VATSALYA OR ‘PARENTAL LOVE’ IS THE CORE CONCEPT OF THE VATSALYA FOUNDATION

The Vatsalya Foundation logo depicts “From The Street Of Darkness Towards Sunshine And Success.”
The Vatsalya Foundation visualises a world, which provides every child an enabling environment to develop to their full potential as an individual, without any discrimination and ensuring their basic rights.

Every child is born with an inherent capacity to grow, and develop as responsible individuals in mainstream Society. It is our duty to see that their potential is tapped and channelized to the optimum extent.

They are children in care of need and protection, aged between 7 to 17 years, fleeing from environments of conflict, ill-treatment and despair. Drawn to the glitter of city life, their dreams of hope become nightmares. Rejected by Society, deprived of their rights, these children are plagued by low self-esteem and suffer from depression and a basic mistrust of adults...pursue high-risk, self-destructive behavior, a process towards criminalisation.

The Vatsalya Foundation has been consistently working at building its own standards based on the Rights of the Child and Protection, Name and Nationality, Nutrition, Education, Health, Empowerment, Family Life, Play, Equal treatment, and Emergency Assistance. Through direct intervention with the children on the streets, day care centre, shelter home and youth group home a regular follow has been maintained along with a planned rehabilitation process and in many cases there has been a consistent success in repatriation to the family and mainstreaming the child back to society.

The Vatsalya Foundation has always stressed on a sense of commitment along with a fresh breath of creativity and compassion that flows with every action and planned intervention, which involves the child at various levels.

The Vatsalya Foundation has set certain standards that have stood out in the process of intervention by its social workers and para-professions on the field.

Vatsalya’s Child Development Programme

**To NURTURE and SET FREE**
To address the needs and problems of children by providing opportunities for education, vocational training, employment, and recreation for their growth and development through Counselling and Direct Intervention.

**To NETWORK**
To liaise with Government agencies like the Police, BMC to mobilize community resources and to coordinate and network with voluntary organizations to address the issue and to bring about policy changes.

**To UNDERSTAND AND PROBE DEEPER**
To understand, analyse and conduct research studies on the social, economic, physical and emotional needs of vulnerable children and related issues.

**To ADVOCATE**
To spread awareness and elicit understanding among the general public about the concerned issue. To advocate on behalf of the children and enable them to raise their own voices towards fulfillment of their rights.

The Vatsalya Foundation reaches out to more than 1 lakh children in urban and rural areas. Outreach in rural areas is more than 50,000 families in 100+ villages in tribal areas of Shahapur, Kasara and Murbad. 16 learning centres working with more than 500 children and in collaboration with 100 Zila Parishad schools working with more than 10,000 school children.
**TARGET GROUPS**

Vatsalya reaches out to street boys and girls between the age group of 7 to 17 years: Street youth ranging in the age group from 18 to 25 years: and children of ‘at – risk’ families. Vatsalya works closely with the children and youth to understand their issues and their aspirations. The evolution of the organization its programmes are a testimony to its belief that children are at the core of all its strategies.

**INTERVENTION STRATEGIES**

- **OUTREACH**
  
  Our outreach workers reach out to children living on the streets/pavements/slums areas of Mumbai and encourage to enroll them for education.

- **OPEN SHELTER HOME**
  
  An open shelter home is provided to those children who are in dire need of a safe haven away from the streets and dysfunctional families. The child’s right to participation and child development and be part of the mainstream Society.

- **WORK AT THE PREVENTIVE LEVEL**
  
  Work with children of pavement families. Work with girls children with a focus on protection and schooling. Reuniting children with the families. Work with street drug addicts: motivation to give up the habit and referrals for detoxification.

- **DAY CARE CENTRES**
  
  Those children who do not have a conducive environment to attend the contact centres, which helps them enroll in school/college admissions/ and network with other NGOs for training facilities along with various skill development programmes.

- **RURAL PROJECT**
  
  Vatsalya has made another beginning to reach out to children who have lost their childhood. Learning centres that would serve the purpose of preventing children from running away, and giving those who runaway an opportunity to live meaningfully.

- **NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY**
  
  Public education about the situation of street children through awareness programmes in schools, colleges, clubs, police, BMC, hospitals. Collaborating with government and other NGOs at the local and national level to facilitate the work with street children and to bring policy level changes towards the betterment of these children through the Coordination Committee for Vulnerable Children (CCVC), a network of NGO’s working with street children in Mumbai. Vatsalya has been an active member of many networks in order to catalyse policy changes for the betterment of the children. As part of its health, education, protection and shelter communities, Vatsalya has taken part in police training programmes and dialogues with municipal authorities in relation to children’s education and health. As a result of such dialogues, the birth certificate/ affidavit requirements for admission in municipal schools have been waived for street children. Through its various activities, Vatsalya has been effective in reaching out and making a difference to a large number of children in Mumbai.

**VATSALYA ENDEAVORS TO REHABILITATE CHILDREN AND BRING THEM BACK TO MAINSTREAM SOCIETY WITH NO DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**
CREATIVE WRITING: Publication of children's magazine to give an outlet to the child’s feelings and expression and as a method of generating awareness in Society about the issue of street children. “Nanhe Likhan” is a quarterly magazine made by the children of Vatsalya, where the children are involved in all aspects of making the magazine such as choosing the topic, writing articles, drawing, editing.

