

ANGAJA FOUNDATION

SELF RELIANCE FOR THE UNDERPRIVILIGED

**“AN ORGANISATION FOR TRIBAL, RURAL
AND URBAN INITIATIVE”**

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

ANGAJA FOUNDATION

D-298, BASEMENT, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI - 110024

Email- angajafoundation@gmail.com

Phone No. - 011-41643401, 24634978, 24692612

VISION

To work with the socio-economically weaker sections of the society with special emphasis on women and children and to act as catalysts of change in the lives of economically underprivileged men, women and children to improve the quality of their lives and make it much more meaningful. Our slogan is "An organization with tribal, rural and urban initiative".

MISSION

The establishment of Angaja Foundation dates back to 2000. It is registered as a trust. Through its formation, the founders aimed at improving the lives of underprivileged men, women and children. The organization believes in helping people to help themselves. Where ever we work, whether in slums or in rural areas the 'poorest of the poor' is our target group. The organization believes in acting as a flash point in solving critical problems like impoverishment in rural areas, environmental degradation and water pollution. It works under a proactive board but the daily activities are supervised by the General Secretary, Raka Sinha Bal.

IMPACTS MADE BY ANGAJA FOUNDATION IN THE YEAR 2017

For Angaja Foundation, the year 2017 has been a time of learning and advancing. The organization under its different projects - Slum Development, Women Empowerment and Animal Welfare - did abundant work and made exceptional presence in all the sectors where we intervened on the social issues in our society. The efforts made by the organization in 2017 are mentioned here.

1. Community Outreach Programme (Slum Development)

We have been working for the development of slum areas for many years now and understand the importance of working at the grass-root level to help the poor to improve the quality of their lives. The slum areas are Block 18, Indira Camp, Kalyanpuri in East Delhi and Lal Bagh Jhuggi, under Mansarovar Park metro line, Shahdara in North East Delhi. We concentrate on the development of the whole community. Regular meetings are conducted with the community dwellers and necessary action is taken to address their problems.

Our Slum Development Project, *Ek Nai Duniya* involves reaching out to the families, men, women, youth, children and discussing their problems and coming out with solutions. We together with the community members network with the local political representatives to solve problems of drinking water, sanitation, drainage etc. Youth group - boys and girls are involved in creative and sports activities so that their energies can be channelized in the right direction. Employment opportunities and training issues are also discussed with the youth and the way forward is decided.

The organization together with the 'Insaniyat Group', initiated by the organization, takes care of problems of toilet facilities, blockage of drains, garbage disposal, access to drinking water etc. Regular meetings with local representatives like MLA's are held. At the initial stage, we were not able to get good response from the political representatives but after many meetings with them, they agreed to take action on problems like sanitation and drinking water and supported our project with enthusiasm to expedite matters.

Young men and women are helped with their school education and general knowledge is taught related to topics such as environment, air and water pollution and health. We

conduct creative and sports activities to refresh their mind and daily update on general knowledge and current news for their growth and development. Discussion on sex and sexuality, drug abuse, STDs and AIDS are also held with the youth group. Our activities focus on the youth group to motivate them to become responsible members of society. Our centre also provides career counseling and discusses potential job opportunities with the youth.

Group discussions are organized with men, women and adolescent girls and boys on topics like violence against women, importance of girls, care for the family, awareness on diseases such as cancer, diabetes, alcoholism, drug abuse, cholera etc. and how to avail schemes of the state government.

Information on sex and sexuality, menstruation, maternity, breastfeeding, STDs, to prepare the young girls for marriage and motherhood and sex education , gender sensitization to the young boys to dispel misconceptions about the opposite sex. We also empower women through health education, counseling, information and employment opportunity. We have taken important steps to make the community aware about the importance of cleanliness, proper drinking water and other health related issues.



Tuition and General Knowledge Group in Kalyanpuri

2. Holistic Development of Youth

GROUP	AGE	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
Children	8- 13 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition for the children • Indoor and outdoor games / general knowledge / health education and sex education to youth and adolescents • Art and Craft 	9:30 to 10:30 am 10:30 to 12:30 pm
Adolescents boys/girls	14 years- above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Education to the community • Lunch • Girls tuition • General knowledge/ Art and Craft/ News/ Indoor/ Outdoor games • Health/ Sex Education/ Career Counseling / providing necessary information on various Government schemes 	12:30 to 01:30 pm 01:30 to 02:00 pm 02:00 to 03:00 pm 03:00 to 04:00 pm 04:00 to 05:30 pm
	16 years- above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness program focusing on environment, values and self-reliance. • Health Education 	

3. Sex Education

Angaja Foundation also focuses on Sex Education which is an essential subject to be taught to the youth. The general objective of sex education is to eradicate the lack of knowledge and wrong ideas about sex by creating right attitude among the adolescents. Sex education is intended to decrease the hazards of negative results from sexual behavior such as unwanted or unplanned pregnancies and infection through sexually transmitted diseases. It also increases youth's capability to take apt decisions relating to their relation with people of the opposite sex. Sex education helps young people to be more prepared for life changes such as puberty and menstruation. It helps them in knowing that the sudden changes in their bodies are normal. Also, sex education closely addresses the problems of abuse faced by many children.

