

2022-23

ANNUAL REPORT



 **headstreams**
towards fullness of life...

CONTENTS

1. Aalamba Internship Program.....	3
2. B. Voc.....	8
3. Youth Internship Program.....	9
4. HOLA Tarang.....	16
5. Anu Akka Tackle Program.....	23
6. Academic Courses & Tackle Caravan.....	28

AALAMBA INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM FOCUS

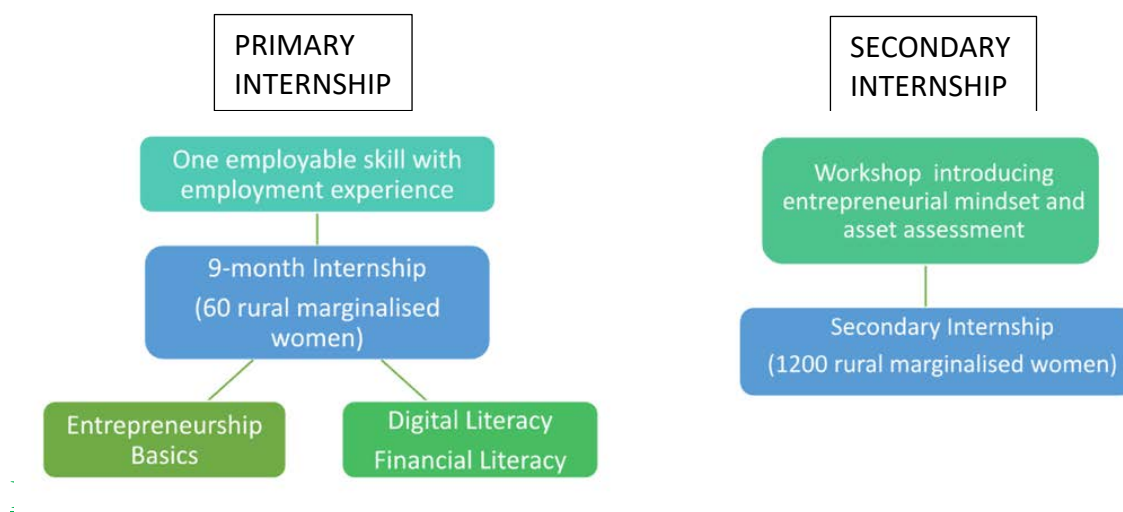
Sustainable livelihoods for young rural women in Kolar District. The program focussed on young rural women (18-35 yrs of age) from under-resourced backgrounds (SC/ST/OBC with small or nil land holdings) who have been unable to access meaningful livelihood opportunities because of limited mobility. Limited mobility describes a situation where a woman is unable to leave her immediate vicinity to pursue a livelihood because of unpaid care burden, other patriarchal and cultural taboos and factors, and/or poor infrastructure. The program was located in 64 villages of Kolar District, Karnataka. 6 of these were primary intern villages, with whom we had a sustained 9-month engagement, 3 are villages with whom we have had a 3-month engagement of primary internship, while 55 were villages where the secondary intern workshop was conducted

ACHIEVEMENTS

Mobilised 9 SHGs having 107 primary interns
Set up 6 Skill Development Centres
69 women completed 9-month primary internship
42 contributed to their household income for the first time in their lives
69 women learned handcrafting skills and created saleable products
An exhibition-cum-sale of the handcrafted products was conducted
730 women from 55 villages participated in secondary internship workshop

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The program had two main tracks: the primary internship track and the secondary internship track.



Name of SHG	No. of members
Aalamba Makarhalli SHG	15
Aalamba K G Halli SHG	3
Aalamba Banahalli SHG	16
Aalamba Tekal SHG	11
Aalamba Doddamale SHG	14
Aalamba Sonapanahatti SHG	10
Total no. of women	69



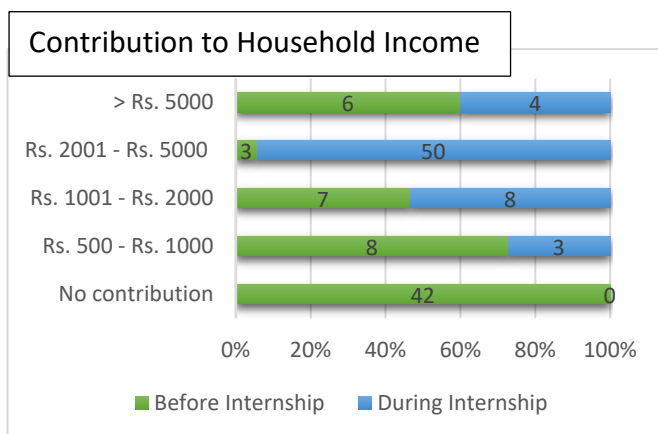
6 new SHGs were formed this year, taking the total to 9 SHGs covering 107 women. A total of 69 women have successfully completed the program. Of the six SHGs, the members of the Aalamba Makarhalli SHG are mostly from the Muslim community. In addition 3 new SHGs were consolidated towards end-January 2023. 38 young women from three SHGs are part of this cohort.



