

MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015



HUMAN ORGANISATION FOR PIONEERING
IN EDUCATION

Dear friends of H.O.P.E.,



2015 was not an easy year for H.O.P.E. On 23rd May, Sr. Noelline Pinto, H.O.P.E.'s founder and long standing chairperson, passed away. Her demise surely is a turning point in the history of H.O.P.E. For as many as 41 years, Sr. Noelline has shaped, directed, and guided the organisation she had founded in 1974. Under her guidance, H.O.P.E. has reached out to thousands of women and children, offering non-formal education and skill trainings for women, overall child development, as well as counseling, legal aid and immediate help when and wherever needed. Many who later have come up in life owe this to her.

Through all these years, Sr. Noelline never stopped thinking ahead. She always went with the times, answering to the current calls and needs of the people and leading H.O.P.E. to new strides. It was only in 2011, that H.O.P.E. took up the domestic workers cause, starting its Domestic Workers Solidarity Project. And in 2014, H.O.P.E. launched Kalpataru Girls' Hostel, a safe place for young women and girls who come to Pune to work or study.

It is with her inspirations and blessings that H.O.P.E. moves forward now. "Moving Forward with H.O.P.E." is not only the title of this annual report – it is our programme for the current year and the years to come. Together we continue Sr. Noelline's work of empowering women and their children by educating, enabling, facilitating, and intervening in an never-tiring effort to transform society into a better one, and being true to H.O.P.E. founder's motto: "H.O.P.E. Today for a Better Tomorrow."

The numerous activities of the past year 2015 showcase that we are living up to Sr. Noelline's legacy. Suryaoday Day Dare Centre, Blooming Buds Playgroups and Nurseries, H.O.P.E.'s Domestic Workers Solidarity Project, Senior Citizen Club, Women Self Help Groups – they all are thriving and growing, rendering valuable services to people under H.O.P.E.'s care. Not to mention the countless events, rallies, presentations, input sessions, trainings, tuitions and a thousand other measures H.O.P.E. has been conducting throughout the year. We are happy and pleased to share a short overview of all these activities in this annual report with you.

All the above was possible only because of the support and collaboration of our benefactors, well-wishers, and friends. Our sincere gratitude goes to Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Dabre for his support and guidance. We also would like to thank our Provincial Sr. Caroline Fernandes and the Sisters of the Cross for their personal interest in H.O.P.E.'s work. And we want to extend our heart-felt appreciation to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and donors – it is with their help that we are able to reach out to women, children and men and to change their lives into better ones.

Sr. Flory Menezes
(Directress)



Welcome on H.O.P.E.'s Board

Sr. Caroline Fernandes new Chairperson



Sr. Caroline Fernandes

Sr. Caroline Fernandes, Provincial of Pune Province of the Sister of the Cross, has been co-opted as a Trustee and Chairperson of H.O.P.E. She follows Sr. Noelline Pinto, who had founded H.O.P.E. in 1974 and shaped and led the organisation up to her resignation due to her ailing health condition in March 2015.

Along with Sr. Caroline, two more new members joined the board: Mr. Francis de Souza and Sr. Nora Soares.

H.O.P.E.'s Board now has the following members:

- Sr. Caroline Fernandes (Chairperson)
- Fr. Francis D'Sa (Co-Founder)
- Sr. Lucy Kurien
- Sr. Casia Pereira
- Mr. Francis de Souza
- Sr. Nora Soares
- Sr. Flory Menezes (Directress).

New at H.O.P.E.

Changes on H.O.P.E.'s staff



Weekly staff meeting at H.O.P.E. Centre

2015 also saw several changes on H.O.P.E.'s staff. Sr. Fatima D'Souza joined in June, 2015, taking on the responsibility of Spoken English classes for young adults.

New on H.O.P.E.'s ranks are also Ms. Maya Shinde and Ms. Anita Kedari. They joined H.O.P.E. in June and August, 2015 as social workers, taking over the responsibility for H.O.P.E.'s Domestic Workers' Solidarity project from Ms. Falcy Fernandis who left the NGO after almost four years to pursue her further studies.

Last but not least, Ms. Rosy Fernandes joined as nursery teacher in December, 2015, replacing Ms. Sweta Agrawal and making H.O.P.E.'s staff complete.

H.O.P.E. Manifesto: Sr. Noelline's Legacy

Guiding principles for H.O.P.E.'s work



H.O.P.E.'s founder late Sr. Noelline Pinto

On the occasion of H.O.P.E.'s 40th anniversary in 2013, Sr. Noelline formulated seven guiding principles for the work of the organisation she founded in 1974: the H.O.P.E. Manifesto. These guiding principles have become her legacy, and we are happy to continue her work with the same innovative mind, commitment and goal Sr. Noelline stood for. These are the guiding principles for the next part of H.O.P.E.'s journey:

Transformation through education.

