



# AWMH TIMES

**ANNUAL EDITION 2023-24**



**Association for the Welfare of Persons with a  
Mental Handicap in Maharashtra  
AWMH-Maharashtra**

# Message from the President

*AWMH-Maharashtra has had a productive year, significantly advancing its mission through new initiatives. We successfully operated five Early Intervention centers across Mumbai suburbs, including Dombivli, Mulund, Ghatkopar, Mankhurd, and Khetwadi. These centers provide a comprehensive range of services, such as special education, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counseling for parents, and training programs for home-based care. The programs are designed to be family-centric, developmentally appropriate, and supportive, promoting significant developmental progress in children from birth to six years old. Throughout the year, the centers have seen a steady influx of participants, with monthly registrations indicating robust engagement across all locations. In addition to internal growth, **AWMH-Maharashtra** has collaborated with Vatsalya Trust, which provided orthotics to 12 children, enhancing the physical support available to the beneficiaries.*

*Our focus on staff education has been maintained, with monthly training sessions covering various aspects of early intervention and special education. Further, we had formal training for specific Learning Disability, AAP devices and Documentation for select resources who are working in that area. These sessions are crucial for refining the skills of our therapists, teachers, and psychologists, ensuring they remain at the forefront of developmental therapy practices.*

*Parental involvement has been another key focus, with multiple meetings held to inform and educate parents about government schemes, the psychological aspects of disability, and available support systems. These meetings are part of AWMH's holistic approach, which integrates community support with specialized intervention strategies. We were selected by TCS for developing an online system for our EI care. The system is under development and likely to be operational by Sept 2024 and will substantially enhance capacity of our service providers to plan services and analyses of child's progress.*

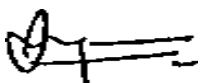
***AWMH Maharashtra** has been actively promoting sports as a crucial component of holistic development for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. The organization hosted several major tournaments this year, including the 14th Maharashtra State Table Tennis Tournament and the 17th Maharashtra State Cricket Tournament. These events, supported by notable organizations such as the Rotary Club of Mumbai Versova and the Dalal Family Foundation, drew participation from numerous special schools across the state, fostering not only competition but also inclusion and personal growth among participants.*

*In addition to hosting events, **AWMH Maharashtra** ran a weekend sports coaching program that included carrom, basketball, and cricket, helping students hone their skills in a structured environment. The coaching sessions were designed to improve specific sports skills while also encouraging teamwork and physical fitness. The success of these programs highlights AWMH's commitment to using sports as a vehicle for enhancing the lives of those with intellectual disabilities, underpinning the belief that every participant is a winner.*

*The AWMH RAC plays an important role in fostering social interaction and community engagement among individuals with disabilities. Throughout the year, the center has hosted a variety of sessions and events aimed at enhancing both physical and social skills of its members. Activities range from yoga and laughter exercises to more focused group games and craft sessions, all designed to promote coordination, communication, and well-being. Significant events include birthday celebrations with enjoyable visits to popular venues like McDonald's, where participants not only enjoy meals but engage in communal celebrations that enhance their social experience. Regular sessions also involve creative activities such as making origami photo frames and designing face-masks, which support fine motor skills and artistic expression. Moreover, the RAC's calendar is punctuated with special occasions like Diwali and Christmas parties, where members engage in dancing, games, and shared meals, highlighting the center's commitment to creating a supportive, joyous community environment.*

*Together we will make strides with new initiatives in 2024 -2025 to propel AWMH further in the service of children and adults with intellectual disabilities.*

Warm regards



**Cdr. Shrirang Bijur**

**Mumbai**

**AWMH, Maharashtra** is running 5 Early Intervention (EI) centres across Mumbai Suburbs Like Dombivli, Mulund, Ghatkopar, Mankhurd and Khetwadi centre. Early intervention services give **specialized support** to children and families in the early years (from birth to school entry 6 yr.). This support includes

- Special Education
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Counseling to parents
- Training parents for home bound programs
- Developmental And Psychological Assessment

**All** the programs or sessions aimed at promoting child’s development. Any Intervention selected for a child is Family centric, Developmentally Appropriate, child focused, supportive and structured. The Trans-disciplinary team is characterized by the commitment of its members to teach, learn, and work together to implement coordinated services.

**1. Different Types of Disabilities** were identified in all 5 EIRP centres which includes following:

Type of disability	Boys	Girls	Total
Cerebral palsy	21	10	31
Global developmental delay	11	6	17
Autism spectrum disorder	100	18	118
ADHD	8	7	15
Learning difficulty	7	4	11
Downs syndrome	9	2	11
Other (Hydrocephaly, microcephaly, Seizure Disorder, sensory processing disorder, hearing impairment, cleft palate)	7	11	18
<b>Total</b>			<b>221</b>