SHG representatives were appointed for 5 SHGs (Doddamale, Makarhalli, Banahalli, Tekal and Sonapanahatti). These representatives were named “Spoorthi” (from *spoorthi* which means “inspiration” in Kannada). The Spoorthis took on the responsibility of co-ordinating production of miniature terracotta bricks,

maintaining books, facilitating internship training and follow-ups on other due diligence needs of the SHGs. None of the Spoorthis had ever functioned as a supervisor or leader before. 6 Skill Development Centres were set up for the 6 SHGs in their respective villages. Of these, 5 were set up this year, 4 of them on rented premises.





Over 9 months, the primary interns received a monthly stipend between Rs. 2000 to Rs. 4000 per month. Of 69 women, 42 (60.8%) reported that they had never been able to make a contribution to their household incomes before the internship program.

A core component of the primary internship were sessions introducing the women to entrepreneurship basics, digital literacy and financial literacy. The sessions were executed in hybrid format. The flow of the sessions took the women on a journey where they were introduced to the advantages of entrepreneurship, learned about terracotta, went on an exposure trip to see and hear how a terracotta business is run, attended a workshop on hand building techniques of clay, following which they ideated and created their own clay products for sale. The financial literacy sessions were done in a manner where the learnings were applied to



Training in Handbuilding Techniques in Clay



Visit to a Bank

everyday reality of their lives. The sessions were thus an introspection on their own financial habits. The digital literacy sessions enabled the women to practice using smart phones for making calls, creating audio-visual content and becoming aware of online marketplaces.

In January 2023, a series of trainings in more advanced hand building techniques in clay work was conducted. The resource persons for this were local master trainers in terracotta, Mrs. Parvathamma and Mr. Srinivas. As a result of this training, the women learned to create terracotta coffee mugs, terracotta masks for wall art and terracotta wind chimes. In February 2023, 6 SHGs were trained in various other handcrafting skills.



After practice sessions, the interns produced saleable products using the handcrafting skills acquired.

Name of SHG	Handcrafted Product Produced
Aalamba Sonapanahatti SHG	Terracotta Jewellery
Aalamba Doddamale SHG	Tie & Dye Cushion Covers
Aalamba Makarhalli SHG	Lippan Wall Art
Aalamba Tekal SHG	Glass Mosaic Coasters
Aalamba K G Halli SHG	Microgreens
Aalamba Banahalli SHG	Terracotta Beaded Coasters



On March 8, 2023, in commemoration of International Women's Day, a mela called the Aalamba Mela was organised in Bengaluru. More than 100 women, some with their children, came from the various villages we work in to Bengaluru for the Mela. Two women from each SHG manned the stalls related to the products they had made. The Aalamba K G Halli

women were at the food stall, which also included salad with microgreens they had grown on it. In addition to the product stalls, there was one stall where guests could meet primary interns and hold conversations with them. The lippan wall art stall was sold out and many other products were bought up. The women got to meet their customers who gave them feedback about their products and ideas of what else they would like.



Participant Feedback



Name: Nazbunisa

SHG: Aalamba Makarhalli SHG

“I was not doing any savings because I was not working and now I am able to work in my community by joining Aalamba Makarhalli SHG and save money. This savings is helping us and we are taking internal loans in needy times.

“I am working as Spoorthi in this SHG. This helped me to take responsibility and now I am able to take the first step in everything. Before I used to fear taking initiative. Now I have learnt how to communicate with others. I am able to make my own decisions and understand what government schemes are available in the bank and how to operate the smartphone and also learnt to save the money and not to spend on unnecessary things.”



Name: Jayanthi M

SHG: Aalamba Sonapanahatti SHG

“Before I used to stay at home and my family members would not allow me to do the work. They used to say, “Why you need to go for work? I can manage the expenses so you stay at home and look after the family. Due to that I didn't go anywhere. But through Headstreams I got an opportunity to work in our own village. So I have started working here and am also able to save money. Before this work, I had no earnings and so no savings. Now I have

started to question my family members and if I want to do something or attend any training, I will ask them to send me. Before the internship, I had no confidence to ask them; now I am able to ask without fear, and if they don't agree, I am also ready to fight for it.

“This SHG helped me learn new skills. Through these meetings, I am able to spend time with other SHG members and share the things and be happy to work together. The course helped me to know about business concepts and I learned the importance of managing accounts and saving money. I would like to start a business and stand on my own feet.”