Our coordinator is involved in spreading awareness to the young boys and girls in Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park slums where about 30 boys and 30 girls in the age group of 12 to 16 years are involved in the session. We feel that it is of utmost importance that teenage girls and boys understand the changes that their bodies undergo when they reach adolescence, the girls need to understand all about menstrual cycle; so that they learn to accept it as a normal role of nature, create an awareness about pregnancies and other related issues including safe sex and diseases like STD and HIV. The main idea is to create right attitude among the adolescents.

After many sessions, the youth are now aware of body changes, contraceptive measures and HIV Aids. They felt shy and uncomfortable in asking questions, but now they come up with a lot of questions and also take part in discussions. Therefore, sex education results in teens becoming more responsible and cautious of their actions. Sex education is a kind of holistic education. It also helps the youth to cultivate a sense of responsibility towards others as well as themselves.

4. Women Empowerment - Mahila Panchayat

Angaja Foundation believes in Gender Equality and therefore the welfare and empowerment of women is one of the thrust areas of our work. We have established a good rapport with the community and have also successfully motivated the women and their families to participate in the various learning and development activities.

At Angaja Foundation, we have formed a Mahila Panchayat and we organize meetings with these women regularly. Mahila Panchayat is a space where they can speak fearlessly when they want help in resolving disputes within a family and community. Mahila Panchayats offer help at community level and help tackle local disputes and assist in violence against women. The women are explained about how a problem can be solved at the community level instead of going to the police station or the court. Women face major challenges in accessing justice at police stations. We also discuss about various issues such as dowry harassment, eve-teasing, molestation, stalking and other crimes against women. The women are explained that Mahila Panchayats do not replace the judicial system. The difference is that the cases are resolved using conversations and social pressure, while in the court, procedural law is used which takes too long for cases to get solved.



Group of Women Gathered for Mahila Panchayat in Mansarovar Park

There are several other issues we discuss with them. We tell the women to take interest in their children's education, attend parent-teacher meetings at school, take care of their books and bags. We also tell them about family and child nutrition and various diseases such as dengue, malaria, chikungunya, diarrhoea, anemia, UTI and viral fever. They are

advised not to eat food from outside especially from local vendors and not to buy pre-cut fruits and vegetables. They are taught basic civic sense and how to take care of their eyes, ears, teeth and nails. We tell them not to use polythene bags at all, minimize the use of plastic bottles and not to throw away the garbage in polythene bags, instead collect it in some container before throwing it away. We brief them about other issues such as child sexual abuse, child marriage and how to prevent it.

8th March – International Women’s Day

Angaja Foundation organized a street play on *Naari Ki Sashaktikaran* (Women Empowerment) at Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park on the occasion of International Women’s Day. People in large numbers had gathered to watch the play.

The play begins with two groups of children playing. One group has toys and the other one does not. Khushi and Rani come back home and asks for toys from their mother. She refuses and tells them that she has no money left with her as whatever she earned has been taken by their father for drinking alcohol. Later she buys toys for them from a local market. When their father comes back, he sees the children playing with toys. He beats his wife and tells her that she could not give him money for drinking alcohol, rather she bought toys for their children. The mother then appears as an empowered woman and tells him that she is not a helpless woman anymore. They start fighting and soon the neighbours appear. They encourage her to go to the police and take legal aid as there are many laws to protect rights of women. The police arrests the husband and he goes to jail. After a year, he is released and comes back as a changed man to his family. He becomes hard working and promises his wife that he would educate their daughters and would keep them happy. The play was very much appreciated by the audience. The programme ended with a dance performance by the boys and girls group.

Health Education to Women

Health Education is imparted with the aim of improving people’s health which empowers them to take control over their well-being and enables them to make healthy choices. At Angaja Foundation, we have a health awareness programme at Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park on a daily basis with a hope that it would lead them towards better health conditions and a healthy living environment. They are motivated towards

keeping their environment clean, using clean drinking water and eating healthy food. Earlier, we had group meetings with the women but now the slum coordinator visits the houses individually to talk about health issues. Under this programme, the women of the community are made aware about immunization, birth control measures, pregnancy, personal hygiene and also about diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria and dengue. They are advised to eat a healthy diet and drink plenty of water. The objective is to make the women aware about health and hygiene and the importance of cleanliness in their lives. A positive change has been observed; they are aware about diabetes, they now boil water before consuming it, maintain proper hygiene, the number of children per family has decreased as compared to earlier and they now visit the doctor and not quacks as was the practice earlier.



