



*Dear Readers,*

SOFOSH cannot blossom without the support of the volunteers and well-wishers and hence we always welcome every 'drop' of voluntary service at SOFOSH. We are proud and feel we are extremely fortunate to receive help from the volunteers in all our endeavors, since the inception of SOFOSH. In the month of June we had a group of passionate young volunteers from Bhojwani Academy, Pune. We take this opportunity to thank them from the bottom of our heart, who willingly spent a few days with our little ones in Shreevatsa. Their main aim was to spend quality time with these children who need love affection and care along with much needed personal attention. They conducted various activities for children like exploring different colors, playing games like hide and seek, different interactive games, singing etc. Our children thoroughly enjoyed their time with them. We have always noticed that such activities always bring joy apart from contributing to informal education of small children. We wish to receive similar service from volunteers in future and this involvement of volunteers forms an integral part of any social institution, setting up the stage for comprehensive community development. We once again express our gratitude towards these young enthusiastic volunteers. ❖

Nivedita Gogte



*Exploring the world of colours*

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## ADOPTION COUNSELLING

The Adoption program of SOFOSH is being implemented successfully for the past 39 years. Our children move on from our little home at 'Shreevatsa' to their new homes and a new family. Though we miss them very much, we are very happy that they become a part of and complete a new family. Adoption is a very noble thought, gesture and action which requires a high level of dedication and commitment. It is a beautiful experience for the child and the parents, but it also entails various issues which need to be addressed.

In order to make the pre-adoption, adoption and post-adoption period a pleasurable experience and to ensure a smooth transition for the child and the family into each others lives, I will be initiating a forum for counseling of the children and the adoptive and prospective adoptive parents (family) from the month of September 2012. ❖

Professional qualification:

- Post graduate diploma in child and adolescent psychology.
- Certified Consultant for Emotional Intelligence.
- MD (Anaesthesiology)

Contact: [kareerkavita@hotmail.com](mailto:kareerkavita@hotmail.com)

For schedule and appointments, please contact 'Shreevatsa'.

Dr. Kavita Kareer

## WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY

Thalassemia Major is an inherited blood disorder in which the affected patient is unable to maintain haemoglobin in the normal range. Their bone marrow cannot form sufficient red cells and also the red cell survival rate is reduced.

It is estimated that about 3.4% of our population is carrier of Thalassemia. Every year, about 7000-10,000 children with Thalassemia Major are born in India. May 8 is observed as 'World Thalassemia day', with the primary purpose of educating the common man about the disease, its causes and methods of prevention. The 'Thalassemia Day' awareness program conducted jointly by SOFOSH and CIPLA this year received tremendous response from the Thalassemic patients and their families. The SPARSH group of Pune also joined in to spread the awareness of blood donation for such patients. The program was inaugurated by Dr. A.A Kinikar, in-charge of Thalassemia unit of Sassoon General Hospital. The highlight of the program was a documentary presentation based on the experience of Thalassemic patients, the type of care to be given to such patients etc. Special drawing competition was organized by SOFOSH for small children and around 25 to 30 affected children along with their siblings participated in this activity. Gifts and snacks were distributed to the children as a token of appreciation.

On this occasion, we are also happy to announce that the play therapy sessions initiated by SOFOSH for Thalassemic children have proved to be a success. Altogether, 127 children participated in the 450 sessions conducted by SOFOSH. ❖



*Drawing competition held for the Thalassemic children*



*Prize distribution*

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*Total no. of adoptions from April 2012 to June 2012- 14*

*Indian Adoptions - 12*

*NRI - 1*

*Foreign Adoptions - 1*

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## Patient Welfare

Sarika Kamble, age 38, belongs to a very poor family. She lives with her husband, three school going daughters and mother-in-law. Her husband is an electrician. Unfortunately, she met with a railway accident and was admitted at Sassoon Hospital. She was absolutely traumatized when she came to know that one of her hands and leg had to be amputated. Under this arduous situation, what she needed the most was emotional support along with family counseling. The trained social workers at SOFOSH played an important role in her rehabilitation which in turn helped her to accept the situation and face this challenge in her life. Her husband's meager income was another constraint wherein she could not even think of her surgery for artificial limbs. Her case was referred to SOFOSH by the doctors at SASSOON Hospital and thus SOFOSH provided her the monetary aid for artificial limbs. She is now in a position to lead a normal life. We, at SOFOSH, always strive to bring hope to lives of such needy patients. ❖

## HAPPILY, FOREVER AFTER.....

Employed at one of the call centre in Pune, Archana, age 19, met Amol, age 23, working at Film Institute, Pune as supervisor, at her friend's wedding. This acquaintance developed into friendship and blossomed further into love. Youthful physical attractions and lack of maturity at their age, led them to a physical relationship throwing cautions to winds. Both of them were in a quandary when they came to know about her pregnancy. Fear of family rebuke and social humiliation prevented her from disclosing her pregnancy. Both of them were in dilemma. Finally she had to take medical advice at some point and both were alarmed to know that the pregnancy had progressed to such a stage where the medical termination was not an option. Archana suffered a premature delivery giving birth to a baby girl in the 7<sup>th</sup> month of her pregnancy. Amol's parents were unaware of these happenings and Archana's parents were reluctant to take care of the baby.