Secondary Internship

Headstreams organized one-day workshops in asset assessment and training in one self-employable skill for young women who are not part of the 9-month internship journey. During the one-day workshop, women reflected on the assets they can access right now and what they would like

to develop. They also learned how to make silk thread beads and earrings, how the market value of these can be increased, where they can get more tutorials to increase their skill at making silk thread jewellery, and were informed how these could be marketed. In all, 730 women from 55 villages of Kolar District



Learning to craft Silk Thread Jewellery



participated in the secondary internship workshops. The response was enthusiastic. The women reported being grateful for the sessions and in many instances asked for more engagement and guidance. A brief profile of the villages and households that the secondary interns are from show that majority of them are of SC caste. (90% of them hold BPL cards

indicating low per day income and though many of them have some little land holding in their families, more than 1/3rd do not own any land.)

B.Voc

Headstreams began running a three-year undergraduate degree program called B.Voc. in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences three years ago. The rural students who enroll for this course, specialise in Software Development. This year saw 12 students successfully graduate after completing the three-year course. Of these, 9 have been placed in various companies and 2 are pursuing higher studies.

YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM FOCUS

The Youth Internship Program was envisioned to enable aftercare and employability of youth from Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The key purpose of the program has been to support children from CCIs towards accessing sustainable livelihoods. The program had two tracks: Short-Term Workshops and 9-month long Internship.

SHORT-TERM WORKSHOP

- Introduction to Entrepreneurship
- Handcrafting Skills

9-MONTH INTERNSHIP

- Experiential Entrepreneurship
- Handcrafting Skills
- Digital Literacy
- Spoken English
- Financial Literacy

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 7 Short-term Workshops at 6 locations for 218 participants
- 4 participants completed Internship of 9 months

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Short-Term Workshops

Short-Term workshops were workshops conducted in various CCIs to introduce the children to idea of entrepreneurship in an experiential manner. In the process, the children were also taught a handcrafting skill, using which they could make saleable products. All the workshop followed a similar workshop plan with slight variations for two workshops conducted at Government Home for Girls, Bengaluru.



Under entrepreneurship, the participants learned how to:

- Goal set
- Budget for the goal



- Customer value
- Quality Control
- Pricing
- Packaging

The handcrafting skills that the children learned was terracotta jewellery making, stocking flowers and painted bags. The nature of the skill required the workshops to be at least 5 days long, giving enough time for the jewellery and other creations to be created. Here are the

details of the 7 short-term workshops that were conducted:

Location (CCI)	Dates of Workshop	No. of participants	Products
Government Home for Girls, Bengaluru	April 1 – 28 April, 2022	30	Terracotta Jewellery & Stocking Flowers
SPARSHA, Hessargatta	May 24-26 & June 1-2 2022	26	Terracotta Jewellery
APSA, Bengaluru	May 11-13, May 21, May 28, 2022	20	Terracotta Jewellery
Government Home for Girls, Mysore	June 8-10 & June 25-26, 2022	55	Terracotta Jewellery
Government Home for Girls, Madikeri	July 8-10 & July 28-29, 2022	39	Terracotta Jewellery
Government Home for Girls, Bengaluru	26 July – 20 August, 2022	32	Terracotta Jewellery & Painted bags
Government Home for Girls, KGF	August 2-4 & August 17-18, 2022	16	Terracotta Jewellery
Total Number of Participants		218	

Participant Feedback

"I did not know that we can make different types of jewellery and earrings with soil also. I learnt how to make different types of necklace and earrings in terracotta. And I enjoyed so much." - **Vedha R**

"Thank you so much for teaching us how to make terracotta jewellery. What I learnt here, I will make it and try to sell it outside. I will never forget what you all taught here in these sessions." - **Lakshmi R**

"I learnt many things in my life but this was a wonderful class. I love it and learnt new ideas. After my studies I can do this and earn money and I can settle my life. Thanks to the whole team for your time." - **Anuradha Kumari**



"For the first time I came to know that jewellery can be made out of clay. I learnt about making earrings and dollars (pendants) in terracotta. I liked the games and activities too. I also learned the difference between an Entrepreneur and an Employee. I learnt about goal setting and how to set a goal and do business. This workshop was very useful to me."

- **Shilpa**

Long-Term Internship

Care Leavers who are bound to leave Child Care Institutions when they turn 18 often have poor life outcomes. Accordingly,



First Cohort of the Youth Internship

Headstreams piloted a program called the Youth Internship Program in 2022-23. The plan was to explore the feasibility of having interns who would be introduced to basic entrepreneurial skills, various hand crafting skills, digital literacy, financial literacy and

other soft skills that would enable them to stand on their own feet. Ideally the internship would be the beginning of a two-year engagement, post which the interns will have the capability to supplement any income they may receive with self-employment.

