



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

1. NAME OF PROJECT: SPARCC:

Samarpan Programme for Adoption, Research Counselling and Consultancy.

2. CO-ORDINATORS:

Dipika Maharaj Singh - Director

Madhuri Abhyankar - Programme Director

Dr Jayant Navarange - Medical Director

Deepali Kumta - Social Work Coordinator

Christie Jose - Social Worker (honoraria)

Sharika Glover- Psychotherapist and Counsellor (honoraria)

Rajendra Agarwal – Legal Consultant: Adoption

Dr Sanyogita Nadkarni – Psychiatrist

3. PHONE NUMBER:

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4. EMAIL ADDRESS:

sparccindia@gmail.com

5. SERVICES OFFERED AT PROJECT AND BENEFICIARIES:



- **Child Development and Adoption; Trainings and Workshops:** SPARCC conducts ongoing training and workshops for Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAA), social workers and prospective adoptive parents.
- **Counselling Services:** SPARCC's experienced and qualified social workers provide extensive counselling services to Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) , Adoptive Parents, Adopted Children/Adults, crisis intervention and family support services.
- **Adoption Services**
 - Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAP) – We conduct Home Study Reports, which is the most important prerequisite for adoption.
 - Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAA) – We provide Training and Support to Child Care Centers as required and prepare their Home Study Reports as and when requested.
 - **Authorized Foreign Adoption Agencies:** SPARCC assists in obtaining information regarding the Emotional and Physical Development of special needs children so that suitable families can be found to meet the needs of the children.
 - **'Bright Sparks' Adult Adoptees** - Adult Adoptees are able to Share their Experiences, seek Peer Support and find a Common Platform with other Adopted People.
 - **Homes for street girl children:** SPARCC raises donations and support for The Rainbow Homes, which is sheltering Girl Children from the Streets, it also conducts health camps to promote their wellbeing, it also provides educational support.



- **Sant Gadge Maharaj School:** SPARCC is supporting Quality Education for Disadvantaged, Slum Based Children, by sponsoring Well Qualified Teaching Staff at the school, and promoting Extra Curricular Activities.

6. HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ Intensive Counselling services provided by SPARCC's expert Team Members to Institutionalised Children, Young and Adult Adoptees, Prospective Adopters and Adoptive Parents.
- ❖ A Series of Workshops for Prospective Adopters, have been conducted by experts in the Field of Child Development and Adoption, These workshops have helped adopters understand issues around adoption and make an informed choice, and have been highly appreciated. The Outcome has been Secure Homes for Family Deprived Children.
- ❖ Public Forum to promote the 'Understanding of Adopted Children' –was conducted in November 2016, during the 'Adoption Week'. This programme was inaugurated by Dr. Mohan Joshi, Chairperson IMA. It was attended by eminent Psychiatrist and renowned theatre personality, Dr.Mohan Agashe, was chief guest at the occasion. He presented



Lifetime Contribution awards to distinguished pediatrician, sportsperson and medico legal expert, Dr Jayant Navarange. Social Worker and Academic Dr Nilima Mehta, and Dr Mandakini Dravid, Medical Social Worker for her lifetime of services to Humanity.

- ❖ Adoption Expert, Dr. Nilima Mehta delivered the keynote address which was highly appreciated by the large and varied audience. Adoptive parents shared their experience of parenting .Adopted young adults spoke about their experience as adoptees. A very unusual aspect of the adoption relationship was projected by the moving talk by the Birth parents who had given up their baby for adoption 24 years ago.
- ❖ Training conducted for a Specialised Adoption Agency: Pakhar Sankul was given complete training on different aspects of Inter-country Adoption. The training helped the agency to organize themselves to handle inter-country adoption and to understand various aspects of

In country and intercountry adoption and to deal with the procedure in the most sensitive, efficient and timely manner.

7. EVENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR:

SPARCC has been running its Adoption and Child Development services with a small team of volunteers who have long standing experience and understanding of adoption related issues and the needs of family deprived children.



2016 has been a busy and challenging year for SPARCC. Within limited resources, the SPARCC team provided a range of services such as Counselling, preparation of home study reports, workshops, educational sponsorship, social advocacy, publications and support to child care organisations.

