

Pocketful Of Sunshine

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024







POCKETFUL OF SUNSHINE

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POCKETFUL OF SUNSHINE

MESSAGE FROM **THE FOUNDER**

Tasneema Zaidi



Dear Readers:

This year marks a proud moment of joy and accomplishment as Pocketful of Sunshine celebrates the completion of five years of learning and growth. Looking back, it has been a journey of resilience. We have grown remarkably in terms of organizational structure, building our personnel capacity and collaborating with allied groups to provide an array of interventions on the ground. Most significantly, we have evolved a strong team that has beat the odds to make it all possible.

"At every opportunity, we advocate for the need to create safe spaces for the children of informal workers, and motivate like-minded organizations to work in this direction. Organizations working with vulnerable street-involved children in cities such as Delhi find the daycare model an important practical intervention."

At every opportunity, we advocate for the need to create safe spaces for the children of informal workers, and motivate like-minded organizations to work in this direction. Our big achievement during this period has been developing a comprehensive daycare program, and helping a partner organization build the capacity to run a similar program. Organizations working with vulnerable street-involved children in cities such as Delhi find the daycare model an important practical intervention. One such group has started a daycare center in a resettlement colony in Delhi, and others are working along those lines.

In addition, we established an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) unit, as well as an academic unit. Our project manager received six months of professional training in ECCE from Makar Jagriti in Bangalore, and used their expertise to create colorful, lively learning spaces for toddlers.

We have also developed a separate program for adolescents, although this is just the beginning of what needs to be a full-scale intervention. Our current group has 15 adolescents who spend the hours before school in our daycare. We provide them with a range of activities including sports, theatre, and innovative floor games, as well as project-based work and studies to cultivate their physical, mental and intellectual growth.

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As PFO Sunshine's message of providing safe spaces for street-involved children spreads, we have seen a gradual increase in individual donations and sponsorships. We have also successfully collaborated with the Azim Premji Foundation and Aryan's Yammi Taste to support our work. However, our donations are barely sufficient to sustain existing assignments. To address this, a breakthrough is needed. We are always open to collaborating both directly and indirectly with agencies to meet our mandate of reaching out to more children and women who are informal workers.

Looking ahead, our aim for the upcoming year is to begin to gather research and compile fact sheets and policy briefs on issues surrounding the prevention of child abuse, and to advocate for the creation of more daycare facilities. Through a combination of steps geared towards system-wide change, PFO Sunshine continues to work to protect the fundamental rights of society's youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

TASNEEMA ZAIDI
Founder & Director

POCKETFUL OF SUNSHINE

Phone
+91 7701858974

Email
pfosunshiniedelhi@gmail.com

Website
www.pfosunshineindia.com



ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

From Year 2019

Since 2019, Pocketful of Sunshine has been working towards preventing child abuse and providing a safe and healthy environment for children at risk. It is built on the belief that providing alternative care for children helps pave the way for the economic empowerment of women.

"Realizing the need to break this cycle of neglect and abuse, PFO Sunshine has undertaken the task of growing a network of daycare centers in New Delhi that provide alternative care, nutrition, and supplemental education for the children of daily wage workers."

Our organizing concept is drawn from our founding members' long experiences working within the child protection system and our belief in the necessity of early childhood interventions. We aim to offer a much-needed humanitarian solution to the intertwined impacts of neglect and poverty on the lives of street-involved children in major cities.

The children of daily wage, domestic, and other informal workers are one of the most vulnerable groups in Indian cities. Often coming from migrant families which lack extended kinship networks within urban areas, they grow up with little supervision from parents, who are often themselves victims of exploitative labor conditions. These children are easy targets for various kinds of exploitation including child labor, substance abuse, and sexual abuse.

