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Pocketful of Sunshine

Annual Report 2019-2020



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A prevention-based approach that leads to
a safe, healthy and happy childhood for children at risk.

Vision

A safe society for children to enjoy childhood and get opportunities to grow up to become responsible humans.

Mission

To prevent child abuse and provide a child-friendly environment for at-risk children, by establishing Daycare Centers for the children of daily wagers, along with working with children in different unprotected situations.

Objective

To prevent, protect, advocate and ensure human rights with a focus on the prevention of child rights abuse.

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Letter to Our Patrons

Dear Friends,

With great joy and an even greater sense of responsibility, Pocketful of Sunshine releases its first Annual Report.

PFO Sunshine is an initiative to fill warmth and sunshine in the lives of children who need it most. Behind this humble start are years of hearing firsthand accounts from child survivors, experience working with children going through crises and trauma, working with various levels of governance, and a lot of reflection on lessons learned. This reflection most of all has led us to understand the core conditions that lead to abuse and find ways to mitigate those conditions and provide a safe and happy childhood to at-risk children.

Violence against children is prevalent in all socio-economic groups of urban and rural sectors alike. Children, whether boys, girls, non-binary or trans, suffer alarming levels of violence of different forms. Children face various levels of risk as a result of existing socio-economic structures within our cities which include reduced availability of familial caregivers, lack of social networks, the patriarchal nature of our society, growing economic & social disparities, harmful messaging through social media, and early exposure to narcotics.

Although children are often denied basic rights across class lines, the same living in *Juggi Jhopdi* (J.J) colonies and slums have a higher chance of being targeted within and outside the family as conditions of depravity and material inequalities are much higher. In addition to that, they are often in no position to reach out for resources and support. Domestic workers, construction workers, and daily wagers in cities do not have a support system and an absence of public daycare facilities compel them to leave children alone in their shanties or on the streets while they are out for work. Trends show that children who are unsupervised and unprotected during their primary years fall victim to abuse and harm at an early age. The rest fall prey to poverty, and neglect and suffer unimaginable levels of discrimination.

Realizing the need to focus on prevention, by providing alternative care to the children of daily wage earners during working hours, PFO Sunshine has decided to work towards establishing Daycare Centers in slums and bastis of Delhi. It started working on daycares in collaboration with a partner organization in September 2019. In February 2020 PFO Sunshine established its first daycare in Okhla Vihar. The task is tough, and the need for such a resource is huge. Setting up daycare centers requires collaboration with Government agencies and Non-Governmental organizations working for the rights of children and support from people who value this cause.

My utmost gratuities to the PFO Sunshine team, donors, friends, and wellwishers who have made this vision possible.

Tasneema Zaidi,
Founding member and Secretary

Introduction

Who We Are

PFO Sunshine was established in September 2019 in response to an alarming rise in child abuse cases, ranging from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse to human trafficking and substance abuse in children.

The primary concern of every working mother is to leave her child in safe hands at a safe place while she goes out to work. However migrant workers within the domestic, construction, industrial sectors, and daily wagers often have to leave their children unprotected in high-density residential quarters or on the streets due to a lack of a support system in place.

Understanding the need to fill this crucial gap in caretaking, the PFO Sunshine group works for the prevention of child abuse and to ensure a safe and happy childhood for the children of daily wagers, by providing clean and accessible Daycare facilities.

The focus of PFO Sunshine is on the prevention of child abuse so that the need for rehabilitation after abuse/harm has taken place is reduced.

Governing Body Members

President | Mr. Partha Purkayastha

Electrical Engineer & Fellow the Engineering
Construction Industry Training Board, UK

Vice President | Azra Naqvi

Fiction writer & Poet
Editor, 'Rekhta' website

Treasurer | Asma Zaidi

Family Psychologist, School Leader
Teacher trainer and Author

Secretary | Tasneema Zaidi

Child Rights Campaigner
Former member Child Welfare Committee (South East Delhi)

Situation Analysis

The state of Child Rights and Abuse

There has been a sharp surge in cases of abuse of children on an annual basis. As per National Crime Record Bureau, overall crime against children has increased six times in the last recorded decade (2008-2018). Although reporting has improved in recent years, a large number of child abuse cases are still not reported. According to a survey, 99.1% of sexual abuse cases go unreported in India.

The National Crime Record Bureau 2019 report demonstrates



A total of 148,185 child abuse cases were recorded all over India in 2018



39,827 cases were recorded under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act during the year 2019.



On average 109 children were sexually abused every day in India during the year.



44.2% of the total cases were of kidnapping & abduction



Only 34.7% of the total cases were recorded under POCSO Act

Substance Abuse in India 2019 Report by All India Institute of Medical Sciences

26 Lakh An estimated 26 lakh underage children (1.17%) use inhalants in India

38K Around 38,000 children in Delhi need help to combat inhalant use problems

0.9% of total underage children use Cannabis

1.3% of the total underage children are using Alcohol

1.8% of total underage children use Opioids

Children falling in Violent activities

A study conducted by ECHO, Bangalore

About **32,235** cases were committed by **juveniles** were reported **all over India** in 2019

2,783 cases committed by Juveniles were reported **in Delhi** alone during this year

A study conducted by the Safdarjung Hospital recently revealed that **11% of students in Delhi** carry some kind of **weapon to school**

A large number of juveniles in conflict with the law come from **families living below the poverty line**

Issues faced by the Children



Issues faced by the Children of Daily Wage Laborers in Cities

The study conducted by the Empowerment of Children and Human Rights Organization (ECHO) - 'Center of Juvenile Justice' found that the largest number of offenses were committed by the children of daily wage laborers and coolies.