EXTENSIVE STREET CONTACT OUTREACH: where workers meet the children at their place or work/residence, in order to reach out to maximum number of children. Contact with local community members, community medical kits are important feature of the “on–the–street” work of Vatsalya, along with individual and group counselling, referrals to hospitals, or institutions and conducting awareness programme.

FACILITIES: at the centre and shelter home: bathing, saving, medical, locker, mid-day meal/supplementary nutrition.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION: through the syllabus, which Vatsalya has specially formulated for street children and through the use of varied media such as outing, discussion, games, songs, stories, libraries, puppet, shows, video etc.

CELEBRATION: of a universal annual birthday party for all the children to give children a sense of identity and self-worth.

RECREATION: Providing avenues for healthy recreation through indoor and outdoor games, films, outings, visits, picnics, camps etc. Organising competitions and programmes where children have a choice to display their talents, celebrating all days of national importance and the festivals of all religions to give children a sense of belonging and unity.

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELLING: centred on their current situations and ways to overcome their psychological problems, teaching them coping and problem solving skills.

EDUCATION: Enrollment of children into formal schools, Sponsorship of school going children, Vocational training and life skill education programmes for children and youth.

MEDICAL AID: First aid facilities, referrals to hospitals, regular awareness programmes with children on various diseases, intervention at preventive, rehabilitative and treatment levels.

CREATIVE WRITING: Publication of children’s magazine to give an outlet to the child’s feelings and expression and as a method of generating awareness in Society about the issue of street children. “Nanhe Likhan” is a quarterly magazine made by the children of Vatsalya, where the children are involved in all aspects of making the magazine such as choosing the topic, writing articles, drawing, editing.
OUTREACH An initiative where street children are given the opportunity to participate in educational and academic discussions and recreational activities. The programme takes place in public spaces such as parks, grounds, railway station platforms and markets where children from nearby slums and communities are assembled by the Vatsalya team member and engaged in various structured activities.

BALKRUTI Child’s artistic creations and Livelihood Training programme, is the skill-development and training project. Our In-house conducted programmes include skills like making bags, candles, rakhis, cards, wool work, applying mehendi, beadwork and embroidery, pottery, fabric painting. The young adults learn computers, motor driving, cooking, baking, screen printing with other vocational institutions. Sponsorships for outings, movie for the children, camps are welcome.

LAJAWAB Is a nutrition project where one can contribute towards lunch or dinner meals for our children or even nutritious snacks. A way of celebrating important occasions such as birthday party, anniversary, memories, in a more gratifying way. You may also support us in organizing workshops, sports activity and any such events.

MANMOHI Is the gardening project. Spread the message of the green revolution, environment awareness and protection, along with ‘growing and caring’.

NANHE LIKHAN Magazines Nanhe Likhan brings out the writer in the child. Dhwani: the Inner voice is our newsletter where children are encouraged to express their personal thoughts. Maintenance of a personal dairy on a daily basis is encouraged in this initiative.

INFRA ENHANCE A continuous maintenance and refurbishment of the facilities at our various centres and shelter home is required regularly. Contribute towards items such as chairs, tables, cabinets, sofas and electronic items such as televisions, computers, music systems, mikes, speakers, sports material, etc. Support us by providing for personal hygiene products such as bath and clothes soap, toothbrush, paste, oil, talcum powder, comb, shampoo, handwash, Medical first-aid box, towel, bed sheet, mattress. Help in organizing cleanliness drives and sanitation workshops.

SHOW YOUR SOLIDARITY BY SUPPORTING OUR VARIOUS INITIATIVES AND THEREBY MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN A DESERVING CHILD’S PRESENT AND FUTURE.
**LITTLE BESOUROS** is an initiative by the Centre for Capoeira India, in association with The Vatsalya Foundation, that uses beautiful Art of Capoeira. Capoeira is a Brazilian Martial art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics and music. It is known for quick and complex moves, using mainly power, speed and leverage for a wide variety of kicks, spins, and highly mobile techniques.

**SANDESH** The group learning and mentoring sessions builds confidence of both, the older children who take up session for the younger children and visa-versa.

**DARSHAN** A group based on simple philosophy “Children love to learn but hate to be taught”. The objective is to spread social message through the medium of Dance, Music and Theatre. From choreography to production, the children take the lead role. They have been trained by Shiamak Davar’s Victory Arts Foundation, Raell Padamshee’s ACE Productions, Sumeet Nagdev’s Expressions and Shailesh Ranjak’s Star Dance Academy.

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING** We undertake lessons in Mehendi art, Tailoring, Beautician courses and Computer training at our Vocational Training Centres.

**GYANDAAN** The Vatsalya Foundation’s Volunteer programme which brings together volunteers and the children in an exchange of knowledge, ideas and skills. Help us organize staff development sessions, volunteer as a trainer for our rural training programme, Provide training equipment for our rural and urban centers.

**EDUCATION DRIVE** The regular requirement of day to day educational stationary material such as pencils, erasers, notebooks, loose paper, geometry boxes, art and craft materials, school uniform, school bag, school shoes - socks, belt, tie, water bottle colours, laptop, etc.

**DONATIONS IN KIND, CASH, CHEQUE, ONLINE BANK TRANSFER**
**ALL DONATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR 80G TAX EXEMPTION RECEIPTS**

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