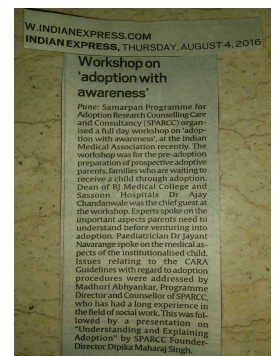
The SPARCC team consists of qualified experienced professionals from the field of social work, law, pediatrics, child development, psychiatry etc. who have been relentlessly providing their services to support the social causes.

SPARCC extends its heartfelt thanks to our well-wishers and donors whose trust and support has enabled us to provide our services.

A brief outline of some of the activities of SPARCC in 2016 is given below:

JANUARY 2016

- The year began with the visit of three adult adopted people who were raised by their adopted families in Sweden. Sparcc hosted a warm welcome to the children and their homecoming was widely reported in the media. as
- The Indian Express wrote an article about the event also mentioning SPARCC activities, (January 9, 2016)(see picture of article on the right)





- The government has introduced a computerised process to link prospective adoptive parents to children awaiting a family. This process can be complex and intimidating for those who are not conversant with the online system. SPARCC social workers have assisted prospective adoptive parents (PAPs) with the online adoption process and helped them liaise with CARA. This has resulted in fruitful outcomes of children being matched with families in an adoption placement.
- Adoption is not a onetime event. It is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. The SPARCC team members are available to all adoptive families when they need to share their high and low points, their joys and their challenges. In depth and empathetic counselling was provided to adult adoptees and their adoptive family members. Issues related to behavioral and academic difficulties, strains in the parent child relationship, unrealistic expectations, teenage issues etc. causing conflict between the adoptee and adopters, were mediated by SPARCC social workers. This was a greatly needed and appreciated service as there are few counselors who have experience in understanding the deeper issues in adoption.
- Crisis intervention and unlimited telephonic counselling is an ongoing service provided to adoptive parents to manage challenging situations.
- As Samarpan is a global foundation with humanitarian services in various parts of the world, Chairperson and Founder, Patrick San Francesco is always on the move. Pune Samarpan was delighted to welcome Patrick to SPARCC office to apprise him of our services, introduce him to our team and seek his guidance for our future initiatives.



Patrick's visit to our office was followed by a visit to our school sponsorship programme at Sant Gadge Maharaj Vidyalaya. The children welcomed him with their newly acquired vocabulary of English, with song and dance. Patrick pointed out that many children were malnourished and SPARCC should evaluate and support their nutritional counselling. SPARCC continues to provide support and sponsorship to the school. The curriculum was originally only Marathi and as per the demand from parents and students, SPARCC has sponsored three English teachers and changed the primary teaching to English language.

- SPARCC provided assistance to other 'SAA's (Specialised Adoption Agencies), by conducting home study reports which is based on in -depth interviews with prospective adoptive parents and a visit to their homes to evaluate their preparation for adoptive parenthood.
- Legal support services were also provided to Prospective adoptive parents by SPARCC's honorary legal expert, Advocate Rajendra Agarwal.

FEBRUARY 2016

- Programme Director of SPARCC, Madhuri Abhyankar visited the Bal Kalyan Kendra in Baramati as a chief guest for their school annual gathering, where she spoke about SPARCC organization and promoted the services it provides.
- The newly founded Rainbow Home, for girl children from the





streets of Pune was inaugurated. SPARCC has been engendering awareness and support for this vital shelter in Pune. Social worker Deepali Kumta and Madhuri Abhyankar attended the programme. (see picture on right)

- The SPARCC team members were happy to welcome Mr.Rana Basu, whose organisation in the USA , Consurgo Sunshine, gave us generous support for our adoption services.
- Madhuri Abhyankar attended a program at Vanchit Vikas. It was the screening of the film on services that Vanchit Vikas provides as a NGO and a member of CAB (Childline) and works with the children of prostitutes.
- SPARCC Director, Dipika Maharaj Singh and Madhuri Abhyankar visited a child care centre, Arunashray, to explore the possibility of initiating care for HIV positive and/or mentally challenged children.
- Home study Reports were prepared for prospective adopters. This is the vital stage of the adoption process which consists of interviewing the prospective parents, counselling and guiding them.Following the home study and home visit, detailed information was given to prospective adopters and adoptive families in relation to the process, legal and therapeutic services available.
- A power point presentation was prepared by Sparcc for the college of social work in Dhule. This presentation was a social work initiative of ex – students of Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work called MAGOWA where the group went and gave a presentation in their respective field. Madhuri Abhyankar gave a presentation in the field of adoption.



