

PRABHA HIRA PRATISHTHAN'S PALAWI



PALAWI
Report Name



Annual Report 2021-22

Touch of Life

Contents

1. Vision & Mission
2. Director's Address
3. Work Summary
4. Key Projects
5. Impact of COVID-19
6. Palawi fights COVID-19
7. Palawi's Partnerships
8. Year Round Activities at Palawi
9. Testimonials
10. Awards & Media Entries



Vision

- To create a just & equitable society for HIV Positive Orphan Children
- To curb the HIV epidemic
- To Broaden the scope of services beyond health, to encompass nutrition & psychological support
- To provide education, livelihood , social & legal protection to these children and the socioeconomically excluded communities
- To turn into an agent of change

Mission

- To empower the vulnerable children and women affected by HIV/AIDS
- To provide access to education/ vocational courses to the vulnerable children and women enabling them to live their life with dignity
- To support and facilitate the changes in that enables the community to practice safer behaviours
- To enable the change at the local/grassroot levels
- To strengthen and empower individuals from excluded communities to realise their potential and act as an agent of change

Director's Address

Mrs. Mangal Shah



“

Our endeavour to fight against fear, stigma, and discrimination against PLWHIV continues to be the organisation's bedrock. The uncertainty created by COVID 19 has weighed heavily on the mental health of children and teens. Although, it was a great blessing that none of our children was infected by the COVID 19 virus in recent times.

We encouraged our children to focus on the idea of "universal inspiration around us", the children were given the opportunity to explore the awakening ideas and stimulating thoughts that had a lasting impression on the mind. It paved a way for us to come together as a learning community to engage in true spirit. Thoughts of inspirational personalities, and their extraordinary journey created opportunities for students to amplify their voices, share ideas and achieve their inner potential.

Palawi hopes to inspire the most marginalised and vulnerable children to become responsible citizens of India. We are committed to providing them with the best education and training for young adults to become self-sustained and live life with dignity and respect.

”

Palawi's work at a glance





FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

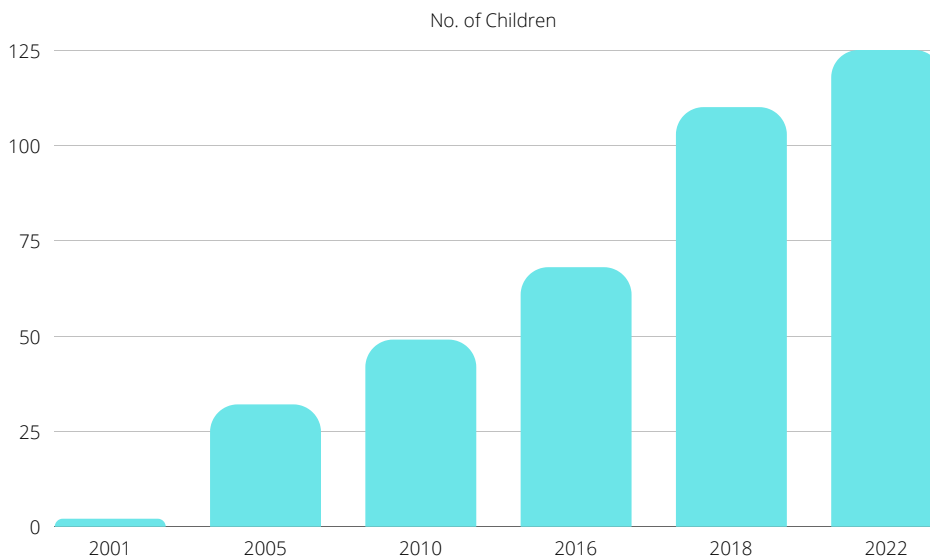


1. Residential Care home for HIV/AIDS Orphan Children



Project Palawi operates a residential Care Home for children and young adults living with HIV/AIDS. This care home provides a holistic approach towards a good and healthy lifestyle of these children and young adults and also prepare them to live a healthy and independent life ahead. The elder children are taught to be supporting and caring the younger children.

The carehome furnish daily nutrition, medical need, psychological assistance, counselling, recreational need etc of children living of these children. The carehome began in 2001 when two HIV positive girl child was found abandoned in the near by village during Awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS. Since then there has been a gradual increase in the number of children residing at the carehome.



Glimpse of life at Palawi



2. Education: Dyanmandir School

*Education breeds confidence, confidence
breeds hope, hope breed peace.*

Getting a formal education is a huge challenge for HIV positive children in India. Unfortunately, education just like health and social support is hardly accessible to the HIV - positive children.

Our school - The Dnyanmandir project, directly focuses on this aspect.

Since 2013 we are successfully running an educational unit affiliated with the Maharashtra board in the Palawi project. HIV - infected children who are on ART medication face the side effects of medicine and seem vulnerable to various health issues like nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache etc. Therefore, we monitor the school's functioning by giving importance to the care of these children. A family-focused approach with special attention to a child's health issues. At the same time, we want our children to be educated just like any other child so that he/she can face the challenges of everyday life with a smile on their faces and courage in their hearts.

This year has been an exceptionally well year for our school.



1. School Dyanmandir shifted to a bigger location in Matruvan. More open space and bigger classrooms with better facilities.
2. Construction work is in progress for school needs: classrooms, toilets, staffroom, assembly hall etc.
3. The number of classrooms increased by 5.
4. E-learning classroom developed. Each classroom has a projector and screen.
5. This year out of 125 HIV positive children residing in Palawi, 101 attended the school regularly.
6. 7 girls and 2 boys appeared for the class 10th board examination.
7. 13 young adults of our institute started going to college.
8. Admission to general children i.e. HIV negative children as day school students from economically weaker sections of society.