H.O.P.E. works for social transformation by educating and enabling women and children, facilitating their skills and intervening in crisis situations and social grievances.

Let people act.

H.O.P.E. believes in the inherent power in every human being. We strive to awaken this power and make people act and take their life into their own hands instead of waiting for support and charity.

Help those who are not able to help themselves.

H.O.P.E. stands by old, young, weak, or helpless human beings when their own capacities are not sufficient or when immediate help is needed.

Go to the roots.

The source of many personal grievances are injustice, social imbalance and indifference. H.O.P.E. fights against the underlying reasons by creating awareness and by means of non-violent resistance and social action.

Walk side by side.

Man should not walk ahead of woman, woman not ahead of man. H.O.P.E. is committed to gender equality and women's dignity and cultivates this consciousness in all its projects.

Think of our planet.

H.O.P.E. is committed to the protection of the environment. It treats the natural resources it uses itself, judiciously, includes the attitude of environmental protection in its programmes and participates in activities to keep the ecological balance.

Self reliant, self dependent.

H.O.P.E. is autonomous and solely committed to the social goal of transformation through education. Within the framework of its activities, H.O.P.E. proactively seeks sources of steady income and project-related funding.

"Lived to Love"

H.O.P.E. celebrates Founder's Day



150 guests took part in H.O.P.E. Founder's Day on 14 August, 2015 in Hope Centre in Vadgaon Sheri. Representatives from Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam spoke about love and service in their religions

In memoriam of its founder, Sr. Noelline Pinto, H.O.P.E. celebrated its first "Founder's Day" on 14 August, 2015 – Sr. Noelline's birthday. About 150 guests followed the invitation and came to H.O.P.E. Centre to spend an afternoon of celebration and commemoration.

Following the example of Sr. Noelline who had rendered love and service to every human being regardless of sex, age, social status, or religion, the theme of the day was "Lived to Love". The programme started at 4 pm and comprised welcome prayer, facilitation of Chief Guest and Guests of Honor, release of H.O.P.E. magazine, speeches of religious representatives, Sr. Noelline Pinto Awards, facilitation of certificates to women trainees, words of thanks.



H.O.P.E. Directress Sr. Flory Menezes facilitating Co-Founder Fr. Francis D'Sa

Guests of Honour were H.O.P.E. co-founder and trustee, Fr. Francis D'Sa, and Sr. Lucy Kurien. Chief Guest was Group Captain Conrad Dalton, who has commanded Air Force Station Belgaum as the Station Commander. He retired in 2002 and now spends his retired life in multifarious social causes. On Founder's Day, he gave a speech on the topic of Independence Day that is celebrated on 15 August.

One of the highlights of the programme were the speeches of representatives of different world religions. H.O.P.E. had invited representatives from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism to speak about love and service to humanity in their respective religions. Their

sharing underlined that all religions teach us to uphold and respect life. The Representatives were:

- Fr. Robert Gonsalves – Christianity
- Mr. Shahaji Shinde – Buddhism
- Mr. Mule (Guruji) – Hinduism
- Mr. Maulana Saheb – Islam.

Another special moment came when the Sr. Noelline Pinto Awards were facilitated to long-standing supporters of H.O.P.E. And yet another moment of happiness and pride: 28 women received the certificates for having successfully taken part in one of the skills training programmes H.O.P.E. offers.

Sr. Noelline Pinto Award

She had dedicated her life to the service to the poor and needy: H.O.P.E.'s founder Sr. Noelline Pinto. In remembrance of her life-long work, H.O.P.E. now has created the "Sr. Noelline Pinto Award" to honour schools and institutions that have been associated with H.O.P.E. for a long time giving valuable support in every possible way. The awards were facilitated for the first time on Founder's Day on 14 August, 2015.

Awards went to:

- Rotary Club, Kalyani Nagar, Pune
- Carmel Parish, Pune
- Symbiosis International School, Viman Nagar, Pune
- Norbertine Study House, Pune
- Bishop School, Kalyani Nagar, Pune
- Jesus Youth Group, Pune
- Brahma Corp, Pune.



This one's to the Women

H.O.P.E. celebrates Women's Day and Makar Sankrant



Woman protesting peacefully on Women's Day

Normally they aren't in the limelight but put in all their effort to make their beloved ones happy: women. So it's only fair when sometimes it is their time to be in the focus of attention.

