



# SOFOSH Newsletter



ISSUE 8

July 2012 - September 2012

Dear Readers,

We are on the verge of stepping into the New Year, 2013, and SOFOSH family once again would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors, well-wishers and volunteers for their dynamic and precious support in all our accomplishments. SOFOSH wishes to begin this year with a special thanksgiving program for our donors and well-wishers hosted by eminent sports journalist Mr. Sunandan Lele and we invite you all from the bottom of our heart. The program '*Bara Gavache Paani*' has been scheduled on the 12<sup>th</sup> January'2013 from 5.30 to 7.30 pm at S.M.Joshi Sabhagruha.

-- Nivedita Gogte



क्रिडा पत्रकार सुनंदन लेले प्रस्तुत

## बारा गावचं पाणी

क्रिकेट-पर्यटनाचा जिवंत अनुभव

Sunandan Lele is freelance sports journalist working in this field for last 25 years. He is one the fortunate cricket journalist who has covered test match in all cricket playing nations. Till date Sunandan has covered more than 200 ODI's and 100 test matches along with 4 world cups and 3 T20 world championships.

In his innovative audio visual show, Sunandan will narrate cricket stories, anecdotes along with 60 slides and a few selected videos. In his unique cricketainment presentation, Sunandan will showcase 3 cricket playing nations - South Africa, West Indies and Pakistan. The show will be presented in Marathi.

Sunandan has already performed this show in England, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland and UAE.

## SOFOSH IN NEWS

SOFOSH, being an old trusted organization, media has been showing escalated interest in our activities and taking cognizance of the noble task undertaken by us. These are a few articles published in the local newspapers.

As we all know female foeticide, female infanticide is a major social problem in India. Sadly, even today, our society has a preference for a male child. Increasing awareness of the problem has led to various campaigns in the country.

At the same time, an adoption agency like SOFOSH also comes across several couples who still prefer to adopt a female child from our organization. As per our statistics, the number of female adoptions has always been on the higher side than male adoptions. With the total 125 wait-listed couples, 75 couples have registered their preference for adopting a female child.

Mr. and Mrs. Shete willingly decided to adopt Ramaa. The couple firmly states that there is no reason to discriminate between a boy and a girl. Female foeticide is a matter of shame and the orthodox views regarding women certainly need to be changed. Women have undoubtedly proved that they are no less than men in each and every field. (Contd. on page 2)

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Mr. and Mrs. Sathe were very determined on their decision of adopting a girl child even after having a biological son. The day they adopted Bhairavee from SOFOSH, it was the happiest moment in their life, and this truly gave them a sense of a complete family. Initially they had to face the displeasure of their family members but eventually everyone gladly accepted the new little member. They feel that even today many couples do think of adopting a child but it is the social fear and anxiety that holds them back. Sathe expressed their views firmly stating that parents are the main culprit and are responsible for female foeticide and there has to be a countrywide awareness campaign towards this.

Ashle and Petronila adopted Lisa three years back and now they have again enrolled at SOFOSH for adopting another girl child. They are fortunate to have a supporting family and this certainly gives them strength. When interviewed they affirmed that female foeticide is a shameful act. Children are God's gift and we have no right refuse this precious gift. ❖

## **PATIENT WELFARE**

### **ACTIVITIES BY SOCIAL WORKERS DEALING WITH CANCER PATIENTS.**

Our social workers celebrated "Cancer Rose Day" along with Cancer Patients Aid Association on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Patients undergoing treatment for cancer in Sassoon Hospital attended the program. Various aspects of the disease along with treatments, side effects, early detection, and resources for help were discussed. All doubts and queries were satisfactorily clarified. Gifts, sweets, biscuits and fruits were distributed. It was a useful and successful program.

Another Rose day program was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September along with Cancer Patients Aid Association. Patients who were cured of the deadly disease were felicitated and a recreation program was organized. ❖

## **NEWSPAPER COVERAGE FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE - TARA**

An extensive coverage on our "Tara SOFOSH Dhadphale Center" was printed in Sakal on 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2012. It was written by Shri. Milind Sandhan. Information about all our facilities like hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, special sleeping quarters, study, and laundry was given in depth, along with very good photographs. Our clean and transparent way of working, how the center is financed through charity was explained

A large section of society would have come to know about the care being given to special needs children. ❖

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### ***Total number of adoptions from July to September 2012 -***

***Indian adoptions – 16***

***NRI adoptions – 1***

***Girls adopted – 12***

***Boys adopted – 5***

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### ***Upcoming programs for Shreevatsa***

***12<sup>th</sup> January 2013 - Donors and Volunteers get-together scheduled at S.M Joshi Sabhagruha from 5.30 to 7.30 pm. The program 'Baara Gavache Paani' will be hosted by Mr. Sunandan Lele an eminent freelance sports journalist.***

***14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – Sankrant celebration***

***26<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – Flag hoisting at Shreevatsa***

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## **A HAPPY REUNION**

Komal (name changed) was admitted in Shreevatsa on 18/8/2012, by the police as instructed by the 'Balkalyan Samitee'. She was found on the bus stop opposite the Sassoon Hospital and a lady handed her over to the police. She was about 2-3 years old and could barely tell her name. The social workers finally took her to the area where she was found and enquired around. They also talked to a vegetable seller lady sitting there with her ware.