Glimpse of Online Classes Dyanmandir School

E-Classes



Extra curricular activities



3. Sanjeevani Medical Care Unit



*“Sanjeevani Medical
Care Unit”
ART treatment &
medical care*

Access to basic health care is the most important issue for HIV positive individuals

HIV-infected children are routinely assessed for nutritional status, including weight and height at the Sanjeevani Medical unit of Palawi, particularly after initiation of ART. They also visit the regional government medical centre for periodical checkups.

HIV-infected children on or off ART who are symptomatic, have conditions requiring increased energy (e.g. TB, chronic lung disease, chronic OIs or malignancies), or have weight loss or evidence of poor growth are provided with 25 – 30% additional energy.

HIV-infected children who are recently admitted to the care home and are severely malnourished are given full care and managed as per the guidelines and provided with 50 – 100% additional energy.

HIV-infected children should receive one recommended daily allowance (RDA) of micronutrients daily.

In Sanjeevani medical care unit, children are provided with herbal medicines to boost the immune system and improve overall health. Awala juice (gooseberry), Aloe vera juice, Tulsi, Honey etc. If required children are given supplements. HIV-infected infants and children between 6 and 59 months of age are given high-dose vitamin A.

HIV-infected children who have diarrhoea are given zinc supplementation as part of management.

Out of 125 Orphan children, 110 children are on ART.

Treatment 103 children are on 1st line ART treatment. 07 children are on 2nd line treatment. And 15 children do not require any ART treatment because of a good CD4 count. CD4 in the blood is the indication of HIV infection. Higher the count is better. The children undergo the following pathological/medical tests at regular intervals.

- CD4
- Viral Load
- CBC/HB
- Haemogram
- Kidney function test (KFT)
- Liver function test (LFT)
- Chest X Ray
- Sputum test



4. Atmashakti: Self Reliance



Self reliance - Conquer any difficulty

This project is aimed to support the provision of basic social assistance services within the framework of sustainable livelihood services. Its objective is to enable the young adults(Palawi project) and women (Hirkarni project) to earn money, have confidence and make an informed choices. It aims to encourage young girls and women to talk about their rights and become economically independent.

- Training is given by the professional instructor to make reusable cloth bags, jute bags etc

- Sessions by the "women empowerment" group on the topic of "Financial literacy"
- Opening an E-commerce website for selling the products manufactured by the young adults of Palawi.
- Training session on making File folders and Utility boxes
- Received order from CA Kothari group for File folders
- Nursery for plants sale is doing very well. Young adults and Women are given good training by the florist and horticulturist.
- Iron Fabrication work, started to provide training to the interested young adults.



5. Hirkarni: Rehabilitation Centre for women

"Recovery is indeed a manifestation of the law of nature, efforts of patient and guidance from physical therapist or rehabilitation specialist"

Joerg Teichmann

People with mental disabilities are often neglected and secluded from society. The difficulties that such hapless people face in turn further affect their health, hearts and minds. Women with mental incapacity are especially the most victimized. To help such women, who are rape victims, mentally ill, pregnant etc and have no place to go or if their families can no longer support them because of their mental health condition, we have established a sanctuary that provides care, comfort, love, and treatment to them.

4 women took shelter with the Hirkarni project. 2 of them were rape victims belonging to the very poor section of society. Both of them were uneducated and their family members refused to keep them at home. Solapur police department referred them to the Hirkarni project in PHP we conduct a comprehensive evaluation which includes a comprehensive health check-up done to find out about their physical fitness status,



Strengths, challenges, and needs. Different tests including neurological, psychological, hearing & vision are carried out and results have complied & are evaluated by our resident physician doctors based upon that we provide the best possible treatment to these women.

Sunita(name changed) and Geeta(name changed) both were pregnant, 3 months and 4 months respectively. They were under deep trauma and malnourished. After months of treatment and good diet, they delivered healthy baby girl and boy. Their mental health has also improved.

This year we are planning to provide help and support to over 20 women under this project.

Products made by young children and women of Palawi



Jute carry bags with zipper



Multipurpose bags made of sarees



Colourful cotton quilt



Big size Jute bag



Tiffin carrying Bags



Warli Print carry bags

Products made by young children and women of Palawi



Bed Sheets



Mobile phones cover bags



Mirror work double zipper bags



PH58-Size-75"X87" Rs.1900/-

Tejas Ghadge@Photography

Patchwork cotton quilt

6. Apna Ghar: Shelter Home



Home is where one starts from

Apna Ghar; shelter home for abandoned old age people, physically challenged and mentally disabled people:-

Pandharpur, the land of holy pilgrimage. We often see people abandoning and discarding the elderly family members. The project Apna Ghar started in 2018 to serve the elderly homeless and mentally ill people. Prabha Hira Pratisthan volunteer team lookout for such homeless people across the region. Very often we found these helpless and homeless people close to Temple, bus stand, railway station, cremation ground etc.



We are determined to work for such people by providing them with basic necessities like food, shelter, health and hygiene. And also giving psychological help by professional health care providers. We want to make sure that they live a life with dignity.

This year Apna Ghar has a total of 12 members. Taking care of the health, hygiene and sanitation of these individuals is the main focus of this project.

They are provided with regular health checkups and counselling from professionals.

Several recreational activities are planned to keep them happy and cheerful.

Construction and Expansion



The Hope Project "Palawi" in 2001 under a tin shed.



The Hope Project Expansion in "Palawi" in 2021

This year Palawi's construction work for the expansion of Dnyanmandir school, Residential care home, Staff rooms, Toilets etc. began with the funds generated with help of Donatekart and other donors.