A bulk of the first quarter was spent in identifying CCI adolescents who could join for the 9-month long-term internship. This full-time internship required the participants to train at the Headstreams Studio in Bengaluru five days a week. Our first orientation session was held on June 28, 2022 and a second orientation was conducted on July 7, 2022. The internship formally began on July 9, 2022 with 6 interns.

It was decided that the first handcrafting skill the interns would learn would be claywork, given that Headstreams already had experience working with the medium through its livelihoods initiative. They created terracotta jewellery for sale.



Introduction to claywork



Making first sales

The first batch of products were on sale at a Bake Sale organized by a Headstreams well-wisher to raise funds for the Anu Akka Tackle Program. The next opportunity was setting up a sales stall as part of the “Joseph and Technicolour Dreamcoat” performance at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Bengaluru, on September 2, 2022. It was the first

experience many of the interns had in handling a stall, billing and invoicing, and interacting with customers. They found it challenging but were encouraged to see people buying their handmade products.



SAMARTH Training



SAMARTH Training

5 interns obtained admission into the SAMARTH program, and this training commenced on September 19, 2022. The training was held at the Department of Handicrafts offices in Nandhini Layout, Bengaluru, and ran for five days a week. Each new week the learners are introduced to a new pottery technique in a hands-on manner. Parallely, they are taught the nuances of baking terracotta products.

As part of their SAMARTH training, a study tour was organised, during which the interns went to various places where terracotta products are commercially produced. Towards the end, the interns underwent a viva exam. Each was tested individually on their knowledge of the pottery techniques. We are happy to share that all of them have passed their exams successfully and a total of **5 interns received their certificates of completion and pehchan (artisan) cards from the Department of Handicrafts, Government of India.**



Emerging as certified terracotta artisans

The course concluded on November 22, 2022.



Prototyping

Post the SAMARTH training, the interns returned to the Headstreams Studio and began to put it into practice what they learned by prototyping various possible products. Led by gentle



Prototyping a planter

guidance from Headstreams, they experimented and created tiles, planters, pen stands using various kinds and combinations of clay. Their goal was to create working prototypes of sale-able products, which they would then produce in mass and sell in the last quarter of their internship.

Meeting customers at the Mela



origami cat motifs.

The products thus created were sold at the Aalamba Mela, organised by Headstreams on March 8, 2022, to commemorate International Day for Women. The stall at the mela was hosted by the interns, who interacted with the customers and sold the products they had made: terracotta pen stands, a variety of terracotta jewellery and terracotta tiles with



March 11th, 2023, at State Street

Apart from this the interns also attended corporate events where they showcased their handcrafted products and made sales. Thus, the interns gained confidence by meeting potential customers in real time.

As part of the internship, spoken English, financial and digital literacy sessions were also conducted. Apart from clay work, the interns received basic training in woodwork and glass mosaic tiles.

Right from the first week in July 2022, when the internship began, the interns also began their training as play facilitators. Throughout the internship, the interns continued facilitate various kinds of play at the Headstreams Play & Learn Centre in



Facilitating Play & Learn Sessions

HSR
Layout
every
Saturday.



Training in Woodwork

The significance of this experience is that it is also the one space where the interns are the facilitators and role models, with the children they work with, looking up to them for guidance. The interns receive training and instructions for each Saturday session, to take up the leadership positions and assist in facilitation of the sessions.

Other sessions that the interns assisted in facilitating:

- November 10, 2022, “Let’s Play” event 250 children from four Child Care Institutions
- January 2023, Opportunity School event
- March 2023, Workshop on Terracotta Wall Hanging Government Home for Boys.

HOLA TARANG

PROGRAM FOCUS

Headstreams sees itself as an enabler and collaborator for Child Care Institutions (CCIs)/Homes under the JJ system. In continuation of our work at the CCIs in Bengaluru, Headstreams set out to:

- To enable children in state-run Child Care Institutions (CCIs) exposure to multiple handcrafting and academic skills, in a manner that increases competence in these areas
- To provide a space where children in state-run Child Care Institutions (CCIs) are able to access to materials and activities that will help them express themselves and learn tools to handle stress and negative emotions
- To facilitate Experiential Entrepreneurship Workshops for children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) to inculcate entrepreneurial mindsets

HOLA Tarang was implemented among the children in three Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in Bengaluru:

- Observation Home, Madiwala
- Government Home for Girls, Marigowda Raste
- Government Home for Boys, Marigowda Raste

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over 1000+ children have participated in our program in 2022-23
- 160+ HOLA Skill Development sessions, 120+ guided play sessions and 90+ Free Play sessions were conducted
- 8 Entrepreneurship Workshops producing 6 different products were conducted

