

ASHA FOUNDATION

Annual report for the period - April 2006 to March 2007

This report is for the period April 2006 to March 2007. The following projects were continued during this financial year:

1. The AIDS Helpline and Telephone Counseling Service.
2. The Terre des Hommes Project with four sub-projects.
3. The Life at the Crossroads Project.
4. The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation Project.
5. The KNH-PMTCT Project.
6. The KNH-CAR Project.
7. The MILANA Project.
8. The Population Council Project.
9. The UNICEF Project.
10. Miscellaneous – ITC, CAF & KC Projects.

1. The AIDS Helpline and Telephone Counseling Service: In March 2007, this project has completed 9 years of service. It has been funded by the Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society for the last eight years. Since April 2007 the funding is provided by an individual. The total number of calls received on this helpline through number 1097 from the time of inception till March 2007 is 3,68,142. The total number of calls on the manual helpline 23543333 from the year 2000 till March 2007 has been 7,348. In the current financial year, number of calls on 1097 has been 29,719 and number of calls on 23543333 has been 1,139.

The new development this year is that a voluntary group called i-volunteers consisting mainly of young employees from software companies got involved in an informal partnership with ASHA Foundation. The staff of ASHA Foundation trained several volunteers in HIV/AIDS knowledge and through these volunteers, 17 awareness programs were conducted in the following places.

Date	Topic	Beneficiaries	Place	No. Attended
26th Apr 06	Corporate Awareness	Professionals	BEA Systems, Diamond District, Bangalore	46
14th May 06	Mother's Day-Street Play on PMTCT	Rural Women	Vidyaniketan School, Kanakapura Road, Bangalore	30
16th May 06	Street Play on AIDS Awareness	Garment Workers	Garment Industry, Mysore Road, Bangalore	130
May 06	Email publicity of AIDS Helpline	All	---	1000+
June 06	SMS Drive re-launched	All	---	1000+
22nd July 06	Fund raising - selling paper pens, paper flowers, notepads etc	All	Bangalore-Mysore Chamundi Express train	

22nd July 06	AIDS Awareness	Students(16-20 age)	SRIMATH Polytechnic, Mysore	243
August 06	SMS Drive Continued	All	---	150
2nd Sep 06	Corporate Awareness	Professionals	winsor Manor Hotel, Bangalore	106
26th Sep 06	Train the trainer program for Oracle Employee Volunteers	Professionals	ASHA Foundation	10
17th Sep 06	TOI Marathon Race - Publicity of AIDS Helpline	All	Bangalore	400
14th Oct 06	Corporate Awareness	Professionals	winsor Manor Hotel, Bangalore	30
26th Nov 06	AIDS Awareness	Children (12-20 age)	SOS Children Village, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore	55
1st Dec 06	Email Publicity of AIDS Helpline re-launched	All	---	100
19th Dec 06	Corporate Awareness	Professionals	Robert Bosch, Koramangala, Bangalore	10
24th Mar 07	AIDS Awareness	Domestic workers-Women	Stree Jagruti Samiti, Jayanagar, Bangalore	163
31st Mar 07	AIDS Awareness workshop	Children - Boys (12-18 age)	Government Observation Home for boys, Madivala, Bangalore	45

This year the telephone counseling staff attended 6 training programs and were resource persons for 19 training programs.

2. The Terre des Hommes Project with four sub-projects:

- ICTC: 347 persons were counseled during this period. Of them, 259 were males and 88 were females. 301 persons opted for HIV testing of whom 114(38%) were positive. 61 patients received free HIV testing.
- HIV/AIDS Clinic: There were 150 clinic days and a total of 605 patients clinic visits were made. 92 new patients enrolled in the Clinic of whom 42 were males and 50 were females. 159 are receiving antiretroviral therapy of whom 22 are children. 8 patients received treatment for T.B. during the current year. 10 pregnant HIV positive mothers were referred to ASHA Foundation and treated.
- Focus on children: A total of 52 children received nutritional supplement during the year. Two children were below the age of 2 years. 84 children received educational

support of whom 32 were boys and 52 were girls. 15 are in pre-school, 42 in primary school, 23 in secondary school and 4 are under-going vocational training. In addition 68 children received support for uniform, bags, books and shoes. 22 families received support for dry rations this year. The dry rations costs Rs. 300/- per year and consists of 10 kg rice, 1 kg wheat, ½ kg groundnuts, 1 kg oil, ½ kg green gram, ½ kg dhal and one bathing soap.