In 2015, H.O.P.E. dedicated several events to the women of it's neighborhood. For example Women's Day on 7 March. On the occasion of the International Women's Day, H.O.P.E., Fr. Agnel Ashram, and Maher organized a mega joint rally through Vadgaon Sheri under the theme "Stree Shanti Ki Aor – Women Towards Peace".

The women gathered at Vidyankur School and then marched peacefully to Vadgaon Sheri last bus stop. About 1000 women and girls took part amidst the traffic on Saturday and raised their voices with megaphones, placards, balloons, and banners for peace. The rally commemorated the stark reality in India, where women

and children become the victims of rape, dowry deaths, acid attacks, exploitation, ill treatment, inequality, gender discrimination, etc. The programme also included presentations and speeches. Mrs. Mina Kurlekar, Director Vanchit Vikas, was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Mr. Peter Lobo, Asst. Commissioner of Police, was the Honoured Guest.

Makar Sankrant in January was another occasion to put women in the centre of attention. H.O.P.E. celebrated the day that in Indian culture is traditionally dedicated to women, at three loacations: at Suryady Day Care Centre, at Hope Centre, and at Laximi Nagar, Yerwada. All in all about 550 women followed the invitation and celebrated their special day of honour. Each woman was given the chance to showcase her talent and received snacks and a small gift.



Makar Sankrant was celebrated at three venues with some 550 women

H.O.P.E. project coordinator: Sr. Flory Menezes & H.O.P.E. staff

Cooking, tailoring, beauty parlour

180 women complete skill trainings



For the first time, H.O.P.E. offered skills trainings in the field area

Having her own income is the dream of many women. This does not have to remain a dream forever. With the help of H.O.P.E., women gain skills that enable them to take on a paid job or even start a business of their own. In 2015, more than 180 women took the chance and finished skill trainings conducted by H.O.P.E. The women could choose among tailoring, cooking, or beauty parlour – each of them offering opportunities to make a living.

One novelty was introduced in the previous year: Normally the trainings take place at H.O.P.E. Centre in Vadgaon Sheri. But this time, H.O.P.E. came to the women – into their kitchens, to be precise. For the first time, cooking classes were conducted in the field area to offer women the opportunity to take on the new skills in an environment they are used to. 70 women answered to this offer – proving that all it takes is a little creativity from one side and the will to learn from the other side

H.O.P.E. project coordinators: Archana Salve, Prabha Borde

Health for tea

Medical Camp for construction workers



Not a typical tea break – on today's menu is health instead of tea

H.O.P.E. project coordinators: Maya Shinde, Anita Kedari

A construction site is not exactly the typical venue for Serva Seva Sang. The NGO normally works for street children and HIV affected women and children. Yet here the eight social workers were, in the heart of Brahma Sun City, one of Vadgaon Sheri's largest construction sites, speaking to some 40 men and women in security helmets, stout shoes and working clothes. What was going on?

It was H.O.P.E.'s Medical Camp for construction workers that took place that day. H.O.P.E. had organised this special programme to inform the male and female construction workers about health issues and topics like HIV, drug abuse, various addictions, etc. For many of the participants, it was the first time that they received first-hand information about these topics. And why on the construction site? Because people are there – so H.O.P.E. goes where its target groups are. And be it on a construction site at tea time.

With a little help from my friends

H.O.P.E. supports 25 Self Help Groups



In 2015, 25 Self Help Groups were guided by H.O.P.E.

Supporting women to gain economic self-dependency is one of H.O.P.E.'s primary goals. One of H.O.P.E.'s activities to prompt this target is to facilitate Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Currently there are 25 Self Help Groups under H.O.P.E.'s guidance with some 500 women benefitting from it. Each group consists of 20 women in average. Guided by social workers of H.O.P.E., the groups meet regularly and discuss experiences and challenges they face.

Another purpose of the meetings is to update the women on Government schemes they are eligible for and to help them to obtain the benefits. Consulting the women in social and economic issues is another task H.O.P.E.'s social workers are fulfilling – all with the target to provide the women with the tools and knowledge they need to stand on their own feet.

H.O.P.E. project coordinators: Sureka Nachan, Anna Fernandes, Anita Kedari, Maya Shinde

It's never too late to learn

Literacy classes for adults



Ten women took the chance and finished the literacy classes last year

Some of them are still young, others are already grannies. Some are married with small children, others have sons and daughters that have already families of their own. What they have in common is that they never learned to read and write.