Patients we helped from Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park

5. Activities

Delhi Child Rights Club -

Angaja foundation is part of **Delhi Child Rights Club (DCRC)**. It is a children's forum initiated by Butterflies with the objective to make the National capital a safe and child friendly place. The club enables children in Delhi to meet together to find ways to increase awareness and action about children's rights and responsibilities. Currently 21 organizations working with street and working children in Delhi are members of DCRC. There are various programmes organized by them throughout the year.

I. Interface between Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi and children

Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi who is the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba Gandhi had an interaction with the children. The children from various organisations talked about the education, health and life skill programs and discussed about the challenges they face in their everyday life whether in school, community or at home and how the different programmes of the various organizations help them to overcome all these struggles and move forward in life.

Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi said that if we look at Gandhi Ji, he always used a simple path to achieve success in life. Even in his fight for India's independence, he chose the path of non-violence. He led a very simple life – wearing simple clothes, eating plain food and living with just the bare minimum. In today's time if we want to live a peaceful life, we should think of Gandhiji's principles. Dr. Gandhi concluded that we ourselves have to follow the principles of truth and honesty to achieve our goals in life.

II. Digital Story Telling Workshop

In this workshop, the children were taught how to do digital storytelling. This is a very exciting medium through which the children could express the emotions which are close to their heart. Everyone wrote about their real life experiences whether happy or sad. They were asked to make drawings related to their story. For every line they wrote, they had to make a drawing for that. The drawings were coloured and arranged in the correct sequence. The drawings and

colouring were done very beautifully. Finally the recording began. By the end of the day children were able to prepare and present a small digital story before the group.

III. Radio Program

The main objective of the 'Radio Training Programme' was to train the children how to express their ideas through radio awareness and outreach programme. The programme is broadcasted on AIR FM Rainbow India (102.6 MHz) known as "*Bachchon Ki Nazar Se*" on every Thursday, 4.45pm reaching out to more than twenty million listeners.

A Radio Training Programme for the children is an initiative for them to tell their story and bridge the gap between adults and children's perception and make this world a happier, friendlier and safer place for children. The aim of the radio programme was to transmit the gained knowledge from the books to the listeners.

In this meeting, the children were trained about radio programme production i.e. script writing, voice modulation and program recording. The children prepared their script and got them recorded in the Butterflies studio with the help of their media team.

IV. Cyber Crime

In the session on "Cyber Safety for Children", the children were told what cyber crime or computer crime is. It refers to any illegal action that involves a network or computer. With the evolution of the internet, along came crime where the perpetrators commit acts of crime and wrongdoing using the World Wide Web. In some cases, the computer may have been used to commit the crime, and in other cases, the computer may have been the target of a crime. Identity theft is considered a cyber crime. The personal information stolen can include the person's name, social security number, birth date or credit card numbers. This stolen information is then used to obtain new credit cards, access bank accounts or obtain other benefits such as a driver's license.

In this workshop, the children learnt safety and security of the personal computer, how theft ruins and potentially threatens a victim's reputation and

personal safety. Cyber crime can lead to financial ruin and may threaten a person or a nation's security.

V. Comic Creation

The main objective of the 'Comic Creation Workshop' was to train the children to express their ideas through short stories and images combined with text or other visual information. The children learnt to draw a comic style male and female face and learnt simple measurements to map out the face and make the drawing process much easier. They learnt how to create line art and refine the rough sketch to get it ready for the coloring process and finished the drawings by adding colors to their artwork. By the end of the workshop, every child was able to create at least one comic strip and understand the use of the tools that help in creating comic strips.

Activities at Angaja Foundation -

- **New Delhi Yuva Utsav & NGO Mela**

The two days event was held on 16th and 17th November 2017 at New Delhi YMCA. The theme was 'Save Motherhood, Safe Motherhood'.

Children from Angaja Foundation's centre in Mansarovar Park and Kalyanpuri took part in the various events throughout the two days.

In the Rangoli making competition, a beautiful work was presented using vibrant colours, based on the theme. It was followed by Poster Making and Best out of Waste competitions. The poster portrayed the importance of a mother in one's life. For Best out of waste, two beautiful wall hangings were made using old CDs and plastic cups. Four girls took part in the folk dance. It was a Chhattisgarh state song. The girls danced very well in the beautiful costumes and jewelry provided to them.

In the game 'Fist-Roll the Ball', five children participated and got selected for the second round. In the Mehendi competition, a beautiful design was applied by a participant. Three girls participated in the Free Style Dance, which was much applauded by the audience and the judges.

Our Nukkad Naatak was titled 'Maa ka Khat' (Mother's Letter). In the Naatak, there was a boy who felt ashamed of being poor. He was humiliated by his friends at school. So he

cursed his mother for his humiliation. One day, he leaves his mother and his home and goes to study outside his village. Afterwards, he gets a job and he also gets married and starts doing well for himself. One day he is invited to his school to participate in the annual day function. When he goes back, he is informed by the school master that his mother passed away and had left a letter for him. Tears fall down while he reads the letter. His mother writes how difficult it was for her to raise him and also how much she loved him. He then feels sorry for his loss and realizes the loss that has happened in his life. In the end, he cries and falls down on his knees holding the letter in his hands. The naatak was praised by the judges and the audience and it left them emotionally moved.