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

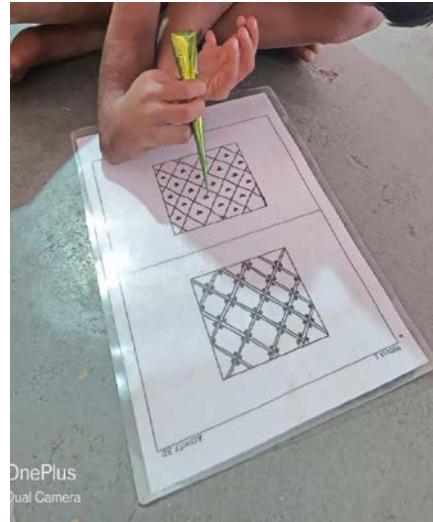
The crux of our intervention is to facilitate safe empathetic spaces where the children from government-run CCIs can practice autonomy, relatedness and competence towards increasing their agency. Agency is the capacity or ability of individuals to transform their situations. We do this through play-based interactive sessions that have the elements of play (free choice, intrinsic motivation, self-direction, fun and imagination) as the matrix of the session design.

In each Home, for two hours a day, Headstreams will set up pop-up Play-n-Learn Spaces for four days every week. Three consistent kinds of sessions will occur every week.

1. Self-directed HOLA Skill sessions (twice a week)
2. Guided Play-Based Thematic Sessions (once a week)
3. Free Play Sessions including digital media (once a week)

Self-directed HOLA Activity sessions:

HOLA is Headstreams Open Learning Academy. Under this umbrella, we create skill and academic self-directed learning courses. Exercising choice and intrinsic motivation are built into the design of the way HOLA sessions are done. The children are given manuals for each skill or academic learning content. They can choose which ones they want to engage with, and for however long they want to. Which means that sometimes they may leave a course undone mid-way. The purpose of this is to help a child explore a variety of skills, so they become self-aware of what interests them and can be given opportunity to grow within it.



Guided Play-based Learning sessions:



These are sessions conducted once a week, that are directive and facilitated by Headstreams or a visiting resource person. They included multi-art creative activities, movie screenings, psycho-education or therapeutic sessions, dance & movement, problem-solving and habits of mind games and other activities. The themes of the sessions conducted were chosen after understanding the need the children have

had. When daily sessions are conducted the children would share with the facilitators about being bullied, feeling low and losing hope about going back home.

Free Play sessions:

Free Play Space exposed the children to indoor games (puzzles, board games, building blocks, etc), outdoor game materials (basketballs, Hula hoops, cricket bats, badminton etc) and digital media (laptops, tabs with pre-loaded content). In these sessions the children gained exposure to a variety of creative play and learning resources they do not otherwise have access to.



Experiential Entrepreneurship Workshops:



In all, 8 workshops were conducted this year in three CCIs in Bengaluru. Through the workshop, the children set entrepreneurial goals and achieved them through a 10 session long entrepreneurial exercise. The children learn to budget their goal, create saleable handcrafted products, learn the importance of customer value and

quality control and finally did the pricing, packaging and promotion of the saleable products. All revenue generated is spent towards the meeting of the goals set by the children at the beginning of the exercise. Focussed on older adolescents, the workshop builds entrepreneurial mindsets while also giving the children scope for self-employment (through the handcrafting skill they pick up and the business basics they learn) and financial security post-release.

The highlight of the course this year was the children receiving an order for making 50 stencil painted bags, from the DCPO's office. The order was successfully executed and delivered on time by the boys of the Observation Home, Madiwala.



Following are a few details of the workshops:

Product	Place	Period of Workshop
Terracotta jewellery & Paper bags	Govt. Children's Home for Boys	10 Mar 2022- 13 Apr 2022
Terracotta jewellery & Stocking Flowers	Govt. Home for Girls	24 Mar 2022-28 Apr 2022
Terracotta jewellery & Stencil painted bags	Govt. Home for Girls	26 Jul 2022 – 20 Aug 2022
Terracotta products & decorative yarn balls	Govt. Children's Home for Boys	6 Sept 2022 – 1 Oct 2022
Stencil painted bags	Govt. Observation Home for Boys	7 Sept 2022 – 30 Sept 2022
Bamboo Lanterns	Observation Home for Boys	February 9 – February 28
Pine Wood Keychains	Government Home for Boys	February 16 – March 4
Leather Bracelets		
Beaded and threaded anklets	Government Home for Girls	February 9 – March 6
Painted Cushion Covers		

After the workshop, an exhibition cum sale is usually held at each of the CCIs. This was attended by the superintendents on the respective Homes, along with CWC members, staff and other invitees. Presiding judges and police personnel also visited the exhibitions and appreciated the work of the children.



