

ANNUAL REPORT
KOMPAL WELFARE TRUST

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Executive Summary

Kompal Welfare Trust, an unaided non-government organization (NGO) founded in 2005, aims to achieve a child friendly society which ensures children's rights, their survival needs, Protection, Development and Participation.

In order to achieve this goal, KWT initiated a four-fold plan---school education, remedial education for slow learners and dropouts, health awareness including health services and nutrition and vocational training---to empower the children in terms of education, health and social and economic independence.

The implementation of this four-fold plan began with several interventions made by KWT since its inception two years back– Learning centres with bridge course and remedial classes in the slums where education was just a distant dream; mainstreaming of children in formal schools; scholarships to help the meritorious students to continue their studies; spreading awareness about health and hygiene; imparting vocational education to inculcate the feeling of self reliance.

In its mission to create a better world for the children of the have-not of the society and to bring them into the mainstream of social fabric, KWT has made rapid strides while still being in its infancy period and without any support from any other external organisation.

In the past two years, the organisation has grown at a constant rate; expanding cautiously while consolidating the past activities.

With education as its core area, KWT opened up 4 learning centres in the slum areas of Nawab Yusuf road, Cheetpur, Lukerganj and Naini. These learning centres have since become the hub of education for the children who have never been to schools or had dropped out for different reasons. KWT is running bridge course and remedial classes in these centres and as of now have been able to provide quality education to more than 100 children through these centres and is continuing to do so.

To ensure the future of these children, KWT approached schools in the nearby areas and have been able to mainstream a total of X number of children in schools at various levels/classes.

To take the education beyond the school level KWT has started a scholarship program wherein children undergo a test and successful candidates are given a Scholarship fee for further studies. In the year 2006, 5 students were given scholarships and this year the plan is to provide the same to Y children.

The focus of the organisation is an all round development of the underprivileged and downtrodden. KWT believes that economic independence is the only way to do so and hence several short term Vocational Training Courses were imparted at the learning centres.

While imparting education both academic and vocational a need was felt to make the children and their families aware about the issues of health and hygiene; to make them understand the importance of national festivals; to give them some basics about mediation, yoga etc – this was then done by organising several workshops addressing specific issues.

Another major issue that is being addressed by KWT is that of health – both for prevention and cure. And thus many health camps were organised at different locations; till now benefiting a total of z number of people.

Project Update

1. Learning Centres

To begin with, the KWT opened its first learning centre in the slum area of Nawab Yusuf Road in November 2005, with 17 children in the age-group of 6-14 years. Overwhelmed by the response which it received from the parents and children of the area and the support which it got from the local people, the KWT expanded its area of operation and opened the second learning in the slum area of Cheetpur on the auspicious Republic Day on January 26, 2006 with 40 children, followed by the third learning centre in the Lukerganj slum area in April 2006. The strength of children of this learning increased day-by-day and at present fifty students of different age groups are being taught at different levels. Encouraged by its success in the urban area, the Trust decided to expand its activities to reach out to the children of the rural segments of the district and opened its fourth learning centre in the trans Yamuna belt at Naini in October 2006 in which fifty students who were mostly dropouts or those who have not been able to go to school at all are being taught and imparted lessons in different subjects at different levels for different age-groups.

2. Remedial Classes

To help the students who are weak in studies and cannot afford to pay tuition fees for private coaching, the KWT adopted two schools run by the Nagar Nigam for remedial classes to the weak students. The teachers of the Nagar Nigam schools identified the students who are weak in studies. It is these children who are admitted in the remedial classes that are held in the schools itself for the convenience of the students. The teachers of trust took special pains to hone up the subjects in which the students are weak. They made the lessons interesting so that it is easily grasped and assimilated by the students. The parents of the children studying in remedial classes thanked the KWT for this noble gesture.

Justice A K Yog, retired judge of the Allahabad High Court has remarked: "The most powerful denominator of a nation is its children and it is imperative that their future must be safeguarded"

3. Mainstreaming

Based on the performance of the students and their desire to learn, the KWT took up the responsibility to provide formal education to 21 children and admitted them in a formal school, "Jwala Devi Intermediate College." The trust was thankful to the Principal of the school who understood the need of education for the deprived children and slashed the admission fees from Rs 750/- to Rs 240/- and monthly fees from Rs 225/ to Rs 40/-. The trust also extended warm thanks to the philanthropists of the city who came forward and donated generously to fund the education of the children and meet the expenses of their books, stationery, bags, uniforms and other miscellaneous expenses.

4. Bhavishya Jyoti Scholarship

The literal meaning of Bhavishya Jyoti was translated into a reality by introducing scholarships for the meritorious students to pursue their secondary education. The trust decided to award the scholarships of Rs 6000/- per annum to students who qualify the examination conducted for the same. Students who have secured 60 per cent and above examination in class 10 examination and whose parents income is Rs 30,000 and below were eligible to appear for the test. Ninety-two students from different educational institutions applied for it, but only 75 took up the examination. The test was conducted at Jwala Devi Intermediate College on August 6, 2006. Out of 75 students, five qualified for the same and were awarded scholarship at a function organized by the trust. The trust extended a special thanks to the Principal of Saraswati Devi School, Mr. Anil Srivastava for the help which he extended to conduct the scholarship examination.