Palawi's prime focus is to provide education to children living with HIV/ AIDS together with ensuring their good health and well being. Thus, the aim of the construction work was to provide the children with essential infrastructure that can enable these goals. The expansion of schools and the building of new classrooms with good facilities and toilet allows us to provide admission to underprivileged children (HIV-Negative) from nearby villages and mainly the young girls who were unable to get a formal education.

This essential infrastructure construction goes a long way toward ensuring inclusiveness, as well as increasing the reach and impact of our work.

This has enabled us to focus on the bigger social challenges such as the education of girl children in the remote areas of the state. They are given an opportunity to play, learn and grow in a safe environment.

Hopefully, in the coming years, Palawi's School (Dnyanmandir) will not only cater to the needs and aspirations of HIV positive children but also to those of underprivileged and economically poor children, especially girl children.

The project Matruwan is progressing at a blistering pace and we are proud to present some of the important works done in the year 2021-22 at Palawi.

- 1) Compound wall for 3 Acres of 10 Feet height was raised to encircle the premises
- 2) Temporary shed for the Apna Ghar project was constructed.
- 3) Construction of School Building and classrooms for 1000 sq. ft.
- 4) Construction of sahakari Niwas or 6 Staff Rooms

Glimpse of Expansion & Construction projects at Palawi

The Hope Project "Palawi's" care-home, class rooms, toilets, staff room etc are under construction and progressing well.



Impact of COVID-19 on Palawi

COVID-19 has fundamentally altered billions of lives around the globe by taking lives, jobs and impacting economies to an enormous scale. It is during these grave times that the non-profit sector has been the most active. NGOs like Palawi played a critical role in multiple areas, namely humanitarian aid, awareness and on the ground campaigns to address the social issues. When the world came to a stand still, NGO's like Palawi stood their ground and continued to work leveraging their grass roots reach to help those affected by the virus the most. However, the one thing that the world has overlooked is how NGOs have been affected by the pandemic.

COVID-19 brought to light the flaws of the health systems worldwide, forcing NGOs to step in to assist and especially during the second wave when a lot of lives were lost. Moreover, the COVID also brought an onslaught of social issues such as a rise in extreme poverty, racial discrimination, and gender-based violence, as well as widespread misinformation.

Palawi had to develop an appropriate course of action and allocate their resources accordingly during this time to address these issues. There was a resource crunch not just in the manpower but also in the fund collection since the donor organisations were themselves struggling with finances, unemployment was rampant and physical fund collection drives came to a stand still.

Public fundraising events had to be cancelled. There were also problems when it came to transportation for the outreach drives. The internal projects at Palawi such as the Matruvan project slowed down because of lack of workers and the need to maintain social distance from the kids as well as the support staff. Thus, we at Palawi were caught in a difficult spot at the worst of times. Similar was the case with most of the NGOs out there.

However, it was the children at Palawi who were hit by the pandemic as their entire world turned upside down. They were used to playing around and visits from multiple people throughout the year. Their days used to be filled with fun activities and their schedules packed with some or the other program. All this however, slowed down drastically and children started longing for visits from our guests. They started longing for outdoor trips and activities and it pained us to keep them away from these. However, their safety and well-being were our top most priority, we could not let them get into harm's way and we took all the precautions possible to make sure that they were safe. Regular counselling sessions were held for them. A lot more indoor activities with safe distancing were started. Online interactions took pace.

Palawi fights back against COVID-19

A rapid digital transformation was another challenge that Palawi faced. However, at Palawi, we are proud to have been ready ahead of the time in gearing up our digital infrastructure, be it our schools having large screens and internet enabled classrooms to allow online classes or be it the online medical consultation services that happen as part of the medical aid programme. Palawi plans to take this initiative ahead and is planning to work a fully digitally enabled classroom experience and expand the scope of it to enrich the students' lives even more.

Palawi was also at the forefront of on ground relief programmes where Palawi ran a full time help line number for people who needed counselling. The "Mann Mokala Sanvaad" initiative was a massive success with 350 people from all age groups calling us to just talk and get some mental relief. The initiative went on to show us just how lonely and the scared the people were during the dire times and how just a friendly ear can go a long way to ease that stress.

Not just the Telecounselling initiative, Palawi also ran programs such - "Palawi Seva Setu" - to ensure needy households can get their rations properly and not starve because on poverty. It was a massive drive where 3500 families were given kits worth Rs. 1000 were provided.

This drive had us collaborating with multiple government intermediaries as well as different local NGOs to reach these households in different parts of Maharashtra such as Sangli, Solapur, Miraj, Amravati, Kolhapur, Nagpur, Akola and Pune.

It was a massive learning for Palawi to mobilise these efforts virtually and get it implemented on ground. However, we at Palawi are fighters and we won't back down from a challenge, even if it was COVID-19. We fought back and came through with our fight.

COVID has indeed been tough but it has made us all tougher since we all came through it. It is time now to march ahead with complete focus and vigor and that's exactly what Palawi has also been doing with all its projects be it the Matruvan project, Education Project, Medical Aid project and launching on new projects in full swing. (Palawi seva setu 1000 seats- 3500 families)

It goes without saying that this fight against would not have been possible without the support of a great team that work tirelessly day in and day out to overcome the challenges. Let us all join hands to ride this new era and take forward the hope of having an equitable society where everyone can live a fulfilling life.