The primary aim of Shreevatsa has always been to counsel the couple and discourage them from leaving behind their child. Our social workers put in all their efforts in counseling, but, since Amol was financially dependent on his parents, both were left with no alternative but to hand over the child to 'Shreevatsa', with the consent of the 'Child Welfare Committee'. After all this, somewhere, both of them had the guilt of what they had done and regular extensive counseling sessions by our social workers helped them to face the situation positively. Amol with the help of our social workers was successful in convincing his parents who willingly accepted the baby. Amol and Archana today are happily married. This case was presented to the Child Welfare Committee and with their order we have handed over their baby- Nidhi to her parents. This reunion case is a unique one but 'this' has always been SOFOSH's prime endeavor and we do witness such happy moments. ❖

## TARA NEWS

We, all at SOFOSH, are extremely proud to bring to light the fact that 3 of our special needs children who are placed at the Kamayani School have been promoted to the next academic year.

Snehal and Chaitrali who have been studying at SNEHALAYA – the school for physically and mentally challenged

children, have remarkably progressed in their academics. Snehal and Chaitrali stood first and second in their class respectively. Similarly, Anuradha was awarded a consolation prize for her outstanding performance in music.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 TARA celebrated its fourth anniversary year along with its staff and other members of SOFOSH. Gifts were distributed to the working staff and children at TARA.



*14<sup>th</sup> May- TARA stepped into its fourth year*

## PARENTS MEET ARRANGED AT PIMPRI-CINCHWAD

The parents meet arranged at Pimpri-Chinchwad, is one of the recurrent activity, conducted by SOFOSH at periodic intervals. It was scheduled on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 at Atharva Hall, Chinchwad, Pune from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. The main objective of this meet is to get the adoptive parents acquainted with each other and this interaction helps them to handle the common challenges they face with their children in the right way. Mrs. Aarti Pendse, noted psychologist, who has been working with SOFOSH for many years, had a dialogue with the parents on various aspects like the adjustment problems that an adopted child has to face, behavioral issues in children, the mental and physical development in children and the several means to cope up with these concerns. The interactive session that followed the lecture is certainly beneficial for the parents as they feel free to discuss their problems. A few adoptive parents also shared their experiences with others. We would like to specially thank Mr. Saraf and Mr. Patwardhan for their active participation in organizing this parent's meet. ❖

## परीची गोष्ट

आटपाट नगर आहे. (पहिल्याच वाक्याला धक्का बसला ना? आतापर्यंत आपण ' आटपाट नगर होत,....' अशा वाक्यांनी सुरु होण्याच्या, भूतकाळात कॅव्हा तरी घडून गेलेल्या कहाण्या वाचत होतो. ही कहाणी मात्र चालू काळातील आहे.) त्या नगरात श्रीवत्स नावाचे एक सुंदर उद्यान आहे. अनेक चिमणी पाखरे त्याच्या आश्रयास येतात. मिट्ट काळोखाचा भूतकाळ मागे ठेवून येणाऱ्या त्या पाखरांना येथे पाऊल ठेवताक्षणीच आपल्या उज्वल भविष्याची चाहूल लागते. काही महिने येथे आनंदाने बागडून मग ही पाखरे आकाशात उंच भरारी घेतात - आपल्या नव्या हक्काच्या घरात जाण्यासाठी. नव्या घरी रमलेली ही पाखरे वर्षाकाठी एकदातरी फिरून या उद्यानास आवर्जून भेट देतात आणि आपल्या येथील छोट्या वास्तव्याच्या आठवणी जागवतात.