Our Star Performers at the YMCA Mela

- **Painting Diyas and Matkas**

On 17th July 2017, we organized a *diya* and *matka* painting workshop for the children of Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park. The boys and girls were taught how to paint the *diyas* and *matkas* which were made out of mud and clay. It began with cleaning the diyas and matkas, they were washed, soaked and dried up completely. Before starting the painting, the children were told to analyse the design first and decide which color is to go where. The children were also taught the use of metallic colors, such as silver and

gold, to give the *diya* a rich appearance. The children drew beautiful patterns on them and coloured them beautifully.

It was a fun-filled time for the children and they were involved in an activity which gave expression to their creativity. The workshop taught them how to paint and bring out the hidden talent that the children have in them.



Diya Painting Activity at Kalyanpuri

- **ITI Training**

Industrial Training Institutes (ITI's) are those which provide training in technical fields. ITI's are government-run training organizations and provide post-school technical training. The children of Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park were briefed about the training. To make boys and girls job worthy, ITI's were established. The children were told about the various courses that ITI offers like computer operator, craftsman, draughtsman, electrician, fashion technology, mechanic, machinist and others. They were briefed about all the courses in great detail through a power point presentation. The children were excited to learn about the various career options available. Owing to various socio-economic problems, many slum children are not able to complete their schooling up to 12th standard. Out of the 52 courses that ITI offers, it requires education till 10th standard for 48 courses and 8th standard for four courses. They

provide good environment for studies and physical health of the trainees like NCC, sports and cultural activities. The nearest ITI for the children of Mansarovar Park is located in Shahdara and Vivek Vihar and for Kalyanpuri is Khichripur.

The children were excited to learn about so many career options available to them and also that the fees is less. Girls were glad to know that they are exempted from the fees. The children wanted to complete their schooling up to 12th standard and then opt for any of the courses at ITI.

- **International Yoga Day Celebration**

On International Yoga Day, Angaja Foundation organized 45 minutes of yoga for children in Mansarovar Park and Kalyanpuri. Thirty underprivileged children attended the program and learned yoga *asanas* under the guidance of the coordinator. The program began with the children singing '*Vande Mataram*' and engaging in a brief meditation. Later, the children were demonstrated the Surya Namaskar, which involves 12 distinct poses. The children then took a tour of the nearby park and the lake and visited the deer enclosure. The coordinator concluded the programme by telling them how yoga is good for the mind and the body. The children promised that they would continue practicing their yoga skills every day. The International Yoga Day celebration was a great success.



International Yoga Day Celebration at Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park

- **Kho Kho Match**

On November 21, 2017, *Terre Des Hommes* organized a sports cum cultural event with 21 organizations participating from seven states in India. *Terre Des Hommes* is a child rights organization supporting more than 125 organizations all over the country. The main aim was to build a strong sports culture and empower children to seek purpose and joy in sports. Angaja Foundation participated in the kho kho match with 12 girls from Kalyanpuri. Our team played against Udayan Care girls. It was an opportunity for the children to gain hands-on experience in the sports sector at the grassroots level and the match was well played by our team.



Kalyanpuri Girls Playing Kho-Kho at Bal Bhawan

- **A Visit to the Zoo**

Eight children of Kalyanpuri Slum area visited the Zoo on 31st March, 2017 along with two teachers. The main objective of the visit was to promote awareness of endangered animals. Tigers and lions were kept in well protected enclosures. There was also an

enclosure meant for birds in which there were different kinds of parrots, pigeons, peacocks and other birds of different colors and from different countries. There were deers, bears, monkeys, chimpanzees, zebras, black bucks, elephants, camels and other animals. There was an artificial lake where crocodiles are kept. Giraffes and Bengal Tiger was an attraction for the children. There were a few leopards and cheetahs too. There was the reptile section where different kinds of snakes were kept.

The visit to the zoo was great fun and it was also a very educative experience. The children were very happy and they thanked our General Secretary Ms. Raka Sinha Bal for her support in this trip.

- **Football Match**

Angaja Foundation invited adult men of Mansarovar Park and Kalyanpuri area, school dropout children and working children and our center's youth boys for a Football match. Around 15 children and 10 men took part in the game. They were divided in two groups consisting of two teams each. During the match, the Youth Team drove quickly to attack their goal but due to the strong defense by the Adult Men team, they could not score. It was a tough match for both the teams. For the school dropout children and the working men, it was their first exposure to a football match. The game began with the National Anthem being sung which created a spirited environment. The children cheered when the players came onto the field. In the middle of the first half, the first goal was scored by Group A, where adult men and school dropout children were playing. Kids from Mansarovar Park were the strongest supporters, waving their jackets in the air and adding to the competitive spirit. The match was a draw, much to the dismay of the young ones who wanted their team to win.

