUWA, President Dr. Vinaybala Mehta.

Sucharita, one of the UWAP projects, has been working with these girls for the last 4 years. The girls have been very responsive to various issues like Health check ups, counselling, sex education, computer awareness classes and since the last four months we have been holding workshops on bead jewellery making, head massage rangoli every month whereby they can use these skills to 'earn & learn'.

Also various soft skills and values are instilled in them whereby their awareness to environmental issue, caste creed sensitivity etc. is enhanced.

We have a dedicated team of UWAP Sucharita committee them to make change to the life of these girls - Convener Ms. Anita Wagle, members- Rajani Kulkarni, Rekha Mulay, Gouri Nagale and Dr Mrunali Shinde-Patil.

5th October 2013, UWAP Scholarship distribution to Undergraduate students

The scholarship distribution function was held on 5th October 2013 at UWA hall. **40 scholarships amounting to INR 3,89,000 i.e. approx CHF 5500** were distributed in the presence of UWAP members, donors, girls and parents.

Mrs. Rajani Kulkarni, Vice President UWA, Pune gave information on various UWA activities. Mrs. Meenal Kulkarni, Convener of the UWAP Scholarship Committee spoke about the overall working of the UWAP scholarship committee. She explained the process of selection of the candidates for this year, wherein rating system was used giving points based on

"Need, Competency, Efforts taken by girls and Usefulness of the education". The scholarship amount was given based on their tuition fees and marks obtained.

UWA, Pune Managing Committee appreciates the efforts taken by Meenal Kulkarni, Aparna Kale, Ashwini Deo, Rajani Kulkarni and Malati Kelkar (UWAP Trustee) in the selection of the **40 candidates from 116 applicants.**

Both these programmes were covered by the largely distributed local newspaper of Pune 'Sakal Times'.

Mrs. Veena Bathe

President UWA, Pune

Empowering underprivileged girls

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Pune: With the aim of empowering girls from the underprivileged section of the society, University Women's Association (UWA) has been working with them for four years. The collaboration bore fruits and the results were visible in the activities organised by Premilla Kanya Shala, to mark the International Day of Girl Child, on Friday.

Premilla Kanya Shala is situated in the premises of Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University, on Karve Road. Under the project 'Sucharita', the members of UWA have been training the students of Standard VIII and IX in English and Mathematics. These girls come from economically weaker section of the society with no exposure. If the girls fail, they are taken out of school and are likely to be married off early. With scholastic help from 'Sucharita', the girls would pass Std Xth, thus avoiding early marriage, said Anita Wagle, member of UWA.

Sucharita has a good library of story books for home lending to encourage reading habits in these girls. Knitting, embroidery, mending, drawing and painting are also taught to develop their personality and also help them earn.

A student, Amrapali Kambie said, "We have been learning a lot with the UWA members, which has certainly expanded our knowledge. We hope to make the best use of this. We are also learning activities like making bracelets, head massage, etc. which also will help us earn."

Drawings by girls displayed at the school on the occasion of International Day of Girl Child, were indicative of their desire to soar high and realise their potential. The message to value a girl child was effectively put forth through their drawings. They expressed the wish to seek higher education and leave a mark in the career they choose. A skit with a message to put up a fight against female foeticide was also presented.

Dipali Rahate, Mandakini Shinde, Sapna Sable, Archana Sathe, Harsha Dubal, Manali Pote, Bhagyashree Mukhedkar and others took part in the activities.

INT'L DAY OF GIRL CHILD

INSYNC: Girls from Premilla Kanya Shala performing a dance on the International Day of Girl Child, on Friday.

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Donors and beneficiaries