Exhibition at Government Home for Girls



Police visiting Exhibition



Judges visiting Exhibition

Other Events:



Children's Day Celebrations

November 12, 2022 was a special day for us at Headstreams. We organised a day-long Children's Day event for children from four Government Child Care Institutions - Government Home for Boys, Government Home for Girls, Government Shishu Mandira, and

Association for the Mentally Challenged. The event was conducted in a basement of the Social Services Complex Auditorium. We had a parallel event at the Government Home for Boys for boys who were not allowed to come to the Auditorium.

The highlight of the event were over 20 art/craft, one-minute game and activity stalls set up by volunteers from different colleges. The children had the freedom to choose which stall to visit and engage with it for however long they would like. There was a carnival-feel in the air as children played the various games and did the activities. The activities were also chosen keeping in mind the different abilities of the children who were participating. In all over 250 children participated in the event.

External Resource Person Workshops

As part of this program, we also had a series of workshops done by external resource persons. The details are given below:

Kind of Workshop	Place	Month	No of children
Water Colour Painting & Dairy Making	Government Home for Girls	20 October 2022	40
Papier Mache Bowls	Observation Home for Boys	21 October 2022	8
Woodworking Workshop	Observation Home for Boys	27 October 2022	6
Menstrual Health & Hygiene 1	Government Home for Girls	23 November 2022	38
Menstrual Health & Hygiene 2	Government Home for Girls	24 November 2022	35
Menstrual Health & Hygiene 3	Government Home for Girls	25 November 2022	42
Anger Management 1	Government Home for Boys	21 November 2022	23

Anger Management 2	Government Home for Boys	22 November 2022	23
Body Mapping and Self-Awareness	Observation Home for Boys	25 November 2022	7
Terracotta Wall Hanging	Government Home for Boys	17 March 2023	33
Paper Quill Hair Clips	Government Home for Girls	17 March 2023	29
Plastic Wire Keychains and Earrings	Government Home for Girls	21 March 2023	36
White Cement Art	Observation Home for Boys	7 March 2023	8
Bamboo Art	Government Home for Boys	21 March 2023	20



Menstrual Health



Woodworking



Aeromodelling

Trip to see a play

On September 3, 2022, 27 children from Government Home for Girls, along with 5 staff members, were taken to Chowdiah Hall, Bengaluru, to watch an English Musical Play called “Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat”. The girls left the home at 9:30 a.m., in a bus arranged to fetch them. They were excited and enjoyed the sights as the bus moved. They sang and danced through the journey.

At Chowdiah Hall, the children had a fascinating experience. They were in awe of the song and dance musical show that was put on. They were excited to meet with one of the stars of the show, Tarini Srinivas, and the choreographer of the show, Elixir Fernandes, after the show.

Trip To Mysore

The tour for boys was organised and the children were all excited from the time they came to know about the trip to Mysore. There were so many questions in the sessions regarding the trip. The facilitators, volunteers and

most of Boys Home staff reached early and got everything ready to go. The boys were already up and ready to go. It was a pleasant surprise to see that. The bus left at 7:30am on October 31, 2022. It was a pleasant journey with music, dancing and singing (anthakshari). The children got to visit the Palace, Chamundi Hills and the Zoo.

Trip to the HAL Museum

Following a session on playing games with paper planes, the Headstreams team realized that the children were very interested and curious about planes. Accordingly, we planned visits to the HAL Heritage Centre and Aerospace in Indiranagar for children of the Government Home for Girls and the Government Home for Boys. 31 girls went on a day-long excursion to the HAL Centre on February 2, 2023 and 41 boys visited it on February 7, 2023. On the way back, both groups visited the Vidhan Soudha and spent some time at Cubbon Park.

Workshops at Other CCIs (KGF)

On March 18, 2023, a combined workshop for children from Government Home for Boys (KGF) and Government Home for Girls (KGF) was conducted at the Government Home for Boys. A total of 30 children participated in the workshop, of which 13 were girls and 17 were boys. The purpose of the workshop was to conduct a Play & Learn session to establish contact with the children and the respective CCIs. The workshop was conducted by 3 trained Headstreams staff. 2 staff members of the CCIs in KGF also attended the session.

Participant Feedback

“When you came up with the business idea and showed the video, for the first time we didn't understand what to do with the paper bags or anything. I learnt to use the cookie cutters to make pendant pieces and paint them after drying it. I learnt how to do everything step by step. I liked painting the terracotta jewellery. Divya and Princy madam (the facilitators) both were very patient with us, teaching us what colour combinations to put; even when we made mistakes all of you were very tolerant and taught us - that made me very happy. I made a necklace which I liked a lot and someone bought it. I was happy that something I made had value and someone wanted to buy it as well. I would think about what design to do while I was sleeping at night. It would have been better if we could make terracotta jewellery until we leave because I really liked it a lot. We got appreciation from many staff members and they would show us that they bought it as well, which would make me really happy. I just hope we can do terracotta jewellery again.”