- **Celebration of Festivals**

Festivals create an environment of cultural harmony and teach us to forget our enmity and embrace one another in a bond of love. At Angaja Foundation, we celebrate all the festivals of all the religions with much vigour and enthusiasm and the children are happy to be a part of it. By celebrating all the festivals, we try to develop tolerance and acceptance of other religions and communities in the children and the youth group.

A. Independence Day – Independence Day was celebrated at Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park with a lot of enthusiasm and patriotism and a flag hoisting ceremony was organized. It reminds us about the struggle and hardships faced by our freedom fighters and great leaders, who sacrificed their lives for India. The programme started with a short speech on Independence Day and its importance followed by the song '*Saare Jahaan Se Acha*'. The children and the adults were told how we got freedom from the British and the sacrifice made by the freedom fighters. The children expressed their love for the country through their poems and speeches. Then they unfurled the tricolor flag and all in unison sang the National Anthem.



Flag Hoisting Ceremony on Independence Day at Kalyanpuri

B. Janmashtami - Janmashtami is a festival dedicated to kids as this is the day when the naughtiest kid ever-'Krishna' was born. The essence of Krishna is present in each child and it reflects through their playfulness and happy faces. To celebrate Janmashtami, a skit was organized where some boys became 'Krishna' and some girls became 'Radha'. The children also drew pictures of Radha and Krishna. Janmashtami was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm.

C. Navratri – On the occasion of Navratri, children from Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park visited the Devi temple. They performed necessary puja rituals with the help of the pandit and sought the blessings of the Devi. They offered flowers and sweets to the idol of Maa Durga and in return they got prasad from the pandit. They prayed for the progress of their family and the nation, their health and education and also wished for good yield of crops in their villages.



Temple Visit on Navratra at Mansarovar Park

D. Diwali – Children were made to understand the significance of the festival of lights. They made colourful rangoli and decorated diyas and candles. With the onset of darkness, they lit up diyas and candles and sweets were distributed to them. Since many years we have been celebrating Diwali at our centres and it has become an important annual event.



Girls Group Lighting Diyas on Diwali

E. Raksha Bandhan - Angaja Foundation celebrated Raksha Bandhan at Mansarovar Park and Kalyanpuri with the tuition and youth group. The children were very excited. The tuition group girls tied the *Rakhi* to the tuition group boys and the general knowledge group girls tied the *Rakhi* to the general knowledge group boys. After tying the *Rakhi*, the boys offered sweets to the girls.



General Knowledge Group Celebrating Raksha Bandhan in Kalyanpuri

F. Eid-ul-Zuha – On this day, the Muslims all over the world sacrifice goats and other animals and share the meat with family members, neighbors and the poor. Muslims around the world believe that Allah (God) commanded Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son Ismail. Ibrahim followed God's orders, but his son got replaced by a sheep at the last moment. Being an animal welfare organization, Angaja Foundation observed the festival as a black day and launched a Black Ribbon tying campaign at the center.



Bakri Eid: Our Anti-Animal Slaughter Team

The children tied black ribbon on their arms as a protest to ban butchering of animals without showing pity for them. Angaja Foundation protested in Kalyanpuri and Mansarovar Park and said, "We want to show that religious activities can be carried out without causing harm to animals."

6. Animal Welfare

Angaja Foundation also helps distressed animals and prevention of cruelty to animals. We have set up an animal shelter which is located in Jaunapur Village ahead of Mehrauli. There are 40 dogs in the shelter. We pick up stray dogs from the streets, send them for sterilization and the animals in need are taken to our shelter. They are taken care of in a good environment and proper food, water and medical care is provided to them. We are thankful to MCD for picking up the dogs for sterilization, without which too many unwanted puppies would be born. We are also feeding cows and keeping water troughs for cows and other animals in Kalyanpuri, Block 18, Kotla Mubarakpur and the industrial area, Udyog Vihar Phase I in Gurgaon and also in Jaunapur where the shelter is located.

- Near the Jaunapur shelter, four calves were seen by our General Secretary, Ms. Raka Sinha Bal.



Emergency Rescue of Calves

The calves looked abandoned and undernourished. We fed them with grass and water every day and contacted the organization 'Dhyan Foundation' to pick them up so that the vulnerable calves could be looked after. Some sympathetic people near our animal shelter were willing to keep the calves. They had a doctor visiting them regularly to take care of these animals. The ear of one of the calves was totally damaged. They promised that they would take care of it. The calves were being fed and the damaged ear of one calf began healing.