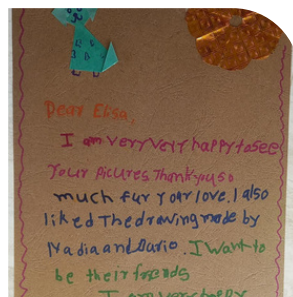
Palawi's Partnerships

Building partnerships with various agencies for capacity building of community-based organisations has been crucial since the beginning of the Prabha Hira Pratisthan for its mission, vision, growth and progress. PHP (Prabha Hira Pratisthan) is partnering with different organisations and individuals (volunteer groups) through our partnership representation.

Partnership with Giftabled organization

<https://giftabled.org/giftabled-annual-reports/>

Dnyanmandir, the School of Palawi is one of the partners of the Giftabled India organization. GiftAble is an organization that strives to create an ecosystem of like-minded individuals to collectively build an inclusive society. It aims to empower People with Disabilities across several aspects of their life and support them in living with dignity.



Collaboration with Cienvidas Foundation

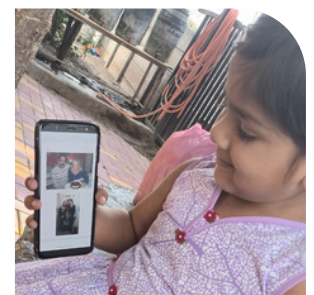
<https://www.cienvidas.org>

Cienvidas Foundation is dedicated towards assisting girls in infected with HIV/AIDS. Our goals are aligned towards education, sports, Inclusion & self reliance

Awareness of Women's Health, Gender and Rights

Palawi's representatives have been actively involved at the very grass root level in different villages and community centres to bring awareness among adolescent girls and women about menstrual health, safe sex practices, basics of HIV/AIDS, to feel safe to talk about any kind of abuse or violence, income generation, self-reliance etc.

Over 3000+ adolescent girls and women attended such sessions held on various social platforms. This had been a great motivation for us and we look forward to creating a bigger and better change that will provide these young girls and women the opportunity to be educated, able to play and enjoy, and be enterprising and independent.



Key Activities year round

A vote for change - Palawi Leading the way!



Today, we can truly call ourselves, responsible citizens of India. 25 young citizens from Palawi made their mark today by casting their vote for the first time in the elections.

Right from our very birth, we were vulnerable and our first fight was for survival. At a time when the medical sciences, the doctors, the state machinery and destiny itself gave up on us, Palawi vowed to help us survive and enrich our lives.

Palawi's primary goal and routine efforts are to give these children not just a shot at life but to enable them to live their lives with dignity and honour.

We all came to Palawi battling for our lives after being orphaned at a tender age. However, Palawi provided us with shelter, nutrition, medical assistance, mental health counselling and legal support to ensure that we register ourselves as rightful voters of this country by getting our own voter ID cards.

Of course, this would not have been possible without the efforts of the diligent government officials who helped us throughout the process. We got our Aadhar Card as well.

Palawi taught us what it truly means to be responsible citizens and what our duties towards this bright nation are. We were provided not just with food, water, shelter and clothes, but also with education, wisdom and guidance on how to serve our nation as its rightful citizens! Now we have everything and the only thing that was remaining was to get ourselves legally certified as voters. That's why when we turned 18 against all odds when we knew that we could finally cast our vote, the joy that we felt was unparalleled and beyond words.

You are a citizen of this country when you take birth in India. You get all the constitutional rights therein to practice in this country. You get the right to live anywhere and work anywhere in the country. However, all this is possible for normal people. For us, honestly, every single task is an uphill battle but we are proud to say that for kids like us whom people thought wouldn't even survive long enough to consider our lives worthwhile, with the help of Palawi, we have made a difference! This is a fitting answer to all those who questioned our very existence and survival. 25 of us from Palawi voted today for the first time, did our duty as responsible citizens of India and the only words that came to our collective minds with immense joy were.. "Today, we truly became the citizens of this country..."

Tree Plantation Drive at Palawi



On the 8th of June 2021, Smt. Mangaltai Shah formed a group of girls aged 18+ and named it 'Nikhara'. 'Nikhara' means ember, a small fire which if nurtured can lighten up multiple lives around it. The aim of the initiative was to ensure the holistic development of girls by including outdoor sports, personality development programmes and disaster relief activities. Tree Plantation Drive was one of these initiatives by the Nikhara group.

Tree Plantations were done at places where it was necessary and where it could ensure that the planted trees could be nurtured well. Five such places were identified for the initiative and since charity begins at home, we started our drive from Palawi's Matruvan. We planted many types of flowers, fruits and presentation trees.



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Tamarind, Karanji, Rita, Mango, Aloe etc were some of the trees that were planted. Palawi has also made a nursery of 500+ saplings and children at Palawi nurture these seedlings that were planted by giving water and fertiliser supplements.

Initiatives like these, help imbibe values such as caregiving, nurturing our environment and working in teams, in the kids at Palawi.

A Memorable trip to Chinchani Village



Children at Palawi got a chance to visit the beautiful Chinchani village in the Pandharpur District. It was a unique trip and one that the children had waited for a long time. The trip was conducted on 8th July 2021. Chinchani is a village with lush green trees and a spectacular environment. Children at Palawi were overwhelmed by the natural beauty of the place.

Chinchani village has taken special efforts to come up as a Tourism spot in the district and after visiting Chinchani, we are sure that they will surely be one of the top tourist spots very soon. We are proud to mention that Palawi's children were honoured by the village to become the first tourists by the village head.

There was ample provision for tasty food and a play area. Every tree in the village had a birdhouse and food/water provision for the birds. This ensured that the village has a sizable bird population which adds to the natural beauty of the place.

Although the trip was meant for kids, people from all age groups were able to enjoy it equally because Chinchani took them a step closer to nature. The youngest tourist was merely 2 months old and he also enjoyed the trip to the fullest! His smile and playfulness were proof of his approval of Chinchani as an amazing tourist spot. All in all, The trip to Chinchani was a great success and everyone involved enjoyed it thoroughly.