Let us hope and pray to the Almighty that we are firming our resolve to keep going with our mission as zealously as possible. Of course, for any good work, collective efforts matters more than mere individual efforts. The Kompal Welfare Trust has all the reasons to feel more enthused today in its resolve to continue doing its good work for the reason that it has being receiving far more expected help and co-operation from the various segments of the society. It hopes that with the blessings of the Almighty and humanitarian support from various quarters, the trust will continue to achieve meaningful success and satisfaction in its work in the years to come.

5. Health and Hygiene

A healthy mind rests in a healthy body and it is rightly said that the health of a nation depends on the health and well-being of its subjects. Hence, realizing the importance of health of upcoming children who are the future citizens of the country, the KWT has organized seven health and eye check-up camps in different parts of the urban and rural segments of the district. Besides, it organized free blood group and hemoglobin test and distributed Health Cards to each and every children and their parents who attended the camp.

In the three health and hygiene camps, 339 patients were examined by a panel of doctors and medicines were distributed free of cost to the patients who were found deficient in vitamins and minerals to overcome their deficiency. Besides, those found suffering from any diseases were given medicines for its treatment. This apart, the KWT has organized three eye check-up camp in which 252 patients were examined by a team of doctors led by a renowned ophthalmologist, Dr R N Mishra. Some of the patients who were found suffering from minor ophthalmic complications were given medicines while those suffering from major ophthalmic complications and short-sightedness were identified for ophthalmic surgery. The cost for the surgery and post-care treatment of such patients were borne by the KWT.

To begin with, an eye-camp was held at Cheetpur slum area on July 29, 2006 in which 100 patients were examined followed by another eye-camp at Nawab Yusuf Road on August 5, 2006 in which 42 patients were examined. This was followed by health and hygiene camp in the rural area at Bharwari on December 24, 2006 in which 120 patients were examined. Another health camp was held at Numaya Dahi on February 17, 2007 in which 109 patients were examined. Then on April 14, 2007, an eye camp was held at Naini in which 109 patients were examined. This was followed by an health and hygiene camp at rural area Sirathu on May 6, 2007 in which 110 patients were examined. The culmination of health and hygiene camps came with a camp for a free blood and hemoglobin test at Cheetpur on July 7, 2007.

6. Vocational Training

Vocational training is an important part and parcel of education as it helps the students to sharpen their latent talents. Besides, it also helps them to become 'self-reliant' and 'self-confident'. For the children of the economically weaker sections of the society, vocational training imparted by the KWT teachers in mehndi, creative work, jute work, footmat, paper bags, embroidery, fancy envelopes, stitching, sewing and knitting has proved to be a boon. The reason being it has helped them to earn some money and help their parents to overcome their financial stress to some extent.

7. Awareness Workshops

To make the future children responsible and better citizens of the country, the KWT organized three workshops titled "Education through Activities." The idea behind it was to provide a platform to each and every child to come out of the feelings of isolation and prove their worth to the whole world.

The first workshop held at Kydganj on May 21, 2006 was dedicated to health and hygiene. Children were taught on how to keep themselves as well as their surroundings clean and tidy. Vitamin tablets along with dewormifier 'Alpendazole' were distributed to the children. Dr Dilip Chaurasis, Associate Professor, Department of Urology, Motilal Nehru (MLN) Medical College gave a lecture on nutrition and balanced life. The lecture proved to be very useful for the children as they listened with rapt attention and brought it in practice in their day-to-day lives.

This was followed by the second 15-day workshop at Cheetpur centre from May 15 to June 13, 2006. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr R N Singh, Inspector General of Police (Railways). Praising the noble efforts of the KWT to provide quality education to the street children which they rightfully deserve as per the Constitution of India, Mr Singh interacted with each and every child and asked them to utilize their time and energy in study and in harnessing their talents.

During the 15-day workshop, children were taught how to sprout beans and plant trees. Children were individually given pots, mud, wheat seeds and water to sow their own plants. They were also taught how to take care of the plants. Besides this, children were imparted lessons in drawing, painting, singing, dancing, acting, yoga, meditation, poster making, story writing, poem recitation etc.

The workshop brought about a tremendous change in their behavioural attitude towards each other and they appeared to be more responsive towards their duties and caring towards their fellow-beings.

The third ten-day workshop was held at Maa Anandmayee Colony from May 26 to June 4, 2007. The four-hour workshop provided an impetus to the creative skills of the children through aerobics, yoga, mantra chanting, meditation, acting, singing, dance, drama and skits. Children aged between nine and fifteen years actively participated in the workshop. The participants of the workshop exhibited their talents in street plays (nukkad natak) which they staged at Civil Lines crossing and at other densely populated localities of the city. Through the street plays, the children created awareness about the social evils that have plagued our society and how to overcome them so as to create a better world to live in.

8. Other Activities

To remove the barriers of high and low and to bring them into the mainstream of social fabric, national festivals were celebrated with the children of the learning centres. Independence Day,

Republic Day, Children's Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Holi, Deepawali, Id-ul-fitr, Id-ul-Zuha, World Human Rights Day were celebrated with the children. The children were also informed about the importance of these festivals and the message which it carries for us to follow and imbibe in our day-to-day lives.

The children were also taken on a picnic for recreation at Delhi Public School on November 4, 2006, where they played different games in the midst of nature and healthy environment and enjoyed the picnic.