- A power point presentation was presented by Madhuri Abhyankar in Babasaheb Ambedkar College for Social work during the workshop on various issues and challenges in social work. This was done to make the students aware of real life scenario in the field.
- Visit to the SAA run by the Apang Kushtha Rogi Swawalamban Sanstha by Madhuri Abhyankar to build relationship with them and to inquire if they had any home studies and follow up that SPARCC could assist them with.
- Childline Pune advisory board meeting attended by Madhuri Abhyankar as she has been nominated on the child advisory committee in Childline which is an extension of the Juvenile Justice Act and an extension of the Central government's program.
- She attended a meeting organized by Cummins College , attended by representatives of 50 different organizations. It was a public relations exercise where we get to meet the heads of many organizations.
- NARI ethics committee meeting on ethical research attended by Madhuri Abhyankar as a SPARCC representative. National Aids Research Institute is an international body which is again a government body which conducts research in the field of HIV where all kinds of research (Medical/ social) are conducted and the role of the ethics committee is to see to it that all the research are conducted lawfully and ethically with the clients and whether proper remuneration is reimbursed to them.



- Mr. Nakul Kate and Pournima Gadiya, Child Welfare Committee members visited SPARCC office to get information about our adoption services.
- Dr. Duggal visited SPARCC office, given the SPARCC letter for doctors and gynaecologists, to inform them about services available for unwed mothers and children at licensed women and child care centres.
- NGO forum of Childline meeting in Kedgaon attended by Madhuri Abhyankar to discuss various issues related to various child welfare committees to discuss malfunctioning, corruption, harassment of staff of SAAs.
- Mukti Mission in Kedgaon was informed about SPARCC's assistance for the home study reports. Subsequently home study reports were prepared for this child care organization.
- Training on Legal Assistance for Pakhar Sankul in SPARCC. The training was organized by SPARCC along with the expert team of social workers and Adv. Rajendra Agarwal (adoption legal expert) for the training. Four of their staff members came to Pune for the full one day workshop. CARA guidelines were also discussed. There was ongoing training and support provided to Pakhar Sankul provided by Christie Jose (honorary social worker).



MARCH 2016

- This month began with public awareness initiatives at the Pula Fest for women entrepreneurs.
- Appeals for donation and wish lists for organisations supported by SPARCC were given out and the public response was very encouraging.
- On 10th March, Dipika Maharaj Singh was awarded by Rotary International on Women's Day for Outstanding Work for Society.

Umbilical Connections also felicitated her for her lifetime services to children.

- Ongoing support to Rainbow Homes in respect of donations was provided.

APRIL 2016

- The month of April 2016 started with the preparation for the pre – adoption workshop. 22 families attended this training programme. This was a successful platform for SPARCC social workers to provide information and training to prospective parents. It also was also able to give a common platform to all of them to connect with each other and share their common concerns/ anxieties/ queries about adoption.



- Between April to May 2016, Dipika Maharaj Singh met with 28 grown up adoptees in Sweden, UK, and Ireland , who shared many life experiences and insights into the journey of their adoption.
The Board of FFIA, Sweden, invited Dipika to attend their Board meeting to brief the members about her new initiative, Sparcc which is supporting adoption services for family deprived children. FFIA decided to support those services on a project basis for the coming year .Their support was a great boost to Sparcc services.
- Details of workshops and training that SPARCC can conduct were circulated to 62 Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs).
- SPARCC team members prepared post adoption research questionnaires for adoptive parents in the month of April 2016, with a view to gathering post adoption experience from the parents' perspective.
- SPARCC prepared home studies for 3 Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) until the month of April 2016. SPARCC also initiated communication with two more Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) for the home studies and the follow up visits. Adhar, a Specialized Adoption Agency (SAAs) in Pune also referred PAPs for home studies and follow up visits and reports.
- Follow up with an adoptive family with regards to their daughter's process in getting the certificate for learning disabilities was done to understand her problem and provide support for the academic challenges.
- An adult Indian adoptee who is married and settled outside India visited SPARCC with



her mother to share their experiences . This adult adoptee wishes to adopt a child as she has fears related to pregnancy due to her personal history ,and is seeking support from SPARCC.