With the help of H.O.P.E., these women get a second chance. In 2015, H.O.P.E. has been offering free literacy classes to women, and ten women took the chance and finished the one-year-training programme.

The courses take place Monday through Friday from 4 to 5 pm at Hope Centre in Vadgaon Sheri. On the curriculum are basics: reading and writing in the local language Marathi, simple maths, filling out forms and documents for schools, banks, or authorities. When they have finished the programme, the women do not only know how to read and write – they have been equipped with quite a few necessities of modern life.

H.O.P.E. project coordinator: Sureka Nachan

More children, more care

Record number in H.O.P.E.'s Day Care Centre



Christmas celebration at Suryaoday Day Care Centre. The centre presently cares for 80 children

On 10 September, 2014, Suryaoday Day Care Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary. In the 11th year of its operation, it has reached a new record: as many as 80 children of migrant workers are now under its care. In average there are about 60 children in the day care centre.

Suryaoday Day Care Centre is a day care centre for the children of migrant construction workers on the construction sites of Brahma Sun City Builders in Vadgaon Sheri, Pune. Children from 0 up to 14 years are taken care of to provide healthy environment for their holistic development.

The centre is open daily except Sunday from 9.30 am to 6 pm. During this time, H.O.P.E. provides them free full day care, basic education, breakfast, lunch, snacks – and, most important of all, loving care in abundance.

H.O.P.E. project coordinators: Sr. Mangal Shaharao, Glory Sable, Shoba Salve, Sr. Fatima D'Souza, Victor Aware

Let the children come

Nurseries keep blooming



H.O.P.E. offers a variety of events and educational schemes to the small ones under its care

Is it the loving and personal attention? The quality of education in a healthy atmosphere? Or the variety of games and events H.O.P.E. offers the children under its care? Whatever it is, parents are flocking in to entrust H.O.P.E. with their most precious ward: their small ones.

2015 saw a new all-time high in H.O.P.E.'s Blooming Buds Playgroups and Nurseries at Sainikwadi and at H.O.P.E. Centre in Mogetwadi. The two nurseries now care for almost 60 children in the age of 18 months up to three years. Demand is so strong that H.O.P.E. is now planning to open another day care centre on H.O.P.E.'s premises in the course of the year.

H.O.P.E. Blooming Buds Playgroups and Nurseries are open Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 12. Admission forms for the academic year 2016-17 are now available at H.O.P.E. office.

H.O.P.E. project coordinators: Gracy Miranda, Rosy Prasad, Neeta Chabuskar, Latha Amolic

Help to come up in life

H.O.P.E. supports socially weak children in many different ways



35 to 40 children attend the Saturday classes at H.O.P.E. Centre

Good and all-round education is not only a nice-to-have – it is the key to life. Yet for children from a socially or economically weak background, the chances to obtain quality education and later to come up in life are very limited. Obstacles are numerous: no backing from their often little educated families, lack of money to pay for school fees, no access to tutorials or educational coaching. That's why H.O.P.E. puts extra effort in the education of less-advantaged children.

- Take for example H.O.P.E.'s **Saturday Classes**: Every Saturday at 10 am, H.O.P.E. opens its doors and provides free educational help to the children of single parents. 35 to 40 children attend every week.
- Another activity is **Coaching**. Between 30 and 35 children from migrant construction workers as well as from slums in Vadgaon Sheri get free coaching every day from 6 to 7 pm.
- For all children who take interest in it, **Computer Classes** are provided throughout the year on Friday and Saturday afternoon.
- And there are the **Scholarships**. Currently there are more 100 children who with the help of H.O.P.E. have found sponsors who come up for their school fees, uniforms, school books and items they need for a proper education, thus paving them the way into a better future.

H.O.P.E. project coordinators: Sr. Mangal Shaharao, Bros. Anbhu & Rinku, Anjali Abu & volunteers

Room to live

H.O.P.E. lays foundation stone for seven apartments in Vadgaon Sheri



Foundation stone ceremony on 8 September, 2015

In a prospering and ever growing city like Pune, affordable space is more and more becoming a major problem for families with a low income. Housing projects in the city usually target middle and upper class families, leaving economically weak families often in a desperate situation.

Answering to the need of affordable housing, H.O.P.E. is building three single bed room apartments on its site in Vadgaon Sheri. In addition, renovation is done on the ground floor, providing four single room apartments. Upon completion, there will be room to live for seven families.

Foundation stone ceremony took place on 8 September, 2015. Construction is underway and is planned to be completed in April 2016.