- Angaja Foundation with the help of Municipal Corporation (South Delhi) did the sterilization of five stray dogs in the Jaunapur area, New Delhi. Our coordinator Dinesh helped in the sterilization process. We had sent a letter to MCD on 25th July 2017. They came to pick up the dogs on 31st July under the supervision of Mr. Tiwari. A lot of effort is needed to send the dogs for sterilization and MCD is doing an excellent job. It is a tough challenge to get the dogs inside the vehicles. Whenever their vehicle comes to pick up the dogs, they hide somewhere and after they are

caught, they start biting and become very agitated. This activity is a big challenge for the NGO, its workers and for the MCD. Four people from our organization and four people from MCD were involved in catching the dogs. These dogs are taken to a government hospital in Vasant Kunj. We have established a good rapport with the MCD staff. We offer them tea, coffee and biscuits and provide them a proper place to sit. We are thankful to MCD for picking up the dogs for sterilization, without which too many unwanted puppies would be born.

- Angaja Foundation rescued puppies from Safdarjung Development Area. Nine puppies were born and they were very weak. Some kind soul took one puppy to the hospital and helped in his treatment. Two of the puppies were adopted by some people living in Mohammad Pur and Arjun Nagar. Four were rescued and were sent to the Angaja Foundation Shelter in Jaunapur. These four remaining puppies are happily thriving in our shelter. They are provided food and milk and their vaccination is taken care of by us. The puppies would have otherwise died since it is a busy road and they might have come under the vehicles. Now, their proper care is taken at the shelter and they are doing well.



Puppies Playing Joyfully at the Shelter

- We found six puppies with their mother in the Najafgarh area. The puppies were less than a month old and they were all very weak. They were rescued by the shelter, otherwise, they would have all died due to the cold weather. The mother had a mange problem. Today they are taken care of in a good environment and proper food and water is provided.



Puppies Rescued from Najafgarh

- Raju is a male dog. A couple of months back, in 2016, the master of the house passed away. He had two daughters and a son. The daughters were married and the son and daughter-in-law started controlling the house. The lady of the house did not have any control. So, the son and his wife decided to abandon the dog. Then, Gunjan, an animal activist, took charge. She took him to a boarding shelter, which was very expensive. She later wanted to give him up for adoption. He became very aggressive after he was adopted by a family and they refused to keep him.
- Rubina - Ms. Gunjan takes care of the dogs in Vasant Kunj area where she lives. A nearby dhaba owner called her to inform about an accident of a dog. When she reached there, she found a two-month old puppy whose legs had been crushed. She was so weak that she could not even stand up. She had to be put in a boarding shelter. She got fever for one and a half months. She could not be sent back to the

dhaba as she was emotionally disturbed. Gunjan got her sterilized and tried to send her to some place where she would be happy. Both Raju and Rubina were adopted by Angaja Foundation. Earlier, they were in a poor condition and were very thin. They were provided with a good diet at the shelter and are living happily with the other dogs.



Raju and Rubina – Before and After

- On 21st August 2017, the General Secretary of Angaja Foundation Ms Raka Sinha Bal came across an injured baby crow in Defence Colony area. The baby crow had lost its way and could not fly. We took it to Frenديوoes where he was given proper treatment by the doctor. He was admitted there since his wings were injured. On 24th August, she again visited Frenديوoes to find out about the condition of the crow. We were informed that the treatment was successful and the baby crow had flown away.

- **Demonstration to support ban on Elephant Joyrides on 6th December 2017 at Connaught Place**

On 6th December 2017, PETA organized a demonstration encouraging people to support a ban on the use of elephants for performances and also asking the Tourism Ministry to ban elephant rides. The protest took place at Rajiv Chowk, Connaught Place, New Delhi. Angaja Foundation coordinator participated in the demonstration. The volunteers wore white kurta pyjamas along with a 'Modi' jacket. They had put on elephant masks and stood holding the placards that read 'Tourism Ministry: Say No To Elephant Joyrides'. There were around 30 media channels to cover the demonstration. An Animal Welfare Board of India study points out that too much of cruelty is involved when elephants are trained to give joyrides. Their spirit is broken in order to make them obey human commands, they are forced to perform meaningless tricks and they are kept chained when not performing. The elephants that are made to give rides suffer from broken bones and nails, joint ailments and arthritis.



Team Elephant – Protesting a Ban on Joyrides

They are not given proper veterinary care, food or water. AWBI has advised the tourism ministry to bring these animals under the list of non-performing animals which means that they should not be used for performances anymore. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, prohibits the capturing of elephants. These beautiful animals are torn away from their families in their natural habitat, enslaved, beaten into submission, and forced to carry tourists against their will. Elephants are highly social animals, and in the wild, they spend their entire lives with their families. They can walk over 30 miles every day and spend their time foraging for food, working together to solve problems, and relying on the wisdom, judgment, and experience of their eldest relatives. In Hinduism, elephants are worshipped as representatives of Lord Ganesha. But those who are taken from their families and forced to carry tourists in the oppressive heat are in a terrible condition. The aim of the awareness campaign was to urge all the people not to take animal rides at all. In Amer Fort in Jaipur, Rajasthan, elephants are decorated with painted patterns and transport visitors up the steep slope to the fort and it takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes for the elephant to slowly trudge up the hillside to the main courtyard. The elephants show multiple health problems including foot injuries, damaged eyes and general fatigue caused by this activity. Food offered to them is often nutritionally inadequate, barely fueling them for the steep slope they are forced to climb. They are forced to walk over concrete surfaces which cause them pain and distress.