Realizing the need to break this cycle of neglect and abuse, PFO Sunshine has undertaken the task of growing a network of daycare centers in New Delhi that provide alternative care, nutrition, and supplemental education for the children of daily wage workers. These daycare centers provide a safe haven for these children, while allowing their mothers the freedom to work long hours without worrying about their safety and well-being

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS



RITU SINHA
President

Visiting Fellow,
Centre for the Study of
Developing Societies



TASNEEMA ZAIDI
Founder & Director

Child Rights Activist,
Former member of
Child Welfare Committee



AZRA NAQVI
Co-Founder

Fiction writer & Poet,
Editor, 'Rekhta' Foundation



ASMA ZAIDI
Co-Founder

Family Psychologist, School Leader,
Teachers' Trainer and Author



BHARTI SHARMA
Advisor

Honorary Secretary,
Shakti Shalini



VAIDEHI SUBRAMANI
Advisor

Member, Child Welfare Committee,
South Delhi

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Vaidehi Subramani
Strategic initiatives expert

Aparna Khanna
*Innovative communication and
strategies expert*

Zia Haider
Strategic planning expert

Sarwat Haider
Educationist

Rahul Elumalai
Legal expert

Malavika Chowdhary
Financial expert

Anita Khanna
*Campaigner, Informal
workers rights*

PFO SUNSHINE DAYCARES

OBJECTIVE OF THE DAYCARES

Providing daycare facilities in basties (Urban slums) to prevent the abuse of marginalized and vulnerable children and ensure opportunities for their growth and well-being.

The issues of marginalized and street-involved children are complex and deep rooted. Therefore, the response to these issues has to be comprehensive and tailored to the needs of each child.

Sunshine daycares provide alternative care during working hours (9am- 5pm) everyday to the children of domestic workers and other informal women workers. It caters to children between the ages of 3 months to 15 years. Those below two years of age usually stay for a few hours and go back home once their mothers return from work. Whereas older children stay until the evening hours.

LOCATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Presently, PFO Sunshine is running three daycares in different parts of South Delhi and supporting a partner organization with its expertise in establishing and running a creche in a South Delhi resettlement colony.

Sunshine Daycare, Madanpur Khadar:

Serving the residents of the Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) settlements near the Banks of the Yamuna River, Southeast Delhi.

Sunshine Daycare, Okhla Vihar:

Serving the residents of the Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) settlements near the Jasola metro station, Southeast Delhi.

Sunshine Daycare, Jogabai:

Serving the residents of the Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) settlement in the Bees Footta (20 feet) neighborhood, near the Banks of Yamuna River, Southeast Delhi.



DAYCARE PROGRAMMING

Each group has a well designed program based on the needs of their age and growth domains. The overall program includes the following activities:

- Morning workout, music, play and rest
- Nutritious food
- Anganwadi and school admission
- Foundation literacy and supplemental education
- Monitoring of school attendance and academic progress
- Library
- Project work and extracurricular activities
- Sports and outdoor games
- Outings and excursions
- Linkage with Universal Immunization Program
- Sessions with parents on children's needs and safety measures
- Guidance and assistance to parents in obtaining children's documents especially birth certificate and Aadhar card

BREEZE

3 MONTHS
TO 4 YEARS

CLOUD

4 YEARS TO
7 YEARS

SUN

7 YEARS TO
12 YEARS

THUNDER

12 YEARS TO
15 YEARS



DAYCARE STRUCTURE

Our daycares cater to children ranging from 3 months to 15 years of age. Children are divided into four groups according to their age. Each group has its own daily schedule. A variety of activities are carried out throughout the day, centered on children's emotional, mental, and intellectual development.

These include games, competitions, group projects, and outdoor excursions to bring about a positive change in children's personalities. A partner organization 'Aseem's Library' supports PFO Sunshine in the planning and implementation of these activities.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE SUNSHINE DAYCARES

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION (ECCE) UNIT

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program has been started in the daycares this year. A staff member has been trained in ECCE. Interventions with the younger group have brought remarkable change and growth. Children are much happier and more productively engaged, and classrooms look vibrant. The ECCE coordinator plans and shares daily activities with the group to carry out with smaller children. The same activities are also shared with the partner organization.