Palawi gets vaccinated!



We were all grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic and although the virus hit all the strata of the society equally, not everyone was equipped to fight it with the same resources. People were unable to get out of their houses, some didn't have their private vehicles to go around and public transport was shut. People were unable to find food, some were rationing acutely and a few even died not because of COVID but out of hunger and lack of resources.

Palawi was also facing limitations during this time in its efforts to reach the vulnerable strata of society. Not just reaching people, we also faced difficulties while rationing our own supplies at the care home. However, as the vaccines started coming up, there was a glimmer of hope and we could see ways of coming out of this pandemic. Although vaccines came and there were vaccination drives all over India since they were in short supply, not everyone was able to get one and it was really difficult for us as well to get vaccinated.

However, we at Palawi don't give up. We kept trying our level best to make the vaccines available for the kids at Palawi and through our diligent efforts and coordination with the local authorities we were able to get 50+ people from Palawi vaccinated on 28th July 2021 with their first dose and the second dose was arranged on 20th October 2021.

We were relieved that none of us at Palawi faced any inconvenience because of the vaccine and although we kept on taking full precautions even after taking vaccines, we started our ground-level efforts in full swing. Palawi is working on the ground with all its flagship programmes running at pre-pandemic capacities and is even increasing its coverage as per needs.

Independence Day Celebrations at Palawi



Palawi celebrated the 75th Independence Day on 15th August with much excitement and enthusiasm. The event was hosted at Prabha-Hira Pratishthan's Palawi Dnyanmandir School located in Takali, Solapur. Honourable Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Solar District, Shri. Sunil Kumarji Sane graced the occasion as its chief guest. The event was also attended by Palawi's Director - Smt. Mangal Tai Shah, Head - Smt. Dimple Tai Shah, Shri. Ashish Shah and other Teaching as well as Non-Teaching staff at the school.

The school children had organised a cultural programme for the event and they performed in the event showcasing their immense talent and potential. A few marquee dances turned out to be the highlights of the event. There was a dance on patriotic songs and also short skits on patriotism were some of them.

Another thing that stood out in the event was the Nikhara group that was incorporated on 8th July 2021 under the guidance of Smt. Mangal Tai Shah. The Nikhara group was given a mission statement saying - "Where there's a need, there's Nikhara".

Director madam urged the audience to call out the Nikhara group for help not just in times of crisis, but also at times when there is some initiative to be taken for social work and gave the confidence that the group will be ready to serve and face the challenges whatever they might be to overcome the hurdles. She mentioned that since the strengths of the group were discipline, sincerity, punctuality and a get work done attitude, no task or challenge was insurmountable for them. Nikhara group then went ahead to demonstrate their abilities by successfully conducting a Tree Plantation Drive on that day.

In this manner, with cheerful and enthusiastic participation from everyone involved at the ceremony, the 75th Independence Day celebrated at Palawi was indeed a memorable one.

A Rakhi for our COVID warriors



Palawi celebrated Raksha Bandhan on 22nd August 2021. Usually, on this day, we celebrate the bond between brothers and sisters, their love and the Rakhi is a symbol of that love and a vow to protect each other. However, with the onslaught of the pandemic, we deeply realized the risks borne by the medical professionals, police personnel and cleaning staff. They were truly warriors, serving all of us in the face of death and uncertainty. Just like the army protects us on the borders, these COVID Warriors protected us during the pandemic making huge sacrifices in their personal lives.

We, at Palawi, celebrated Raksha Bandhan by making a huge Rakhi and dedicating it to all those warriors who were protecting us. We deeply realise their efforts for us and would love to stay indebted to them. On that day, we all prayed to Lord Vitthal to keep all the COVID warriors and their family members safe.

Palawi's teachers felicitated by Hari Om Organisation - Pune

Teachers at Palawi are one of our greatest pillars of strength. Their work and dedication to the holistic development of kids at Palawi have been nothing short of exemplary. They toil and find innovative methods to ensure that students grasp the concepts and develop into bright individuals who can be independent.

To recognise their work, Hari Om Foundation in Pune took an extraordinary initiative to award our teachers during Diwali, on 24th October 2021. They were felicitated with 'The Compassionate Teacher award in Pune. Pune being the 'knowledge capital' of Maharashtra, it was especially heartwarming for the teachers to receive the award here and it was a ceremony worth remembering.

Palawi thanks the Hari Om Foundation family from the bottom of its heart and we wish to stay associated with you in future as well.



Medical Camp by Government Medical College - Miraj



Palawi has always faced a need for medical assistance when it comes to medical checkups for the kids staying at Palawi and its other initiatives as well. That's one of the reasons Palawi has its own medical facility in-house. However, the need for medical assistance during checkups is increasing by the day as the number of children in the care home is increasing. Thankfully, Government Medical College at Miraj is here to the rescue.

On 21st October 2021, 48 students from the coveted GMC - Miraj visited Palawi to organise a medical camp for the kids. Medical students from the batches of 2017, 2018 and 2019 participated in the camp and we are happy to announce that these bright young minds conducted the camp successfully.

Palawi's kids were no less. To welcome the GMC - Miraj contingent and to celebrate their trip to Palawi, the kids had organised cultural performances. The kids performed various dances and drama skits and they won the students' hearts. Such was the enthusiasm on the day of the medical camp at Palawi and everyone involved had a great experience.

We thank GMC - Miraj for their continued support and we welcome them to Palawi for future such camps as well.