- SPARCC team members did a total of 6 home studies in the month of April 2016 for different Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) in Maharashtra.

MAY 2016

- Presentation at the CSA workshop on May 07, 2016.
- Sent out research questionnaires to about 31 adoptive parents referred by CSA.
- Appealed on Facebook for donations of stationery for the municipal school and Rainbow Homes.
- Contacted Tanishka Foundation (Sakal initiative) for briefing their women's group regarding SPARCC services.
- Invited the Mr. Prasad Thipsay, Tanishka Foundation for the pre – adoption workshop to help him understand one of the aspects of adoption handled by SPARCC.



- In January 2016, SPARCC had proactively assisted a family regarding the technical faults that had come up in their case during the child referral by CARA. They had lost the opportunity to adopt a child twice: once as they were away in their native place and were unable to check the email from CARA in time and the second time they lost this opportunity as they had tried checking their email from a smartphone. This gave rise to technical difficulties and they lost this chance too. Finally this prospective adoptive family received a child referral from CARA on May 16, 2016. They have made their decision on adopting one out of the three children referred to them. They are now in the process of completing the further formalities regarding the same. This is one of a series of successful cases assisted by SPARCC.
- Mrs. Madhuri Abhyankar attended the NGO get – together organized by Vanchit Vikas on May 21, 2016. This was a public relationship activity.
- Second Pre – Adoption workshop organized on May 22, 2016. This received a very positive feedback from prospective adopters and in the feedback forms they expressed they would attend future trainings held by SPARCC.

JUNE 2016

- Mrs. Madhuri Abhyankar attended the post adoption meet organized for the adoptive parents in partnership with Sroat organized on June 05, 2016. She briefed the residents of the housing complex in Warje since they were planning a donation drive for Rainbow homes.

- Plays organized for the Rainbow homes (Shivaji Nagar and Yerwada) on June 11, 2016.
- Mrs. Madhuri Abhyankar attended a workshop on “Talking to children about prevention of sexual abuse” by Dr. Ujwal Nene on June 12, 2016. Report attached separately herewith.
- A sample ‘Life Story Book’ prepared by Dipika Maharaj Singh for prospective adopters and social workers to give adopted children a pictorial and sensitive understanding of their birth story , was handed over to different child care homes.
- Staff Training for the staff members at Snehalaya , was done by Madhuri Abhyankar and Deepali Kumta on June 23, 2016
- Two families assisted by SPARCC Counselling welcomed their children home. Separate report attached herewith.
Another prospective couple who had attended the pre – adoption workshop organized by SPARCC received their referral from CARA on June 29, 2016. They are in the process of the child identification.

JULY 2016

- An adoption workshop was held on 31 July 2016, Adoption With Awareness at the Indian Medical Association,Pune. This was attended by 50 participants. The workshop was for the pre adoption preparation of Prospective Adoptive Parents i.e. families who are waiting



to receive a child through adoption.

The Dean of BJ Medical College and Sassoon Hospitals, Dr.Ajay Chandanwale, M.S.(Ortho), was the chief guest at this occasion. Under his stewardship a breast milk bank with a mobile van to collect & store breast milk for support to survival of premature, low birth weight and mother deprived infants -- a first of its kind initiative in Asia.

Experts on adoption related issues spoke on the important aspects which parents need to understand before venturing into this unique relationship.

Paediatrician Dr.Jayant Navarange, spoke on the Medical Aspects of the institutionalised child. He explained how a child without known medical history and background can be medically evaluated.

He pointed out that family deprived children living in well run child care centres are very closely monitored and reassured parents that they would receive substantial information on a child they would adopt He also gave pointers to parents for the steps to take for the growth & development of their child.