On the other hand, children living in J.J colonies and slums have a higher chance of being targeted within and outside the family as the exposure to conditions that lead to abuse is much higher. In addition to that, they are in almost no position to reach out for help.

Most of the domestic workers, construction workers, factory workers, and daily wagers, are migrant or transient workers and do not have extended families in cities, thus lacking a support system. Combined with the absence of affordable public daycare facilities compel them to leave children alone in their shanties or on the streets while they are out for work.

Although a large number of children living in *bastis* are enrolled in schools, a lot of them are usually irregular due to a lack of supervision and care, and as a result, they often drop out at an early stage of school. Drop-out or out-of-school children, often try and find employment as child laborers and are further exposed to other forms of exploitation. Girls and Trans children are especially at the highest risk, as they often have to attend to their younger siblings or work in unsafe conditions.

PFO Sunshine Projects

Realizing the need to provide alternative care during the day to the children of daily wage earners, PFO Sunshine is working towards establishing Daycare Centers (DCC) in slums and bastis across Delhi.

PFO Sunshine Daycare Center

Objective

To prevent abuse of the most marginalized children and ensure that they do not get pulled into harmful activities.

PFO Sunshine started working on daycares with a partner organization in September 2019. Later it established its first independent daycare in February 2020. The daycares cater to children up to the age of 12 years of domestic workers, rickshaw pullers, construction workers, and other daily wage earners. PFO Sunshine Daycare provides a range of activities throughout the day, focused on children's emotional, mental, and intellectual development.

Facilities Provided

PFO Sunshine daycare center runs from 9 AM to 5 PM by a team of well-trained staff. Children come after school hours and stay until evening. Many infants are also taken care of and dropped off by the mothers as per their needs and work timings.

The daily routine includes morning exercise, games, singing, activities, coloring, painting, study time, snack time, meals, and rest. Children are served freshly cooked nutritious food, milk, seasonal fruit, egg, etc as per the prescribed menu. Keeping the children engaged and channeling their energy into productive activities isn't an easy task for the staff. All staff undergoes rigorous training and sensitization workshops from time to time.

Special care is taken of children's hygiene, daily routine, habits, language, and value systems. The best method to inculcate these ethics is through storytelling which they enjoy the most. Another very important input given to them is about how to keep oneself safe. The Concepts of 'Good Touch, Bad Touch', and 'Safe Circles' are given in an age-appropriate manner.

PFO Sunshine Projects

Parents are also explained that the daycare is not a substitute for a school. All the children of school-going age have been enrolled in neighborhood government schools. In Delhi, the Government Schools run in two shifts. Accordingly, the girls attend school in the morning and join Daycare after school hours in the evenings, whereas the boys attend Daycare in the morning and join the school in the afternoon. The focus of teaching during study hours is on Hindi and Maths. Even the songs and poems recited are particularly in Hindi. The idea is to strengthen the mother tongue to make them able to express themselves well.

Parents' meetings are conducted periodically to discuss their concerns, issues of child safety, and PFO Sunshine policies. A token amount of Rs. 50/- per month is charged as fees to inculcate accountability and responsibility amongst parents.

Okha Vihar Daycare was temporarily closed down due to the spread of COVID-19 at the end of March 2020. The pandemic and its socioeconomic manifestations have taken a toll on the state of child rights globally, but the worst affected are indeed children of daily wagers living in slums.

Children have shown keen interest in attending the daycare because it has helped them stay away from child labor or tend to their younger siblings while their parents were out for work.



Collaboration with other Organizations

We understand that Daycare is a basic need of every basti to keep its children safe, but the task is tough and requires a lot of resources and funds. It can not be accomplished by PFO Sunshine alone with limited resources.

In our view the two possible ways to achieve this goal are:

- To work in collaboration with other child rights organizations to establish daycare centers in their respective areas
- To work in partnership with Government Agencies

It is this collaborative approach that is making it possible for us to reach out to children in different parts of Delhi. We have been writing to different child rights organizations and conducting meetings to discuss the importance of ensuring a safe childhood for the children living in *basties* by providing Daycare facilities along with regular schooling.

Presently, through collaborations, PFO Sunshine is working with 2 daycare centers in South Delhi. PFO Sunshine also provides guidance and support to the partner NGO and conducts training programs for the Daycare staff.

We have also contacted some citizen groups to work in partnership to achieve this shared goal. The concept of prevention and the need to provide alternative care is recognized by many, but lack of sustainable funding is a common constraint across lines. A few groups have started working more passionately on this project and are expected to find solutions to these financial constraints.

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