Children's Day celebration at Palawi



Children's day is especially close to our hearts at Palawi because we give our everything for the bright kids here in the care home. We celebrate their life to the fullest at Palawi and especially on the children's day we take this celebration to a whole new level.

This year the kids presented plays on various topics such as 'Stopping Child Marriages', 'Road Safety', 'Deaddiction', 'Musings at a Railway Station', 'Pandharpur Yatra', 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', 'Tree Plantation Drives', 'Water Harvesting' and 'Swachh Bharat'. The kids really pulled their weight while presenting topics of such importance to the society and their efforts really compelled the audience to wonder about their decisions and actions going forward in their public lives. That in itself is a big win for these kids and their efforts that they were able to plant curiosity in the minds of the adults and teach them what being children truly means.

To help these kids drive such messages of social relevance, they had the guidance of various teachers and staff of Palawi Dnyanmandir and Smt. Dimple Ghadge, being the chairperson for the event, heartily praised the efforts of the kids as well as the school staff.

Varkari's visit kids at Palawi

Most of us live in families and we have our relatives and friends visit us from time to time. Humans are social animals and it is our need to bond with other people. The thing that bothers us and the kids at palawi the most is nobody really visits them since they are orphans. Our Varkari folks at Satve, Kolhapur realized this and they decided to visit the kids. On 2nd December 2021, about 300-400 Varkaris visited Palawi, met the kids and gave them blessings. The kids enjoyed their company and everyone had a jolly time during the visit.



Constitution Day celebration at Palawi



On 26th November 2019, Palawi celebrated Constitution Day with the kids. On this day, the statue of Shri. Babasaheb Ambedkar was venerated and the children were taught the relevance and importance of the constitution through fun activities and games. It is important that the kids we raise become responsible citizens of the future and to do that, they should know why we respect the constitution that we have in place. We all relate to stories and children even more so. Thus, it was our initiative to make sure that these bright young minds get know the stories of the importance of a constitution, what it means to live in a free country and what are their rights and responsibilities as a part of it. The kids loved the stories and games that the teachers and the staff at palawi had in store for them.

It is also essential that children be aware of the sacrifices that the various forces had made that day when the terrorist attack on Mumbai happened. We all paid our respects to the martyrs and children were told stories of bravery of the soldiers, policemen and everyone who played their part to make sure that we all lived safely. We are sure that the kids will remember their martyrdom and will take with them the spirit of bravery, forward in their lives.

AIDs Day Awareness Initiatives at Palawi



The team at Palawi along with the kids took up multiple initiatives for driving the HIV/AIDs awareness campaigns. The awareness campaigns were as follows:

1. Mera Kutumb, Meri Zimmedaari - Mitayenge AIDs ki Mahamaari
2. Zimmedaar banenge, AIDs ko mitayenge
3. AIDs ko mitayenge, zindagi sambhalenge

It is essential that modern-day society is aware of AIDs and the social problems that are prevalent in society because of it. It is also essential that those with AIDs be not seen as another and measures for inclusion be in practice for them as well for them to enjoy normal lives as any other person. Unfortunately, that is not the case and we see discrimination happening for people with HIV/AIDs and this is a sad state of affairs in modern-day society. To help the cause and spread awareness, Palawi is doing its bit with much vigour and sincerity.

Palawi to the Rescue



On 4th December 2021, the heavens came crashing. Rains kept on pouring that night, with a storm crashing and destroying many many livelihoods. People at the outskirts of Pandharpur, living in kutcha houses with bare necessities are the worst affected when storms strike and take everything away. These families are poor and can't afford to lose even the bare necessities that they have collected through years of effort.

Their entire life stands devastated and a similar thing happened that day. Palawi's Team, realising this drove the rescue and within three hours, making sure that all those affected had hot and home-cooked food to eat to comfort their stomachs. The ones affected lost everything they had with the heavy storm and rains but we wanted to keep their dignity intact because those people had built all that they lost through their pure efforts. It is in times like these, that the humanity in us need to come forth and Palawi was at the forefront of the rehabilitation efforts for the affected people.

Palawi awarded by Chhaya Prakash Foundation



On 10th December 2021, the prestigious Chhaya Prakash Foundation hosted their 'Urja Puraskaar' event in Solapur. The Chhaya Prakash Foundation took note of Palawi's social work by awarding us with the Urja Puraskaar.

Hon. Author Shri. Achyut Godbole, Shri. Amol Palekar, Shri. Grish Kuber and Shri. Maruti Chittampalli were the honorable members attending the event. The prestigious Urja Puraskaar was awarded to Palawi by Shri. Maruti Chittampalli.

Palawi is honored to receive the award and will keep working towards its goals relentlessly since we believe in bringing about a change in the society.

Parent Teacher & Student meeting at Palawi



Well... Don't be surprised. The kids at Palawi although being orphans, do have their seniors as their parents. Yes, you heard it right. Palawi knows that the kids are orphans and they do need someone to look up to and represent them, motivate them and give that extra personal attention to their problems. This is why we have a program where senior students at Palawi take up the Parentship of their Juniors. The seniors look after all the problems of their respective juniors be it their medical checkups, Nutrition, health needs, hygiene-related issues and even their education or developmental needs.

To give these seniors more ownership, motivate them to take up leadership roles and a platform to voice their opinion - Smt. Dimple Ghadge took up this initiative on 19th December 2021. We were all pleased to see the way these parents presented the grievances of their children and took up ownership of their children's problems. It was quite a fruitful discussion and many actionable initiatives came up during the same which Palawi can implement in the due course of time to make the lives of the kids much easier. This was a great initiative which instilled leadership qualities in the children and nurtured a bonding among the kids at Palawi.