ACADEMIC UNIT

Children's academic growth has always been an area of concern for PFO Sunshine. Most have inconsistent educational backgrounds due to weak learning levels in government schools. To foster their academic growth, we are investing in the educational development of our team members, so they are trained to identify and fill the learning gaps they encounter in the children they serve.

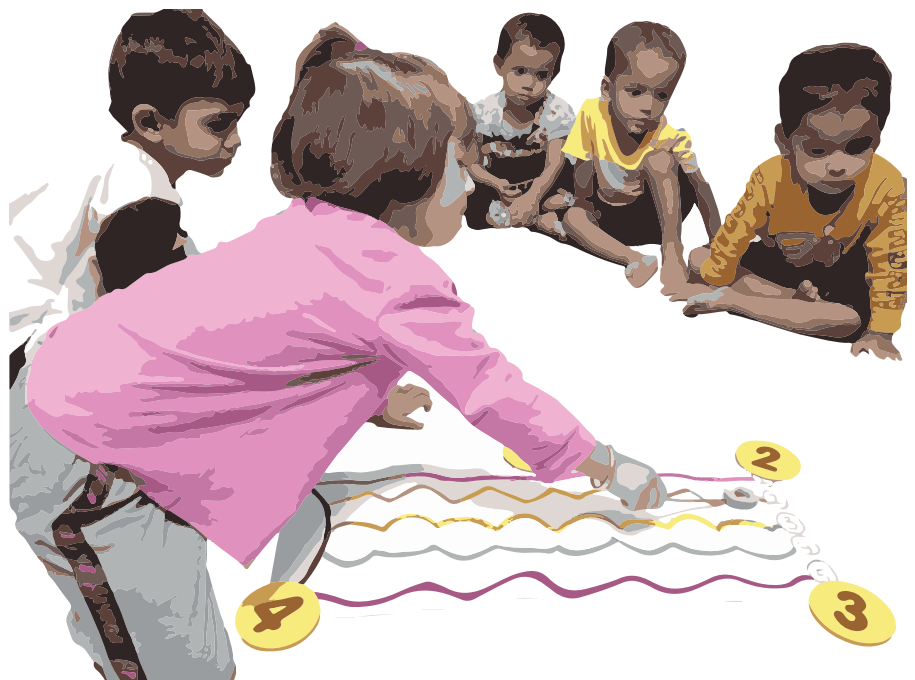
With this objective in mind, an academic unit was established this year, headed by PFO Sunshine's academic advisor. The staff is given regular lessons and their progress is monitored and evaluated on a monthly basis.



SCHOOL AND ANGANWADI ENROLLMENTS

School admissions: 68 children from all three daycares were enrolled in government schools this year. A few more admissions of newly joined children are pending due to a lack of essential documents. The document-making is in process, and children will be admitted to schools in the next session.

Anganwadi admissions: We are not having much success in enrolling the children in Anganwadis, as daycare and Anganwadi timings are clashing. Parents find it difficult to pick up their children from Anganwadi in the afternoon and drop them off at daycare.





DIGITAL LITERACY CLASSES

Digital literacy classes have been started with the support of partner organization Aseem's Library in Jogabai daycare this year. Children are initially being taught basic computer skills; an advanced course will be introduced gradually. Similar classes will be held in two other centers in the coming months.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE (SBC) TOOLS

The SBC tools developed by the Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM) and Professor Aparna Khanna (Lady Irwin College, Delhi) are a powerful way to constructively engage adolescents in preventing substance abuse. The program consists of 10 floor games and activity modules. These activities are periodically conducted by the PFO Sunshine counselor and staff engaged with the adolescent group.



ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Aadhar cards (children)	10
Bank accounts (children)	5
Voter ID	10
Shahri Mahila Kamgar Union Card	30
Labour Cards	6

Birth Certificate

Obtaining birth certificates remains a difficult task as most of the children come from migrant families that lack official birth records. This causes delays in obtaining Aadhar cards and school admissions. We are collaborating with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) Delhi to address these challenges.