- Income generation: 16 women received vocational training during this year. 12 women were given job placements. The details of job placements are as follows:

Job placement given during April 2006 to March 2007

Sl no	Name	Age	Marital status	No of Children	Previous Job	Present Job	Previous income	Present income
1	Suma	28	Married	Nil	Accountant KNP +	PMTCT counselor (Vanivilas Hospital)	2500	4500
2	Prathiba	30	Married	1	PMTCT Counselor	PMTCT counselor (Vanivilas Hospital)	3000	4500
3	Sangeetha	29	Married	2	Garments	Garments	Nil	2000
4	Laxmi Muthu	33	Married	3	Garments	Garments	1200	2000
5	Padmakumari	28	Seperated	1	Teacher	Teacher	Nil	1800
6	Neelaveni	32	widow	2	Garments	Garments	1800	2000
7	Gangamani	32	wodow	2	Field worker Bank	Heath worker (PHC)	Nil	3000
8	Kumari	31	Widow	1	Reception work	Peer counsellor	Nil	2500
9	Kalavathi	30	wodow	2	Garments	Garments supervisor	1200	2500
10	Sunitha	31	Married	2	House keeper	House keeping	800	1200
11	Vijayalaxmi	29	Widow	2	Garments	garments	Nil	2000
12	Madhumala	32	widow	4	Nil	Off Assistance	Nil	1800

Four people received loans varying from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.25,000/- during this year. The loans were given to start the following ventures:

- Fancy Shop
- Saree business
- Sound System
- Tailoring machine

Two self-help groups were formed, each group consisting of 20 members. The groups are called Srishti and Tripti. The first SHG has saved 84,951/- and the second group has saved Rs.4,907/-

During this period we a picnic was organized to Nandi Hills for the children and their mothers .fifty eight children and 38 mothers participated in this program. Children and mothers had a good time. The mothers expressed that this was the first time they were visiting this place .The children were very excited and enjoyed the trip.

TDH community Zonal Play was held on 28/10/06. 10 children and 8 adults participated in these games, 3 children got prizes. The mothers especially were very happy since this was the first time in their lives that they and their children got to participate in such a programme.

Poster competition was held on 12/11/06 it was part of the world AIDS day organized by Indian Red Cross Society, the state branch proposed to conduct a poster competition and get all the HIV positive children together (between the age group of 12 to 18), those who participated from ASHA managed to get the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

The annual partnership workshop of TDH was held from 24th to 26th November, 2006. As this workshop dealt with managerial and financial aspects, Mr. Thomas Kurian, Administrator and Mr. Ravi Kanth, accountant attended this workshop on behalf of ASHA Foundation.

One Vocational Training Programs in paper pen-making was conducted by the project and the project staff attended 17 training programs during the current year.

The TDH project is completing its second cycle of 3 years in September 2008.

3. The Life at the Crossroads Project: This is the sexual health education program of ASHA Foundation in schools, colleges and other institutions. This is a 3-year project that was started in April 2003 and concluded in March 2006. The funding from Bread for the World stopped in March 2006, and the funding from Geneva Global stopped in December 2006. The project target was 120 schools to implement the curriculum, 650 teachers to be trained and 30000 students to use the curriculum. The actual targets achieved were 237 schools, 1,118 teachers and 35,000 students.

During this financial year, the LAC project also became National. The World Council of Churches and United Methodist Church funded ASHA Foundation to the tune of Rs. 4,25,635. With this amount, four workshops were conducted - two in Calcutta , one in Shimla and one in Vishakapatnam (June 2007). A national level workshop was also conducted at the request of EFFICOR for their employees in Delhi. An external evaluation of the LAC project was

conducted in February 2007. The two evaluators were Dr. Romate John from Bangalore University and Dr. Adella Paul, retired Principal of Isabella College, Lucknow, now based in Chennai. The evaluation included interviews with key staff, interviews with the master trainers, with teachers who have been trained and site visits. The final draft of the evaluation is still awaited.

Geneval Global has been in negotiations with ASHA Foundation to start a second period of funding for a three-year period to conduct the same program in schools and other institutions in Maharashtra and Pune. The funding is to the tune of Rs. 50,000 – 65,000 USD per year for a period of 3 years. The project proposal has been submitted and negotiations are going on.

EFFICOR, Delhi through their MICAHA network also want us to do the program in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The project proposal will be written during a workshop in Delhi from 1st to 4th August 2007.