- **PETA's Fundraising Event**

On 8 December 2017, PETA organized an event to raise funds for the work they are doing for animals. It was held at Lodhi- The Garden Restaurant near Lodhi Garden. It began with a documentary film showing their work in India in 2017. The film also featured clips on Animal Rahat, Peta's shelter in Sangli, Maharashtra. It focused on what a lovely life buffaloes, donkeys, dogs and other animals were experiencing at the shelter, having escaped from violence and cruelty. The film was followed by a speech by PETA CEO Dr. Manilal Valliyate who spoke about their work in India and the animal cruelty issues like Jallikattu.

Our General Secretary Ms. Raka Sinha Bal met PETA Founder Ms Ingrid Newkirk who travels to India once a year to participate in this event. They talked about cruelty issues like the slaughter of horses, bull fighting, killing of dogs in China for using their skin and the terrible way in which cows are slaughtered in the West for meat. Ms. Newkirk said that these cruelty issues might hopefully die out with the younger generation. It was a wonderful evening interacting with dedicated animal activists.



Ms. Raka Sinha Bal with PETA Founder Ms. Ingrid Newkirk

- **Angaja Foundation's initiative to visit Goushalas is to check whether proper shelter, veterinary care, feed and water is provided for the thousands of cows living in these shelters.** The Goushalas visited by our coordinator are located in Khanpur, Dabar Khera Village, Bakoli Village, Rajender Nagar and Najafgarh. These Goushalas, like Shri Krishna Goushala, Dabar Hare Krishna Goushala, Manav Gousadan and Pinjal Pole Goushalas, are mostly run by Trusts and NGOs which are funded by the Delhi Government and also MCD. Most of the Goushalas which do not receive funds from the government are privately running with help from local people and religious institutions and also by the sale of milk and milk products like curd and ghee.



Visit to Shri Krishna Goushala in Bawana

Most of the Goushalas had satisfactory living conditions for the cows and only some were not up to the mark.

The following observations were made –

- Most of the Goushalas kept their animals tied most of the time although there were large open space where all the cows could roam freely.
- None of the Goushalas provided training to their staff.
- They are mostly dependent on milk from their cows and milk products for generating income for the Goushalas. But most of the Goushalas did not use cow byproducts like cow dung which could be used as compost.
- Most of them run as private bodies without any support from the government and are supported by individuals.
- Most of the Goushalas were found clean, proper diet was given on time, drinking water is available for the cows, proper medical treatment is provided.
- Some of the Goushalas had special arrangement for the disabled cows and some Goushalas needed improvement since the living conditions were unhygienic and the drinking water was available but the water tanks needed cleaning.

- Veterinary services were available in most of the Goushalas with one residential vet and hospital facility in some of them.
- Most Goushalas did not separate sick and healthy animals, although some had specific area for treatment of the animals.
- Also, in two of the Goushalas in Najafgarh, the place where the cattle sit and eat was very dirty. They told us that meals were given to the cattle on time but still they looked weak.

Our coordinator had also visited many dairy farms in Delhi and NCR during the year to analyze the conditions of the farms and the cattle. The dairy farms visited by us are Gola, Ghazipur, Kondli and Gharoli. The most important issue was of oxytocin, In Gola dairy, we saw the laborers injecting oxytocin to the cows and buffaloes. In Ghazipur dairy farm, a few laborers told us that they were using oxytocin for the purpose of milk production. In Kondli and Gharoli there were cases where they used oxytocin on the cattle that permanently stopped producing milk. The oxytocin injection is very harmful for cows and buffaloes because it affects their digestive system. Another issue was of cleanliness around Ghazipur and Gola dairy. There was water logging and cow dung and garbage was lying on the road. The people of Gola dairy said that MCD is not paying much attention towards sanitation. Kondli and Gharoli farms had no space for grazing as a result of which the animals are tied up inside the farms.



Visit to Ghazipur Dairy Farm

In the Ghazipur dairy the calves were all seen tied separately from their mothers. This shows that the calves are not fed properly. The cows that permanently stop giving milk are abandoned by the dairy owners and buffaloes are probably being sent to the slaughter houses. The same is the case with calves of the buffaloes, female calves are fed properly because they will give milk in future whereas male calves are being abandoned or sent to slaughter houses.