The Principal, Teachers and staff at Palawi's Dnyanmandir were present for the event. Palawi felicitated these parents by presenting them with bouquets.

Christmas celebrations at Palawi



Christmas is special for everyone. That feeling when 'Jinglebell all the way' plays is special for every child since they all await their Santa Claus and the gifts that he'll bring them. Their joy and anticipation knows no bounds and children at Palawi also celebrated Christmas in the same anticipation.

The kids dressed up in their Christmas attire, wore their Santa Claus hats and enjoyed the gifts that they got. The smile on their face is the reason we all work so hard. It gives us immense joy to share the pictures of the Christmas celebrations.

Savitribai Phule Jayanti celebration

To commemorate the immense contribution to society by Smt. Savitribai Phule, Palawi celebrated their



birth anniversary on 3rd January 2022. Palawi organized a full-fledged Rangoli Competition and an Elocution Competition for the children.

The aim of these competitions is to give a boost to the holistic development of the kids at Palawi and also to ensure that these kids know the importance of the contributions of the great visionaries and leaders that worked for the upliftment of our society like Smt. Savitribai Phule.

To commemorate Smt. Savitribai Phule, 17 kids participated in the elocution competition and spoke on topics such as - 'I am Savitri's Daughter', 'I am Savitri', 'If Savitri didn't exist?' and 'I will take Savitri's legacy ahead' and god oh my were the kids good at elocution!

In the second half, the kids showed their skill and mettle in the Rangoli competition as well where 22 students participated and drew some amazing rangolis. The hard work and interest that these kids put into their rangolis was everything for us.

In this event, Rukmini, a student of standard 6 in Palawi won everyone's heart by dressing up as Smt. Savitribai Phule.

Jijamata Jayanti celebration

On 12th January 2022, Palawi commemorated the architect of Hindavi Swarajya, MaasahebJijau - Mother of the great Shivaji Maharaj. She is a true pillar of strength and an example of wisdom to one and all. We all revelled in her teachings and stories and not just the children but all of us stood to learn a lot from them.

To make the most of this day, History Department in our school conducted a poster presentation competition in which students showed their utmost enthusiasm. Smt. Shital Wagh, Smt. Rajashree Kamle and all the teachers were present for the event and encourage the students in their efforts. Events like these go a step forward in helping students realise their interest in their subjects and bring out in them a spark of participation, innovation and creativity which is what we all strive for at Palawi - To bring the best out of our kids and help them realise their full potential.

We are sure that Jijau is there watching us in our efforts and her guidance is all we seek throughout our journey.

Palawi's Day Out!



Appreciating smaller joys in life is what makes living worthwhile and to make this possible, Palawi set out on a field trip. The occasion was a hurda party and a fun picnic! The kids and everyone at Palawi kept their worries and daily struggles at bay for one day and decided to just go have fun all out. Everyone enjoyed the trip with kids singing throughout the bus ride and even the 65-year-old kids on the trip danced to the tunes of Zingaats with all their hearts. Watching everyone enjoy their day and forgetting the daily struggles for the moment was heartwarming and we thank all the Trustees, Sponsors and all the Teaching/ Non-Teaching Staff at Palawi for helping us carry out this picnic with much ease and great success.



Republic Day celebrations at Palawi



On account of Republic day, Palawi celebrated multiple functions on its premises. The headline event was of course the flag hoisting event and it was hosted with utmost discipline by Shri. Ashish Shah, one of Palawi's trustees.

After hoisting the flag, children presented various patriotic performances. The topics they covered through their performances were truly mind-boggling. Self-Discipline, Helping the society in Disasters, Tree Plantation, Forest Conservation - A National Mission, Water Harvestation, Physical and Mental health, and Fierce like our Force were just some of the topics through which the kids made an effort to guide the audience and the society as a whole towards a positive direction. These kids took great efforts managing their studies and their routines to prepare such thoughtful skits and performances.

. We are glad to announce that, the whole event was coordinated by the Nikhara Group and everyone won the hearts of everyone present. Everyone lauded the Nikhara Group for their coordination and the thought they put into the event with a deserved ovation.

After the patriotic performances, there was an educational program conducted as well. In the country that we love so much and stay in, It is our duty to know the Constitution of that country and what our responsibilities are towards the constitution and the country. To know these rights and our duties, the kids were told stories and skits were presented to deliver the message across. The kids through these skits educated the audience on the importance of the constitution, their rights and their duties towards our country that we all love so much.

Amhe Prakshbije Cultural program

Annual Cultural program is a grand and exciting event for any institution or organization. Every year Palawi's children also celebrate the most awaited program with great passion, energy and enthusiasm. This year it was even more happening and versatile as after 2 years of COVID 19 imposed restrictions children got a chance to come on to the prestigious Balgandharv auditorium in Pune. Over 400 well wishers of Palawi came to see the event and encourage the young children.

Over 70 students of Palawi's Dyanmandir school participated and performed extremely well in various songs, dance, skit etc. These children were practicing with professional dance and drama artists from Sangli, Pune for almost two months. Children were exhilarated with the idea of wearing beautiful costumes and getting a chance to wear makeup by professional artists.



It was like a scene from some Bollywood movie backstage with the hustle bustle going together at the same time. Not surprisingly, just like a hit show, the children of Palawi yet again showed their unparalleled energy, joy, confidence and enthusiasm..

Our children made us extremely proud with their exceptional, amazing and mesmerising performance., Just like any other child needs words of encouragement and support, the kids here also need a chance to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. They lack no strength or stamina and have the power and ability to face the problems and stand victorious.

All the dignitaries present were truly amazed to see Palawi's grand program presented with so much passion, love and energy.