एकदा ह्या उद्यानात अशीच एक छोटी चिमणी दाखल झाली. गोरीपान आणि विलक्षण बोलक्या डोळ्यांची. जणू चिमुकली परीच म्हणा ना. इथल्या इतर पाखरांप्रमाणे हिची पण एकच छोटीशी इच्छा- माझ्यावर खूप प्रेम करणारे, माझे खूप लाड करणारे आणि हो प्रसंगी रागावणारे सुद्धा - असे आई-बाबा मला हवेत. खर तर 'हट्ट करणे' म्हणजे काय, हेदेखील न समजण्याचे तिचे वय. पण आपले हट्ट पुरवणारे कोणी तरी हवे, ही मनापासूनची इच्छा. येथील वास्तव्यात तिने पाहिले - एक दिवस उद्यानात कोणी आई-बाबा येतात व एखाद्या बाळाला अलगद आपल्या कुशीत घेऊन आपल्या घरी घेऊन जातात. कुणाला त्याच गावातले घर मिळते, तर कुणी थेट विमानात बसून दूरदेशी जातात. ते पाहून तिले नेहमी वाटायचे, माझे आई-बाबा मला आपल्या घरी घेऊन कधी जाणार? पण बरेच दिवस झाले तरी तिला न्यायला कोणीच आले नाही. मग काय झालं,

एके दिवशी तिच्या स्वप्नात देवबाप्पा आला. परी म्हणाली "सांग सांग देवबाप्पा,- छोटीशी माझी इच्छा पुरी होईल का कधी? स्वप्नातला बाबा, चित्रातली आई, छोटुकला दादा मज मिळेल का कधी?" देवबाप्पा म्हणाला, " आमच्या परीराणी साठी मी स्वतः छानसे आई-बाबा शोधून आणेन". मग काय विचारता, परीची कळी एकदम खुलली आणि डाव्या हाताचा अंगठा चोखत परी गाढ झोपी गेली.

दुसऱ्या दिवशी नवलच घडले, उद्यानातल्या मावशींनी तिला नवे कपडे घालून तयार केले. परीला कळेना, आज हा सारा नट्टा पट्टा कशासाठी बरे? मावशी तिला घेऊन बाहेरच्या खोलीत आल्या. आणि काय आश्चर्य! तिथे एका खोलीत एक आई-बाबा तिची वाट पाहत बसले होते. आणि त्यांच्या सोबत एक छोटासा दादा सुद्धा होता. त्यांना बघून परीला काय आनंद झाला! तिची इच्छा देवबाप्पाने चुटकीसरशी पूर्ण केली.

मग परीचा थाट काय विचारता. रोज छोटा दादा बाबांबरोबर तिला भेटायला यायचा. थोडा वेळ खेळायचा. लवकरच तो दिवस उजाडला आणि आई- बाबा आणि दादा परीला घेऊन जायला आले. परीसाठी येताना नवीन कपडे आणि भरपूर खेळणी घेऊन. मावशींनी सर्वांना ओवाळले. घरी परीचे मोठे स्वागत झाले. अवघ्या सोसायटीतले लोक तिच्या घरी स्वागताला हजर होते. रांगोळ्या काय, फुलांच्या पायघड्या काय, नुसती धमाल.

आता परी आपल्या नवीन घरी चांगली रुळली आहे. रोज तिच्या लाडक्या आजी तिला आंघोळ घालतात, आई नवीन नवीन खाऊ खायला देते आणि खेळायला दादा असतोच. या परीला जसे आई-बाबा मिळाले तसेच श्रीवत्स ह्या उद्यानातील सर्व पाखरांना मिळावे हीच इच्छा. ❖

स्वप्नील जयंत मराठे

## Your help is always welcome and valuable to us.

You can offer your helping hand in the following ways:

- 1) Sponsor one meal for 50 children RS 1000/-
- 2) Sponsor one day meal for 50 children RS 2500/-
- 3) Educational help per child RS 500/-
- 4) Sponsor one child per month RS 7500/-
- 5) Sponsor one child per day RS 400/-
- 6) Sponsor for medicines
- 7) Sponsor the groceries or other food items
- 8) Sponsor a caregiver RS 5000/-

### 9) Sponsor one day expense of

SOFOSH

RS 30,000/-

Donations to SOFOSH are exempted under Section 80G of Income Tax Act 1961 – (50 % tax benefit)

Donations to SOFOSH Dhadphale Centre are exempted under Section 35 AC of Income Tax Act 1961 – (100% tax benefit) Please contact SOFOSH for further information

Telephone: +91 20 26124660

TeleFax: +91 20 26128219 Email: sofosh@vsnl.net

## Activities at a Glance



*All of them were so excited about the Doll's wedding and enjoyed thoroughly*



*Children engrossed playing in sand pit*



*An evening in the new garden*

*Celebrations are an integral part of our life and we try to celebrate each and every festival for our little ones at Shreevatsa in a traditional way. Also picnics and outings are arranged for the children every week to nearby locations.*

*You can also be a part of the celebrations and the outings. If you wish to sponsor any such event for Shreevatsa, we request you to contact the organization for the further details.*

*Telephone: +91 20 26124660 Fax: +91 20 26128219*

*SOFOSH runs entirely on donations. Along with this we also value volunteer support. If you wish to help us as a volunteer, please contact SOFOSH.*

*SOFOSH- Where human tragedies are treated with love.....*

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