IMMUNIZATION

The team is working with parents and primary health centers in each intervention area to enroll children in the universal immunization program and administer vaccines to children who missed them at the right age.



SUNSHINE TEENS

There has been an alarming rise in the sale and use of addictive substances in the slums of Delhi in recent years. Substance abuse is often linked to other unlawful activities as well. It was shocking to learn that almost every adolescent in our daycares has used some form of addictive substance at least once. There were cases when the PFO Sunshine team received information that the daycare children were missing school and, when tracked, were found to be at nearby Nasha Addas (the area where addictive substances are consumed and sold).

"Accommodating adolescent boys with young children was the biggest challenge for the team. This group required a separate program, including a separate space, a teacher, and an age-appropriate curriculum."

Sunshine Teens is PFO Sunshine's much-needed intervention with adolescents at the Jogabai Center this year. Children who were admitted at the ages of 9 and 10 have since turned 13 and 14. Accommodating adolescent boys with young children was the biggest challenge for the team. This group required a separate program, including a separate space, a teacher, and an age-appropriate curriculum.

Earlier, a few children, especially boys, lost interest in the existing program and started dropping out.

There were complaints of these boys getting into activities such as petty theft, street fights, and substance abuse. This loss of supervision compounds the risk of boys and girls living in vulnerable situations getting exploited within and outside the family system.

Realizing the urgency, we formed a new group for adolescent boys within our existing setup despite resource and funding constraints that limited us from securing a separate space for them. A part-time male staff member has been appointed, and we have created a comprehensive schedule to keep them productive until 12:30 pm when they leave for school. To create meaningful interventions for this sensitive and vulnerable age group, this interim arrangement must be resourced and expanded into a robust program.

The boys attend classes before school hours in the first half of the day, and the girls join in the afternoon after school. The intervention has proven to be a great success in preventing unwanted activities and school dropout among this group.



THEATRE WORKSHOPS

Theater is a powerful tool and therapy for adolescents. In December 2024, Delhi's renowned theater group Jamghat held a ten-day theater workshop for the Sunshine Teen group. The children developed a play on the theme of misuse of cell phones. The play was enacted on the occasion of the year's celebration of Pocketful of Sunshine.

Working with adolescents has not been easy. The team has accepted it as a challenge, as well as an opportunity to learn techniques that can make a long-lasting impact. A range of activities, including sports, digital learning, theater, counseling, SBC tools activities, and studies, are carried out. The classes are held in Jogabai Daycare at present, but the plan is to find the resources to shift it to a separate building at the earliest.

The plan is to scale up the program as resources become available by opening it up to outside boys and girls and replicating it in other vulnerable areas, including Khadar and Okhla Vihar.

SUNSHINE SECOND CHANCE

VISION

Second Chance is a platform where young adults who missed formal education in their formative years are provided with an encouraging atmosphere to rekindle their interest in learning to read and write. They are enrolled in different classes through the National Institute of Open Learning (NIOS). To help prepare them for their exams, these adults are provided with a tutor and often placed in small groups to promote peer-to-peer learning.

HUMBLE ORIGINS

The first center under this project was started in 2021 in Okhla Vihar. Classes were held in the daycare premises in the evening. A new center has been opened in the Jogabai daycare building this year. A few students have joined the program from Khadar and nearby areas too. They take private tuition to learn and prepare for exams. PFO Sunshine helps to navigate them through the admissions process and monitors their progress through monthly evaluations.

"Second Chance is a platform where young adults who missed formal education in their formative years are provided with an encouraging atmosphere to rekindle their interest in learning to read and write. "

Two students were helped in pursuing higher education this year, one by doing a Master in Social Work (MSW) and the other by learning Tally. This was made possible through our sponsorship program which takes care of the Second Chance students' expenses. Under this program, a student is sponsored at INR 2000 per month. Although the sponsorship is enough to sustain existing numbers, more resources are needed to support young adults who are restarting and continuing their education.