Issues relating to the CARA Guidelines with regard to adoption procedures,were addressed by Madhuri Abhyankar and Deepali Kumta. This was followed by a presentation on "Understanding & Explaining Adoption" by SPARCC Founder-Director, Dipika Maharaj Singh.She explained that Adoption is essentially a 'Lost and Found ' relationship, based on losses for all who are touched by adoption: Birth Parents, Adoptive Parents & Child. But loss can be transformed from a Hole to a Whole by in-depth understanding, acknowledgement and validation of the emotional state of all, particularly the child. She stressed upon the need for following a holistic approach whereby adoptive parents respect and include the birth origins of the child they have adopted .She gave guidance to the



prospective parents on how this could be achieved to secure the emotional well being of their child.

Dr .Sanyogita Nadkarni, MBBS ,MRCPsych, a highly qualified psychiatrist , spoke on the 'Importance of Communication & Play in Parenting' . She explained the manner in which parents can effectively communicate with young children to build up their self esteem and problem solving capacity, to ensure healthy emotional growth of their child.

Post lunch, three adoptive parents shared their experience in parenting, the challenges and joys experienced. The final highlight was the session by adopted young adults.

The participants found this workshop highly educative and stated that they had gained a deep insight into this unique relationship called Adoption.

AUGUST 2016

- One home study was done in the month of August 2016
- Ongoing contact with SAAs for more home studies.

SEPTEMBER 2016

- 5 home studies were done in the month of September 2016
- Preparations of the workshop to be held in the month of October 2016 was started
- Preparations of the workshop to be held in the National Adoption Awareness Week were started.

OCTOBER 2016

- The 4th pre-Adoption workshop was held on 15th October. 17 PAPs were present for the same. The topics covered were Medical Aspects of Adoption, Communication and other aspects in Parenting, Legal Aspects, Experience sharing by other parents and adoptees. The Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) participating in this workshop was a mixed group where a few participants followed Marathi a few followed Hindi and English. So the workshop was conducted in a way that the resource persons spoke in both Hindi and Marathi so that all the participants could easily follow the different aspects discussed in the workshop.
- The feedback received from participants following this workshop, unveiled that the workshop was appreciated by all participants and a lot of information and clarification was provided. Participants expressed a need of having more feedback from adult adoptees and having trainings provided regularly for adopters pre and post adoption.



NOVEMBER 2016

A major highlight of SPARCC's services for 2016 was its event. For National Adoption Awareness Week. SPARCC held a programme at the Indian Medical Association, Pune on the 19th of November. The theme was on "Understanding Adopted Children". The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Mohan Joshi, Chairperson IMA.

Eminent Psychiatrist and renowned theatre personality, Dr.Mohan Agashe, was chief guest at the occasion. He presented Lifetime Contribution awards to distinguished pediatrician, sportsperson and medico legal expert, Dr Jayant Navarange.

Samarpan Foundation awarded a special trophy for a lifetime of humanitarian service to Dr Mandakini Dravid , medical social worker,for her tireless services to humanity. Shortly after receiving the award sent to Mrs.Dravid in Mumbai this great social worker passed away at age 83. Her legacy will never be forgotten.

Dr.Mohan Agashe released the manuscript of a forthcoming book on adoption by SPARCC team member and psychotherapist, Sharika Glover.

An adoptive mother, Kalpana Balaji, and her charming, 5 year old daughter gave a dance recital on the icon of all adopted children, Lord Krishna.

Dr. Nilima Mehta, an eminent social worker delivered the keynote address which was highly appreciated by the large and varied audience. Dr Navarange gave an enlightening talk on the medical aspects of children in institutions.



Adoptive parents shared their experience of parenting .Adopted young adults spoke about their experience as adoptees. A very unusual aspect of the adoption relationship was projected by the moving talk by the Birth parents who had given up their baby for adoption 24 years ago.

Dipika Maharaj Singh spoke about the importance of integrating birth heritage with adoption heritage to enable adopted people to experience themselves as a Whole and overcome their sense of loss and isolation. Dipika referred to this as the ABC of adoption.