Venkatesh, 15 years

“I liked stencil painting on bags. Initially my skill was not perfect but as I practiced, it came out well. The only thing that my friends and I found difficult is that we don't speak the same language as others. It is difficult for us to interact with them.”

Charibei, 13 years

“I have done many HOLA manuals – block printing, drawing, painting, mehendi – but I like mehendi the best. I have finished level 1 and level 2. It took me two months to finish these levels. I still have not put on anyone's hand, but I would love to put mehendi on my sister's hand once I return home.

“The other thing I enjoyed is making anklets as part of entrepreneurship workshop. I made four anklets. We can sell the anklets, if we feel like it. But I don't feel like it. When I return home, I want to make more and give them as gifts to my family members and friends.”

Pooja, 17 years

ANU AKKA'S TACKLE PROGRAM

PROGRAM FOCUS

Positive childhood experiences and access to creative, fun avenues of non-directed play have an important role in shaping human development. Children living in under-served communities are deprived of these essential resources. Anu Akka's Tackle Program (AATP) works towards building community-led free play and open learning spaces in under-resourced communities by supporting pro-social behaviour of volunteers.



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Summer Camp



Through the months of April and May 2022, the main focus of the Anu Akka's Tackle Program (AATP) was the summer camps at the different communities. The aim of these camps was to create a vast fun-filled play space bustling with multi-art activities (music, art & craft, dance and theatre) and games, such that all participants can immerse themselves in the joy of play. All children from local communities were invited to participate.

By the end of March 2022, the Open Learning Champions (OLCs) were trained in conducting all the summer camp kit activities and on how to manage a summer camp on their own. Materials

were distributed to 24 villages.

19 OLCs were able to successfully conduct the 3-day summer camp. Over 450 children were part of the summer camps.

OLC Training

The OLCs attended the first AATP training for the year on June 4th, 2022 at the Headstreams Malur Campus. 14 OLCs + 3 volunteers attended the training. The objectives of the training were for the OLCs:

- To communicate the importance of free choice and self-direction in play.
- To understand and be able to introduce Curiosity Cat Game as a new play-and-learning resource to their communities
- To enable OLC sharing and learning from each other and troubleshooting with them



The OLCs were assessed in the beginning and at the end of the training to check their level of understanding of the importance of free choice and self-direction in play.

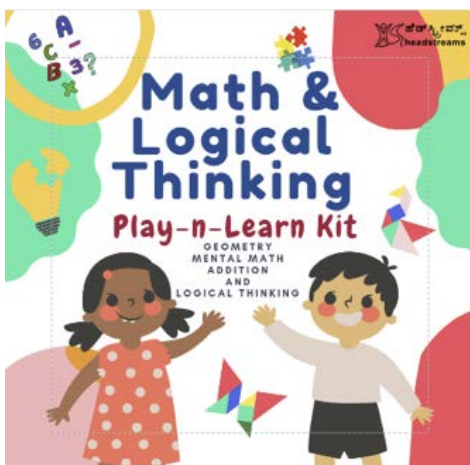
Weekly AATP Sessions



Weekly AATP sessions continued after the end of May and after the OLCs had finished conducting summer camps in their communities. OLC trainings are held once every 2 months. In these trainings, a new play-and learning resource is introduced to the OLCs to introduce to children in



their communities. The learning resources were created in-house. Following were some of the resources introduced this year:



1. Curiosity Cat Cards (a play-and-learning resource to help learn easy English words)
2. A Math and Logical Kit for ages 9-12 years comprising of math and logical puzzles
3. A Kitchen Set
4. A Chess Board
5. Jigsaw Puzzles
6. Toys from the Toy Drive
7. Summer camp kit

PROGRAM IMPACT

Summer Camp

No. of OLCs that attended summer camp training	No. of summer camps Held	No. of OLCs conducting camps	No. of children impacted
24	19	19	450+

Open Learning Champion – Trainings

Training	Date	Number of OLCs Present	Number of Volunteers	Topics Covered	Resource Introduced
1	Jun 4, 2022	14	3	Free Choice, Self-Direction	Curiosity Cat Cards
2	Jul 23 2022	12	2	Intrinsic Motivation	Child Kit 1
3	Oct 22 2022	18	5	Let's Play Plan	Puzzles, Kicthen Set, Chess set
4	Nov 26 2022	12	1	Imagination and Fun	Math and Logical Kit
5	Jan 28 2023	15	3	Multiple Intelligences	Toy Drive Box

Open Learning Champions- Yearly Numbers

Number of OLCs in the Last Year	55
Number of AATP locations	52
Number of OLCs who left the program	19
Number of AATP Kits distributed	35
Number of Kits yet to be distributed	3
Number of Summer Camps hosted by AATP OLCs	19

OLC Challenges and Solutions

As part of the OLC training, OLCs were asked to share their challenges that they face while conducting AATP sessions. After sharing the challenges, they got into smaller groups to discuss each challenge and find solutions. Here are a couple of challenges and solutions shared.