Sl.No	Description	No.
1.	Total no. of workshops conducted (Calcutta -2, Karnataka – 4, Shimla -1, Delhi – 1 and Vizag-1)	9
2.	AIDS awareness and parents meetings	9
3.	Alumni meetings (Belgaum, Bangalore, Kolar, Gulbarga)	4
4.	Number of Districts covered in Karnataka	17
5.	Total number of teachers trained to date	1640
6.	Total number of schools and other institutions	306
7.	Follow-up at Mysore, Belgaum, Bangalore, Kolar & Gulbarga	

4.The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation Project: The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation Project started in September 2002 and concluded in December 2006. Under this project ASHA Foundation worked with medical institutions in the district to introduce PMTCT (Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission) programs in these hospitals. A total of six institutions introduced the program in their hospitals. They are the Bangalore Baptist Hospital, the ETCM Hospital, Kolar, the St.John’s Medical College Hospital, CSI Hospital, Bangalore, Snehalaya Hospital, Solur and Chinmaya Mission hospital.

Item	April 2006 to Dec 2006	Cumulative
Total no. of deliveries	3180	16165
Total no. of ANC women	2637	14616
Total no. of women counseled	3338	19318
Total no. of women tested	3214	18798
Total no. who received result	3214	18706
Total no. of antenatal women HIV positive	11	117
Eligible women treated	7/8 = 87.5%	82/90 = 91.1%
PCRs done*	10	57
Positive PCR	0	2
Negative PCR	10	55

*3 more PCRs done in 2007 were negative.

The second phase of this project concluded in December 2006. As ASHA Foundation was able to get funding to scale up the PMTCT program into South India, from other sources, with deep regret the partnership with EGPAF ended in December 2006. However, it was decided that technical partnership between the two would continue. In May 2007, Dr. Eileen Solomon and Ms. Sunitha were invited as resource persons for EGPAF training program.

5. The KNH-PMTCT Project: The KNH-PMTCT Project is a new project that was started in January 2007 and will extend till December 2009. This project is funded through Kindernothilfe, a funding agency based in Germany and the funds come through its partner organization, Christian Council for Child and Youth Care (CCCYC). The project was started in a small way in September 2006 through provision of an interim budget of around Rs.7 lakhs. The three year budget is Rs. 245,00,000. The project is actually an upscaling of the EGPAF PMTCT project and under this project, ASHA Foundation will initiate PMTCT services in 20 mission hospitals in the 4 southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. This is a tripartite partnership between Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI), KNH-CCCYC and ASHA Foundation. So far, the 20 mission hospitals have been identified, sensitization workshops for administrators and gynecologists was held in December 2006. 28 counselors from these 20 mission hospitals were trained in February-March 2007. Seventeen hospitals have started implementation of the project. The other three hospitals are having teething problems. Thirteen of these seventeen hospitals have been visited by ASHA Foundation in April, May and June of this year. The project target includes reaching out to 60,000 pregnant women and 600 HIV positive pregnant women during the 3-year period.

The cumulative record of training conducted was as follows:

1.	No. of counselors trained in HIV/AIDS and PMTCT	28
2.	No. of doctors sensitized	103
3.	No of. nurses sensitized	180
4.	No. of nursing students sensitized	578
5.	No. of administrators sensitized	8
6.	No. of paramedics sensitized	10
7.	No. of attenders and ward aides sensitized.	26
8	Others	50
	TOTAL	955

6.The KNH-CAR Project: The KNH-CAR project stands for Kindernothilfe-Children at Risk Project and is a small project of Rs. 6 lakhs which complements the activities conducted under the TDH project. So, essentially this project provides nutritional and educational support to children and also dry rations for families and support for individual ventures. In the last financial year, the following were accomplished:

1.	No. of children supported for nutrition	-	56
2.	No. of children supported for education	-	22
3.	No. of individual ventures financed	-	4
4.	No. of families supported for rations	-	22

7. The MILANA Project: The MILANA project was initiated 3 years ago. It is a joint collaboration between four NGOs: SPAD, VMS, KNP+ and ASHA Foundation. ASHA Foundation's role in this project is to provide supportive counseling and medical care and treatment including antiretroviral therapy for female sex workers identified to be HIV positive and their families. This project is supported by Christian Aid and Elton John AIDS Foundation.