Meanwhile, Komal's family had filed a missing child report at the Pune Railway police station. The family was from Chhattisgarh and was travelling from Pune to their hometown. Komal wandered away while her mother was engaged buying tickets on the counter.

During the investigations, the police came across the helpful vegetable lady who was kind enough to inform them about SOFOSH. The family thus approached SOFOSH completed and on completion of the family scrutiny and legal matters, Komal was happily handed over to her family. SOFOSH witnessed this reunion on 26/8/2012. ❖

## Review of activities: Pre Adoption Meeting

SOFOSH being a leading adoption agency in Pune, always aims that the adoption process be as smooth as possible for the parents as well as the children and with this intention we conduct various lecture series for the prospective adoptive parents which enables them to face the challenging situations in a positive way. One such pre-adoption session was arranged on the 30<sup>th</sup> July'2012 from 9.30 to 5.00 pm, in Shreevatsa itself. A group of 27 parents was present for the meeting. The meeting commenced with the introduction of SOFOSH and TARA to the parents followed by the introduction given by each parent and also their views about adoption.

Mrs. Sharmila Sayyed, one of our senior team members working in the field of adoption, educated the parents regarding the child admission procedures in Shreevatsa, medical care of children, immunization, diet for children etc.

Mr. Rajendra Agarwal informed the parents about the legal aspects of adoption along with the allied rules and various laws regarding adoption from government recognized institutions. The documents needed, the court procedures, content of the court orders and the time frame for completion of all the legalities was explained in detail.

This was succeeded by another session by Mrs. Sangeeta Pawar which covered topics like adoption process, preparations to be done by the parents before they adopt a child. Similarly, preparing the child mentally for adoption (in case of older children) is also equally important. The child also needs some time to adjust emotionally with the family members. The question and answer session followed by this helped the parents to alleviate the ambiguity in their minds.

Behavioral problems, adolescent age problems, communication and transparency with children are a few significant issues which need to be addressed by way of positive parenting so that these matters can be handled skillfully by parents. Parents have to be very receptive and patient while dealing with these issues. Mrs. Arti Pendse who has been working with SOFOSH as a psychologist for many years explained these topics effectively.

One the most important aspect of adoption is sharing this very fact with the child at an appropriate age. Invariably, each and every child goes through an emotional turmoil when he or she comes to know the reality. Mrs. Madhuri

Abhyankar expressed her views on this and guided the parents as to how they can play a supportive role for their children in this phase of transition.

SOFOSH always invites a few adoptive parents and adult adoptees for such meetings who willingly share their experiences with the prospective adoptive parents which can act as a guideline for them.

We are extremely fortunate to have with us Dr. Navrange who is one of the senior pediatricians and has been working for SOFOSH - Shreevatsa since 1974. He guided the parents on health assessments of children having known and unknown backgrounds.

This pre-adoptive meeting was a preparatory session for the future adoptive parents. ❖

### 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 – RS5000/-
- 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: director@sofosh.org*

**Picnic to the water park:** One of the special activities our children missed this summer was the water play, but we decided to make up for this and therefore a picnic to the Krishnai water park was arranged on 1st July 2012. Our resident social worker- Mamta and Rajni didi and the Sparsh group volunteers shouldered the responsibility. Children thoroughly enjoyed playing in the water, water slides, wave pool etc and it was just perfect for them. ❖

**Vaccination:** This year on 5<sup>th</sup> July'2012, with the aid provided by Rotary club Pune we vaccinated our babies at Shreevatsa against HIB and Polio. Few members of Rotary Club were also present on this occasion. ❖

**Ophthalmic check-up:** Ophthalmic check-up was scheduled on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and this was arranged by Dr. Jai Kelkar from Kelkar Hospital. 50 children at Shreevatsa were examined and a few of them were also scheduled for a further detailed check-up at Kelkar Hospital itself. ❖

#### **Celebrations at a Glance**



**Ganesh festival celebrated at Shreevatsa**



**Children enjoying the water play**



**Nagapanchami celebration**



**Gokulashtami celebration**

*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. 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.*

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

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