Amhe Prakshbije Cultural program

Also, it's a self reliance initiative. Watching the audiences overwhelmed by the children's performances gives us immense pleasure and watching the kids develop a sense of confidence through their stage performances and audience interaction is something we take real pride in.

It is quite a challenge to put together a show of this calibre and curate and experience when lead performers are kids who come with their own set of challenges and you have pressing topics of social change to be presented with ease without any mistake happening on stage and that too with utmost safety precautions in place. Yet, Palawi and its team have managed to curate an amazing experience for the audiences out there.

Lastly, what these kids take home after an eventful performance is the learnings from their performances, immense self confidence and the praises/ appreciation of the audience which goes a long way in helping them overcome their dilemmas. We urge one and all to join us in this venture and come watch our kids perform, cheer for them and help them become the best versions of themselves in the process.



Amhe Prakshbije Cultural program glimpse



Success Team of Palawi's Prakash Beeje Event after a mesmerizing show

Testimonials of Young Adults of Palawi

Neelesh (name changed)

“

I am 21 years old now. I came to Palawi when I was a baby, only 2 years old. I was a very shy boy. I disliked going to school. But Mangal Tai made sure I study and do well. I remember she used to sit with me in the evening and tell stories about the great warriors of India and encouraged me to complete my education. After completing my 12th. I did a Computer course. I learnt Tally, and DTP and can handle basic computer uses. I started to work in the administrative department of Prabha Hira Pratishthan. I never want to leave Palawi. It has given me everything. I am being paid an honorarium for my office work. I used the money to make mobile payments, as pocket money. I feel very satisfied and happy.

”



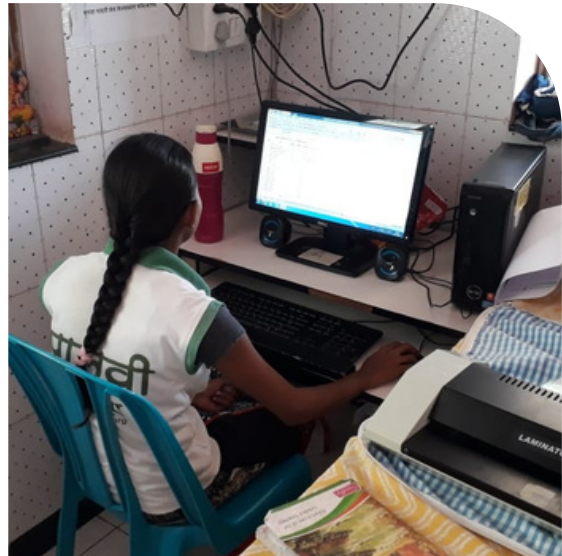
Sameer (name changed)

“

Hi! My name is Sameer . I am 19 years old and i stay in Kuruduwadi. I stayed in the care home of Palawi for a period of 17 years. I was admitted to the organisation when I was merely 2-3 years. The police found me abandoned near the bus stop and soon I was referred to this beautiful place which is just like home. I was very weak child and had major infection but Tai helped me with everything. I started to go to school but was not very good in study. Dimple Tai always gave the best counseling and asked me to do "Diary diploma" course after 12th. This course really helped me in getting a very good job. I learnt the technique of milk storage, making different milk products etc. Now I am earning a good salary and living a happy life.

”

Testimonials of Young Adults of Palawi



Kaveri (name changed)

“

Hello everyone, my name is Varsha and I am 22 years old. I came to Palawi in 2018. My relatives did not want to keep me at home. It was a very bad phase of my life after my mother and father died due to AIDS. I don't want to remember that time. I am an educated girl and always wanted to work. I was given formal training to work in the resuscitation department. Now, I work here and feel very good about myself. My life has changed.

”



Awards & Recognitions

Shining World Compassion Award by Supreme Master Ching Hai



Dettol Mother to Child Award by Dainik Jagran - AIDS Day



Gaurav Jijaunchya Lekincha Award Sambhaji Brigade Pandharpur



Urja Puraskar by Chhaya Prakash Foundation

Media Entries



NEWS

'Palawi' Gives Hope To HIV Positive Orphan Children In Maharashtra

World AIDS Day 2021: Palawi, a care home for orphan children living with HIV, was established by Mangal Shah in March, 2001

Written By: **Aastha Ahuja** | Edited By: **Sonia Bhaskar** | November 30, 2021

[हिन्दी में पढ़ें](#)



World AIDS Day 2021: Meet Mangal Shah, the brain

SOCIALSTORY LOGIN

INSPIRATION

[Monday Motivation] How 68-year-old Mangal Shah is supporting over 100 children affected by HIV/AIDS in India

By **Apurva P** September 20, 2021, Updated on: Sep 21, 2021, 7:11 AM GMT+5:30

Mangal Shah runs a residential unit

LIFE BEYOND NUMBERS

Meet 68-year-old Mangal Shah, who is uplifting the lives of over 100 HIV/AIDS-affected children. Since her teenage days, she was always enthusiastic about assisting the needy.

Message to Partners & Stakeholders



Prabha Hira Pratishtan is confident in our ability to continue to meet the urgency of the challenges faced by vulnerable and marginalised CLWHA/ PLWHA. (children and people living with HIV/ AIDS) Importantly, we delivered on our commitment by creating a safe. and a stigma-free place for such individuals.

We would like to thank all the participants in the program, community and individuals, institutional donors, partners, the government of India and the Government of Maharashtra, network members and all those who have contributed to the mission and vision of Prabha Hira Pratishtan (Palawi) towards creating a just and equitable society for most marginalised and vulnerable groups and individuals.

Thank you

Contact US

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THANK YOU