Challenges Faced by OLCs	Solutions
Children come to our house and ask for AATP materials at odd timings and on all days of the week.	Re-explain the concept of AATP and keep the children and their parents informed that the program will run only once a week.
There is a lot of work involved in cleaning up after the AATP session	Explain to the children that the AATP space is like their own home and we should keep it clean the way we keep our home clean.
Multiple children want to borrow the same resources at the same time	Make slots for when children play with the more popular resources so that everyone gets a chance.

Thoughts, Feedback and Suggestions from OLCs

1. It's important for us to encourage the children to play in our community. (Munirathnamma, Huligutte)
2. They are learning so many new things and games out of this AATP program. I'm glad that children take part in so many games and activities. It is good for their health. (Varalakshmi, Anepura)
3. The children's engagement in sports has increased since the AATP kit was introduced. (Usha, Basapura)
4. We are also become small children while playing with them. By playing I leave all my troubles behind. (Swati, Majali)

Fundraising Initiatives



Headstreams started a fundraising campaign encouraging volunteers and well-wishers of Headstreams to raise funds for AATP.

- A bake sale held by one of our ex-employees helped us raise funds.
- Toy drives were organised by schools

National Academy for Learning and Canadian International School. The toys were distributed to all AATP locations.

- A fundraising stall was help in the Aalambaa Mela conducted by Headstreams at Visthaar, Bangalore.
- Other donations were received through our GiveIndia page.

ACADEMIC COURSES & TACKLE CARAVANS

PROGRAM FOCUS

At the heart of what Headstreams does is Play. Given the vulnerabilities that young children from underprivileged communities are exposed to, we created a program within communities that uses play to buoy the positive abilities and experiences in a child's life. We call this Tackle Caravan.

Objectives of the program are:

- To create a safe play space for participants
- To create a space where children and volunteers form healthy bonds
- To expose participants to mediums such as performing arts, visual arts and games

This year Caravans were held at:

- Headstreams HSR Centre
- Government Home for Boys, Hosur Road
- Government Home for Girls, Hosur Road



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



The idea of the program is to enable children access to a plethora of media and resources that they can then choose to engage with at will. The play space is facilitated by trainee play facilitators, the play space is set up to have various stalls: Art, Craft and Maker's Space, Story Telling and Theatre, Music & Movement, Indoor Games and Outdoor games. The children can choose which stall to engage with at any point of time. Indeed, the uniqueness of the

program lies in the fact that it is children who decide when they come, what they learn, and how they learn. Tackle Caravans are held at select venues on Saturdays throughout the school year.

Play & Human Development Courses

The Tackle Caravan is facilitated by trainee play facilitators. These are persons enrolled in the Certificate or P.G. Diploma courses offered by Headstreams called Play & Human Development. Headstreams has been offering this course for a decade in various colleges of Bengaluru. This year the course was offered in hybrid format with Moodle-based theory sessions and offline workshops and weekly practical sessions. The course is 90-120 hours long. This year 6 students from MCC and 8 students from Christ University successfully completed all requirements of the course.

Participant Feedback (*Trainee Play Facilitators & Volunteers*)

"I had language barrier but that really did not matter when it came to playing with kids. Those kids did not really mind the language barrier all they wanted was someone to listen to them and someone to sit with them and spent time with them." - **Chrisweena Jerusha**

"I was managing the art section. So there were around 15 people colouring around me and there was a shortage of sketch pens. When one person asked for red, I was trying to search for it and couldn't find it. Then another kid offered the one he was using and that felt so heart-warming that they were ready to share each other's things." - **Anandhi Subramanian**

"I realised how important it was for me to actually be present in the moment- especially around children. The kids liked it when they knew we would be there if they needed help or wanted something, or even responded. So I got out of my head, and focused on the external environment around me." - **Gayathri Nair**

“Spending time with the little boys today was heart-warming, to see children as young as them go through so many hardships and yet put on a big smile and truly enjoy the simple pleasures of playing games and doing art, showed me how entitled and a little spoilt most of us are, and that like them we ought to be grateful for what we have at the present moment, and learn to appreciate and genuinely find joy in the simple yet beautiful things life has to offer.” - ***Samara Rhea Samuel***



Working to realise
a world where every person lives
a positive, confident and
purposeful life
since 2008

www.headstreams.org
contact@headstreams.org
[@headstreamsindia](https://www.instagram.com/headstreamsindia)