7. Important meetings and workshops

- **Seminar on The Cleaning Brigade: Connects and Disconnects by Dr Sanghmitra Acharya on 20 September 2017 at Centre for Policy Research**

It began with talking about manual scavengers, sewer cleaners and toilet cleaners. They are engaged in manually cleaning dry latrines used by others. Among these, there are 98% women who are involved in head-loading. This work is caste based and is considered compulsory for a particular caste within the 'Dalit Community'. It is considered as a traditional hereditary occupation and has continued as a practice and custom. The 'Dalit Community' has always been excluded from a dignified right to life. They have remained backward in the field of education, livelihood, access to services and schemes and opportunities to live a life with dignity. They are not free to select an occupation of their choice; almost all the sanitation workers are from the Dalit communities. Their vulnerability is exploited by the people as well as the state.

Sanitation workers are categorized as – sewerage workers (all are men) and sweepers (both men and women). They are hired as sweepers, drain and manhole cleaners, night soil carriers and rag-pickers. Most of them are contractual and temporary workers without any claim to compensation. They engage in garbage collection, cleaning of drains, roads etc, cleaning of sewers, biomedical waste and public toilets. They get gloves, which are often ill-fitting. They don't use the boots they are supposed to be wearing. Cleaning of dry latrines is the 'most archaic form of manual cleaning of 'filth''. Dry latrines are cleared of human excreta by hand. The data establishes that India still has 7,94,390 dry latrines cleaned by humans, out of which 27% are in urban areas.

There are five deaths every month of manual scavengers and most of them suffer from tuberculosis. The workers take turns to enter the manholes, lathering their bare body

with coconut oil to keep away the odour of the sewer. The main reason they continue to do this is because they do not have adequate education and alternative employment and they get free housing from the municipal bodies and their jobs can be transferred to family members and it applies to the whole country.

- **Seminar on 'WASH: Water Sanitation and Hygiene - Leave No One Behind' at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Delhi on 12th October, 2017**

Open defecation in our country is a national concern. India accounts for 60% of the total open defecation in the world. There are five major states where open defecation takes place – Uttar Pradesh (18.97%), Bihar (18.36%), Madhya Pradesh (7.91%), Odisha (7.41%), Rajasthan (6.02%) and other states (41.33%). Open defecation is the main cause of diarrhoea. In India, diarrhoea causes about 1 in 10 of all deaths of children under 5 years and about 800 children die every day. 700,000 children die annually within 28 days of birth. They are never able to develop fully; these children have stunted bodies, stunted minds and stunted lives. Poor environmental sanitation has repeatedly been suggested to be a contributor to low birth weight, which can lead to cognitive defects.

Access to WASH includes safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene education. This can reduce illness and death, and also reduce poverty and improve socio-economic development. Without improved sanitation, people have no choice but to use inadequate communal latrines or to practice open defecation. Sanitation waste can be recycled and treated and can be used as fertilizer, and water can be used for industrial, agricultural and potable use.

- **Talk on 'Female Genital Mutilation': Feminism Beyond Boundaries with Alka Raza and Priya Goswami on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at the Oxford Bookstore in Connaught Place**

According to Alka Raza (a journalist, writer and anti-FGM activist), FGM is a practice that existed since the Egyptian Pharaoh era. It began 3000 years back in the Nile area where a woman was found circumcised in the 5th century BC. It was believed that a circumcised woman would be a better prize since she would have been a virgin. FGM is commonly practiced in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. FGM is conducted from days

after birth to puberty and beyond and most girls are circumcised before the age of five. The practice is rooted in gender inequality, attempts to control women's sexuality and ideas about purity.

According to Priya Goswami (an independent filmmaker and co-founder of a transnational collective called Sahiyo), FGM has no known health benefits and the procedure may cause several immediate and long-term health consequences. She came across many women who have faced psychological and physical trauma due to the procedure performed by an untrained individual. The Bohra Community in India and abroad has been closely associated with this practice. The Bohras are regarded as a progressive, prosperous and well educated community and encourage their daughters to excel in education and pursue careers in much the same way as their sons. Most Bohra women are not veiled and choose modern, western attire and lifestyle. A survey by Sahiyo, an NGO, indicates that the ratio of Bohra girls who have been subjected to FGM could be as high as 80 per cent. The survey also includes Bohra women in the US, UK and Australia. Many Bohra women want this custom abolished and have admitted that this has affected their sex lives adversely. Others speak of a much deeper psychological scarring caused by this childhood trauma.

FGM is also practiced by the Nat Community. The Nats are a Muslim community found in North India especially in Bihar in the districts of Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur and Patna. Here they circumcise young girls and force them into prostitution when they grow older. The eldest daughter of the family is brought up with the knowledge that she will grow up into this life, and once she gets older, the younger daughter takes over. The tradition comes down from the days when the women from the tribe would grow up to become respected courtesans—respect that is not given to women in the sex trade any more. The only way out of this life is for the women to find a suitor who agrees to pay her parents the expensive dowry they demand for her.