H.O.P.E. project coordinator: Sr. Flory Menezes, Antony Uvari, Sr. Mangal Shaharao (site supervisor)

H.O.P.E. Flashlights

What else happened in 2015? Some examples of our activities

- 21 to 30 April, H.O.P.E.'s annual **Summer Camp** for children took place. More than 100 children enjoyed a full week of games, sports, rallies, meditation, and of course relishing on delicious food and snacks. Definite highlight of the week however was a day at Manali Water Park – children simply enjoyed!
- 2 to 8 October, H.O.P.E. joined hands with nine schools of Pune for the **Joy of Giving Week**. Results of the joint effort to collect donations: provisions, gifts, snacks and stationary for children in abundance that can be used throughout the year for children in need. A truly overwhelming response from the students showing that they care for the less privileged.
- **H.O.P.E. Day** was celebrated on 28 February on the theme "Spreading H.O.P.E.". About 120 guests attended the occasion. Guests of Honour were the trustees of H.O.P.E..
- 11 July, **International Mothers' Care Day** was kept up at Suryaoday Day Care Centre. Around 40 women migrant workers attended the session given by Sr. Sheila Barretto, SCC.
- 25 January, Scholastics from De Nobili College invited 100 children for a **Children's Melawa**. What children loved best, was the location: The gathering took place in the middle of the woods. Quite an adventure!
- H.O.P.E.'s staff went to a two-day **staff exposure programme** on 21 and 22 February. Institutions visited were Shramik Organisation in Kolhapur and Crusveer Vikas Kendra NGO in Masura. Both of them engage in the empowerment of women and children with a special focus on unorganised sectors of employees.
- It has almost become a regular: the **visit of Thought Works Company** to H.O.P.E. Young talents from different countries – the so called "grads" – inform themselves about H.O.P.E.'s work as part of their training programme. They also interact with children and women under H.O.P.E.'s care.
- In 2015, H.O.P.E.'s work was supported by many national and international companies. Among the sponsors were UPS Logistics Ltd., Danfoss Power Solutions, India, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys. A heart felt "Thank you" to all of them!



Seeds of H.O.P.E.

The year in facts and figures

- 2015, H.O.P.E. has enabled and guided 25 women self help groups with some 500 women. 5 new groups were started, one was closed.
- Domestic workers solidarity project was extended to more than 750 women in 15 different areas.
- More than 180 women took part in H.O.P.E.'s various skill training courses.
- H.O.P.E. gave immediate help, legal assistance and counseling to 45 women in crisis situations.
- Suryaoday Day Care Centre reached out to a record number of 80 children.
- Blooming Buds Playgroups and Nurseries provided pre-school education to 60 children.
- 100 children were under H.O.P.E.'s scholarship programme.
- Support classes were provided to 42 children.
- 22 girls and young women found a home away from home in H.O.P.E.'s Kalpataru Girls' Hostel.
- H.O.P.E. conducted more than 15 input sessions, exposure and awareness programmes to its' various target groups.
- 150 senior citizens were under the care of H.O.P.E. in its Senior Citizens Club.
- H.O.P.E. took active part in several external events demanding women's and children's rights like rallies, morchas, Women's Day, Makhar Sankrant, Children's Day.
- H.O.P.E. networked on the cause of women and children as well as environment with organisations like National Domestic Workers' Movement (NDWM), Action for the Rights of Children (ARC), International Coastal Clean-up (ICC), Maher, and Fr. Agnel Ashram.



Give hope, get involved

There are many ways to support H.O.P.E.

H.O.P.E.'s work and staff is financed solely by donations, in-kind contributions and gain results from the sale of handicrafts. For our work, we need your support. There are various ways to can get involved:

- Donate a sum of money for H.O.P.E.'s general fund
- Donate a sum of money for a specific purpose
- Sponsor events like Children's Day, Senior Citizens' Day, etc.
- Help in the remuneration of our staff
- Collect and donate well-kept clothes, toys, household articles
- Sponsor equipment H.O.P.E. is in need of
- Volunteer in projects
- Donate working hours
- Buy our handicrafts.

Even small amounts can make a huge difference in someone's life. There is full transparency of the use of all means through the yearly governmental audits according to the conditions of the Bombay Public Trust Act. Donations will be entitled to tax exemption under 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Contact Details

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Donations from India

Account Name: H.O.P.E.
Canara Bank, Deep Heights,
Ramwadi,
Pune - 411014
Account No. 0261101003681
IFSC No. CNRB0000261

Donations from abroad

Account Name: H.O.P.E.
Canara Bank, Deep Heights,
Ramwadi,
Pune - 411014,
Maharashtra, India
Account No. 0261101008102
Swift Code: CNRBINBBPFD