The audience which consisted of doctors, lawyers, social workers, child care centre authorities, social activists, adoptive parents, adopted young adults and concerned citizens expressed great appreciation for the substance and quality of this programme.

- Follow up for children with special needs: SPARCC took up this project this month to facilitate the adoption of children with special needs.
SPARCC contacts SAAs all over India in case inadequate details have been given to AFAs or parents, seeking more information on special needs children as sought so that children are placed with families who can fulfil their special needs. We followed up or acquired required information about 23 special needs children in this month out of which 70% of the children are accepted by families. The results of such efforts seem to be very positive and promising.
- Dipika had visits from adopted people who shared their life journey with her. She recorded



their views in live interviews with three adult adoptees who are growing up overseas where their adoptive parents live.

- Counselling: One part of our role is to provide counselling to Adult Adoptees, Prospective Adoptive Parents, Adoptive Parents, etc. and information sharing with SAAs.
- Adoption Process Guidance to SAAs: SPARCC regularly provides assistance to other SAAs with regards to training and understanding around adoption procedures, legal requirements and assistance in completing required documentation.
- Assistance to find a shelter home for an unwed mother: SPARCC social workers support unwed mothers to guide them to licensed homes when required and make them aware of their legal rights.
- Assistance for networking and vocational training courses: Mr. S G who has been running this NGO for more than 10 years now needed help for vocational training and other courses for the children in B. We connected him to a few people like Mr. Girish Kulkarni, etc. who can help him out in the same.
- IMA Baramati Conference: IMA held its 56th Annual Maharashtra State conference 'MASTACON' at Baramati Club, Baramati on the 19 & 20th November 2016. The topic for the Conference was Litigation-free Practice & Assault on Doctors.
- Madhuri Abhyankar was invited as one of the panelists on the 20th of November, along

with Dr. Jayant Navrange, Dr Sandeep Bhajibhakre, Dr Girish Kumthekar & Mr. Harshad Nimbalkar. The main issues discussed during the conference were violence by patients' families against doctors and hospital staff, procedural difficulties at hospitals and clinics and doctors inhumane attitude towards people. The panel which consisted of experienced medical professionals and social workers spoke about what could be done to overcome these issues legally and otherwise.

- A very positive feedback was received from the audience. It was described as “useful”, “heartwarming”, and “informative” were a few words used by the participants.
 - One of them expressed that she is an adopted adult and now wishes to adopt a child herself. Following this workshop, she is much more certain to adopt as it answered her questions and gave her more confidence to parent an adopted child. she quoted, “today’s seminar made my thoughts and feelings more strongly towards this concept”.
 - Another participant expressed, “it was really helpful to know different angles of adoption...”, “I really loved the voices of different stakeholders of adoption..”
 - One participant who was a psychologist expressed “ very enlightening....to get a true perspective from all angles about adoption”
- Families of Joy Meet, Delhi: on 24th of November Dipika Maharaj Singh was invited to attend a post adoption programme in Delhi, by Families of Joy. There were several very enlightening sessions by experts like Vinita Bhargava, Cara authorities, and members of Families of Joy who shared their knowledge and experience.
Dipika met several young adults who had been adopted in childhood. They expressed their interest in networking to share their experiences with each other. She informed them

about Bright Sparks, our group for adopted people.

DECEMBER 2016

- In Solapur, Pakhar Sankul organisation shelter, cares for children who are abandoned. They requested SPARCC to visit their organization to train their child care staff and social workers to increase their efficiency and capacities. This training was conducted on 14/12/16. It was attended by 14 of Pakhar Sankul staff, majority of which were child care staff and the rest were social workers or administrative staff.

The training mainly covered the following:

- Nutrition- type of food to be prepared for the children, seasonal food preparations & preparing a food chart. Also, the quantity of food to be given.
- Cleanliness to be maintained in the premises as well as during feeding. Why personal hygiene of staff is important.
- Beautifying the institute to make it more appealing for children.
- Developmental milestones of children, how they are to be observed.
- Illnesses that young children commonly get, reasons for the same and how to avoid them.
- How body language and emotions of child care staff impact the children.
- Why it is important to observe and note the routines, likes, dislikes of each child from the adoption perspective.
- The details to be mentioned in the CSR and MER and what's the importance of having clean and precise records.
- How to do an intake when a mother comes to relinquish her child.