CAPACITY BUILDING: WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

PFO Sunshine is a grassroots organization that makes sincere efforts through capacity building and preparing team members to advance the organization's cause and build a long-term, sustained involvement. PFO Sunshine realizes the importance of its employees' personal and professional growth. Thus academic and professional growth of the team to help develop leadership skills and opportunities for further growth is one of its four objectives. The organization conducts regular capacity-building sessions for its staff on teaching pedagogies, early childhood interventions, issues related to child rights, teamwork and stress management.

- Sessions on **developing reading habits for children** (Aseem's)
- Staff training on the Pratham module for children's learning level assessment (Aseem's)
- Quarterly sessions for teachers on **creative learning**, brain teasers, art, and craft (Aseem's)
- Staff training on Mental Health Awareness Campaign (Lady Irwin College)
- Session on Mental Health and Stress Management for PFO Sunshine team (Counselor)
- Sessions on **rights of informal workers** (SMKU)
- Sessions for parents on child safety and wellbeing (Counselor)
- Training on **storytelling techniques** for teachers (Aseem's)
- Sessions on teamwork practices (Strategic Planning expert)
- Six month **training on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** received by the project manager:
Organized by Wipro and Makkala Jagriti Bangalore
- ECCE training of PFO Sunshine team members and Ashiana Daycare staff
- Training on Social and Behavioural Change (SBC) Tools (Lady Irwin College, Delhi)

CAPACITY BUILDING OF PARENTS AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

- Quarterly sessions of parents were conducted on child safety and well-being
- Sessions were conducted for children's parents on the rights of informal workers, especially domestic workers, by a partner organization Shehri Mahila Kamgar Union (SMKU)



FIVE YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The PFO Sunshine team and children celebrated five years with mentors, partners, friends, and some parents in a small celebratory gathering. Children performed a nukkad natak on the misuse of cellphones, prepared during a theater workshop. They also presented Zumba and a fun action song.

Awards were presented to children with the highest attendance and highest number of books read. Their mothers were also honored and appreciated for supporting their kids in their achievements.

THE SUNSHINE IMPACT

The impact of our daycares has been phenomenal, both on the lives of the children and their mothers. PFO Sunshine has been successfully achieving its objective of providing safe spaces to children of informal workers year after year. As our interventions involve all domains of a child's growth, the outcome is holistic and can be seen in their improved quality of life. The children are happy, more confident, aware of their surroundings, and willing to learn.

There were occasions when the team got information about some children missing out on school and getting into harmful activities. Their prompt response stopped the damage in time and saved the children from further harm.

Additionally, the alternative care we provide for children during working hours has brought an immense change in the lives of their mothers. They work for longer hours now without worrying about the wellbeing of their children. Even mothers with newborn babies can now work outside the home. They have realized the importance of safe spaces for their children and help ensure that their children are not playing on the streets and that they regularly attend daycare and school.



A child who was at the verge of dropping out till last year, has received a 100% attendance award in his school this year.



Sincere efforts are being made to mobilize the required funds to work on them in the upcoming year. We are also looking for collaborative opportunities to fill the gaps.

“ YOU CAN HELP US REACH MORE CHILDREN IN NEED !



Beneficiaries

The nature of the work PFO Sunshine is involved in does not give much scope to count its success in numbers since it requires long-term intervention. To achieve the best results, a child must continue in the facility for at least 5-6 years or until they can care for themselves.

ENROLLED CHILDREN 400 **WORKING MOTHERS 190** **SECOND CHANCE 16** **TOTAL BENEFICIARIES 606**

FUTURE PLANS

A more planned and developed program for special needs children!

Regular health checkups and health and growth monitoring!

Increased capacity for each daycare!

College and Vocational Training Counseling!

Improved student to teacher ratio in classrooms!



pfosunshine



pfosdelhi