

A SLICE OF LIFE

Twenty professionals under the banner Dream India, have come together for improving and enlightening the lives of underprivileged children



SHIBANI DHAVALIKAR

time on weekends with the kids at some centres across the city - namely, an orphanage called 'Apala Ghar' in Warje, a slum area in Hadapsar, and an organisation called Manavya, for the HIV positive children.

'Apala Ghar' was the first project taken up by Dream India, which started in Pune in March 2005. Every Saturday, the Dream India volunteers impart computer lessons to the kids of this orphanage. Thanks to their excellent efforts, the kids are now well versed with the computer fundamentals like the MS Office or the Internet.

The volunteers not only celebrate several festivals at Apala Ghar but also the birthdays of the children here. A very special feature of the work done by these volunteers is that the kids at Apala Ghar have pen friends at Manavya in Pune, and also at Dream India projects in Mumbai. Last

year, the Dream India volunteers took the 'Apala Ghar' kids on a trip to Mumbai, where they were shown the Gateway of India, the planetarium and the aquarium, and the kids met their pen friends in Mumbai too!

The second Dream India project in Pune is 'Masti ki Pathshala' at the Ram Tekdi slum area in Hadapsar. Their focus is not just imbibing pure academics but also creating awareness and practically developing the social intelligence of the kids. "We just have fun with the kids and contribute our best to enlighten the kids. We need to work hard, and be very patient," says one of the DI volunteers.

The third project is Manavya- the organisation for HIV positive children. The nature of work done by the volunteers here is similar to that done at Apala Ghar.

Looking at the brilliant work of the meticulous and earnest Dream India volunteers, it is hard to believe that they are doing all this without much experience in this field, and also without any funds or donations.

Cheers to these youngsters, who are out to make a difference.

(If anyone from the education field is willing to guide these volunteers, please contact pune@dreamindia2020.org. Also visit www.dreamindia2020.org)



Making a difference

Shibani Dhavalikar | Westside

A group of twenty professionals with the conviction that if one wants happiness for a lifetime, then he should ideally help the next generation, has been striving hard to make feasible it's genuine dream and drive to foresee a developed India.

They have come together as an activity

group called 'Dream India', which is their platform for improving and enlightening the lives of underprivileged children. The operations also happen through its divisions at Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad.

The group consists of people from different walks of life like IT professionals, students, medical professionals and others. All these volunteers spend their free

A cuisine well liked