- The staff and Ms. Shubhangi Bua, founder of Pakahr Sankul gave us a positive feedback. They felt that the training covered practical issues which helped them in their day to day functioning.
- We referred an unwed mother to S.A. for temporary shelter and care till delivery of child. We also counselled her parents about the options ahead.
- Educational sponsorship programme: SPARCC continued support to secure quality education for the children at Sant Gadge Maharaj Vidyalaya which is serving children from the adjacent slum settlement. Along with newly introduced English medium education the year was filled with exciting extra-curricular activities and celebrations which brought the year, 2016 to a happy ending.
- A 36 yr old adoptee who was facing major obstacles in her search for information on birth parents, was counseled by Dipika and assisted by SPARCC to approach the appropriate authorities for further assistance through legitimate channels to pursue her search. The commissioner was acquainted with her mission and assured the required support.
- The year concluded with a special event at a home for challenging and family deprived children. Dipika was invited by Sofosh h=to attend the annual Christmas party at Tara, the home for mentally and physically challenged children. The children gave a wonderful performance transcending all their limitations, to the delight of the invitees. Dipika handed out awards to the dedicated staff of Tara who provide love and care to the special children who live in this unique home.

STATISTICS OF WORK CARRIED OUT:

<i>TYPE OF WORK</i>	<i>NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES</i>
Pre adoption counselling/ assistance	860
Post adoption counselling/ assistance	730
Reception to adult adoptees	13
Counseling to Adult Adoptees	60
Post adoption follow up of inter – country adoptees	28
Guidance and Counseling for Foster Care	1
Workshops	4
Pre adoption workshop Beneficiaries	116
Training programs	2
Home Studies prepared for	4 SAAs

Total number of home studies	29
Presentation done in Post adoption workshops	1
Organized a Post adoption workshop in collaboration with another agency Sroat	1
Number of beneficiaries who attended the workshop by SPARCC and Sroat	10
Consultancy to Specialized Adoption Agencies	4
Children placed with families assisted	6
Legalization completed for families assisted by SPARCC	1
Institutional support	6
Other assistance given to the home for girls	2 shows of a play for a total of about 50 girls
Educational Support	50 children
Meeting with other NGO for unwed mothers	1
Research questionnaire sent to	75
Follow-up and guidance i.e. procedural	38

information and assistance to SAAs to facilitate adoption of Special needs children	
Post Placement Follow-Ups	3
Follow-up and guidance i.e. procedural information and assistance to SAAs	15
Follow-Ups for Special Needs Children	24
Referrals	2
Guidance and Counselling for Foster Care	4
Others	3

SPARCC is looking forward to another year of service to our society in the year ahead. We express our most sincere gratitude to all the sponsors and donors who have enabled us to fulfil social needs by their vital support.

We also express heartfelt thanks to our partners in the social work field, our Consultants, and to adopted parents and children who so wholeheartedly support our initiatives. Finally our gratitude to our mentor and inspiration,



Dr. Patrick San Francesco, who has spread the humanitarian services of Samarpan across India and globally.

Thank you from the SPARCC Team in Pune



Some of the SPARCC social work team



Dr Nilima Mehta receiving the Lifetime Achievement award
in Adoption from Dr Mohan Agashe at SPARCCs workshop,
'Adoption with Awareness'



The Audience at the 'Adoption with Awareness' workshop





SPARCC activities at Sant Ghatge Maharaj School, Pune



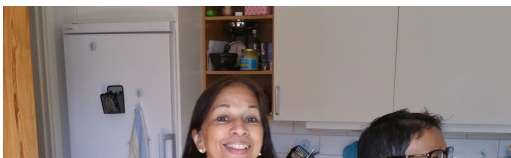
Adoption Workshop Participants



Sparcc Workshop



Adopted mother and daughter share their experiences



Visit with Dipika's 'special' children

Dr Patrick, our mentor addresses the group



Dipika attends FFIA board meeting in Sweden



Dr Mandakini Dravid with her lifetime achievement award for services to humanity.