Under this project so far, 53 women were identified to be HIV positive of whom 30 registered at ASHA Foundation, 17 of these 30 women attend the ASHA Foundation clinic regularly for medical care. Only one sex worker, her child and her husband are on free ART treatment from ASHA Foundation.

The first three-year cycle of this project concluded in June 2007. An external evaluation was performed in May 2007

8. The Population Council Project: The Population council was a new project that started in April 2006 and concluded in March 2007. It was a operational research collaborated project between four organizations – the Population council of India, SASO, Manipur, ASHA Foundation and Freedom Foundation, Bangalore. The purpose of the project was to explore the barriers to accessing the care for HIV positive children and to assess the current level of adherence to ART among children. The study was conducted in 3 high prevalence states - Manipur, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. A total of 208 care-givers of children under 12 years of age were interviewed in this project. Some of the key findings were that most diagnosis in children was made after 2 & ½ years of birth, disclosure of HIV status to children was low, care-giver knowledge of HIV was inadequate, overall adherence to treatment was high and care-givers often faced difficulty in administering medicines to the children. Recommendations included closing the gap between the birth and diagnosis, improvement in care-giver knowledge, since many members of one family were infected, to give same appointment dates, etc.

9. The UNICEF Project: The UNICEF project was a new project that was started in May-June 2006. This is collaboration between six NGOs based in Karnataka, 3 of whom are from Bangalore. The leadership and management support is provided through an NGO called CARDTS through its Management Support Team, Karnataka (MST-K). This project involved using the concept of peer education to reach out to youth in the age group of 15-25 years in 13 slums in zone 4 of Bangalore urban district. The staff under the project consisted of a project coordinator, 2 training officers, one counselor and a part-time accountant. Under this project, a total of 7,000 youth were to be reached through training of 140 peer educators. Each of these peer educators would be trained through 4 levels of training and each peer educators would reach out to 50 peers on a 1:1 basis. The youth were divided into 3 groups- MARA (Most at Risk Adolescent), EVA (Especially Vulnerable Adolescent) and AYNMAR (Adolescent Youth Not at Risk). The peer educators were selected from all the three groups. The following programs have been conducted to date.

In addition to the above projects, ASHA Foundation also receives small regular donations from

Activities	No.of	Youth benefited
Total no. of Peer Educators identified and trained	49	140
Total no. of peers the Peer Educators have reached so far	-----	1091
Street Play(11 areas)	18 shows	1300
Video Shows regarding HIV/AIDS	5 shows	75
Health Camp	4 camps	71
Awareness Program	4	50
Condoms distributed	1030	200
Condom demo sessions	35	160
ANC cases identified	119	119
Individual counseling	53	53
Group counseling	9	40
PPTCT referral	21	21
Referrals for VCTC	39	39
PE review	6	150
Exposure visit to service providers	1	10
Socio-Cultural Events	3	65

Overseas Women's Club (OWC), ITC Ltd, CAF India and Mr. Krishna. The sum of money from OWC was used to buy a computer for the UNICEF project. The money from ITC Ltd, CAF India and Mr.Krishna was used for the medical care of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

During the year, the project coordinator of the UNICEF project resigned after 9 months and joined MST-K. Three office boys were appointed and resigned during this period. After Dr. Sukant Singh's resignation, Mr. Thomas Kurian joined as administrator in August 2006. He has helped to streamline the administrative processes in the organization and also supervise the financial aspects of the organization.

During the year, Dr. Glory was appointed as temporary advisory to WHO(World Health Organisation) and attended a meeting in Geneva in July 2006 and was part of a core-group to discuss provider-initiative testing and counseling (PITC) as a recommendation in HIV/AIDS care. Ms. Joyce Davis was one of the ASHA Foundation staff appointed by Bangalore University to conduct interviews for appointment of counselors throughout the state for the

government. She was also involved in consultations at the national level regarding sexual health education. Ms. Sunitha was appointed as one of the members of the state supervision team to supervise the work of the counselors who work under the state government in the various counseling centres, Bangalore region. She was also appointed to be a member of the community advisory board for a research project of NIMHANS. Dr. Eileen Solomon has also become resource person at the state and national level. Ms. Chitra from Telephone Counselling project also became a resource person at state level.

Through the year, a total of 82 workshops were conducted by ASHA Foundation and ASHA Foundation staff attended 33 training programs.

ASHA Foundation would like to place on record the gratitude of the director and staff for the encouragement and support from the Board throughout this year.