**2. Monthly Registration**

Month /Center Name	Khetwadi	Ghatkopar	Mulund	Dombivali	Mankhurd
April 23	27	42	40	60	28
May 23	27	43	46	56	29
June 23	27	42	46	55	29
July 23	30	36	45	63	27
Aug 23	31	39	44	62	31
Sept 23	29	40	40	63	32
Oct 23	37	42	40	63	32
Nov 23	35	43	43	61	35
Dec 23	35	37	43	53	32
Jan 24	34	43	41	54	32
Feb 24	36	43	44	59	35
March 24	37	39	43	62	39



### 3. Collaboration with Other NGO –

Vatsalya Trust, of Kanjurmarg who provided Orthotics to 12 children from EIRP Centers , on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023. We are thankful to them for the support rendered to us **Names of the beneficiaries who received orthotics were** Faiz Sheikh, Uzair Khan, Mohd. Afroz Khan, Hardik Taribagel, Sairaj Zole, Megha Pawar, Aradhya More, Sanket Rajbhar, Shivam Chourasiya, Tanveer Sheikh, Rudra Kamble, Maria Qureshi

#### Teachers Training

Every month in EIRP staff meeting, a topic and case study are discussed among staff. The therapists, teachers and psychologist upgrade their skills by case studies, this allowed us to access more expertise to meet the challenges of difficult child- cases, and provide better E I service to the beneficiaries. Discussion on topics related to Early Intervention during monthly EIRP Staff meeting was conducted regularly. 3 cases were discussed, one case of Autism from Mulund centre and two Cerebral Palsy cases from Mankhurd and Dombivli each. Topic of “Documentation - Goal Writing and Intervention Planning” was also discussed. Ms. Rakhi Mahadik attended course on LD. Organized by Srujan Pratishthan, Pune. It was 7 days online (6 day) and offline (1 day) certificate prog from 17 April to 22 April.



On 08<sup>th</sup> May-23 **InventionLabs Engg. Products Pvt.Ltd.** conducted a course for all Special Educators and Therapists which was held at Khetwadi Centre. We had specially received Tabs from Invention Labs for this purpose

On 09<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Oct-2023 All 7 Special educators attended 2 days’ workshop in UMMED center at Chinchpokli the Topic of discussion was “**Introduction to early Childhood Development and its Importance**” On 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 Ms. Malavika from Ummeed visited EIRP center (Mulund and Ghatkopar) for Mentorship prog for EIRP sp. Educators.



On the learning and development front Wipro had organized a documentation workshop conducted by Rising Flame at Bangalore from 5<sup>th</sup> to 08<sup>th</sup> Feb-24 Dr. Shital Fulzele and Mr. Durgesh Koppikar attended the workshop



#### 4. Parents Meeting –

On 25 Sept 2023, TISS interns conducted Parents meeting in the center, Agenda of meeting was to explain Govt. scheme and Pension Yojna, Total of 15 parents attended the meeting.

On 26<sup>th</sup> dec 2023, TISS interns conducted Parents meeting at the Mankhurd center, Topic was - Disability is not Suffering , it is living by Pankaj Girase who is student of TISS , disability studies and Action, a total of 17 parents attended meeting. Mr Pankaj explained parents his life journey which included into his admission into TISS and what he was looking forwarded to.



TISS interns conducted a parent's meet, where they informed them about documentation required for UDID, disability certificate, Niramaya, Monthly pension etc and the process on how to go for it. For Mankhurd Centre it was held on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 24, For Mulund Centre it was on the 20<sup>th</sup> Feb-24, For Ghatkopar Centre it was on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb-24 & For Dombivali Centre it was on the 05<sup>th</sup> Mar-24. Another session was conducted on Antenatal and postnatal care.



As a part of parents meeting with EIRP staff, several parents were invited for the **AWMH AGM meeting** which was held on 07<sup>th</sup> Oct-2023. During this meet few parents shared their experiences of child development and progress after attending EIRP center, All the parents who shared their Experiences were emotional while thanking the concerned EIRP staff for the excellent work they were doing.





## 5. Home Visits

TISS interns along with EIRP staff conducted homevisits. To the residences of Prachi More, Sanvi Gawde, Uzair Khan, Samrat, Hazare, Habiba Khan, Abubakar Idrisi, Mohd. Noman Sheikh, Purva More & Vaibhav Prajapati



## 6. Internship

As a part of involving interns from various institutes students Ms. Savita Sutar & Ms. Akanksha Kharat from NIEPID pursuing D.Ed. were selected for Internship in AWMH. They joined us on 17<sup>th</sup> July-2023. TISS is actively collaborating with us on various activities. Two Students, Ms. Mar-Ko and MS. Priyanka Kubadinthier 2<sup>nd</sup> Year at TISS competed their 30 days internship at Mankhurd Centre from 01<sup>st</sup> Sep-23 to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept-23. Two students Ms. Sakshi Labade and Ms. Muhsina KS also from TISS joined us from 17<sup>th</sup> July-23 to 30<sup>th</sup> Oct-23 in their first phase and in second phase from 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023 till March 2024.

SNDDT Women's University's is another such institute from where we get requests for institute this year three students, pursuing Masters in Arts Specialization in Psychology joined us as interns from 20<sup>th</sup> Feb- 24. Their Internship will last for 120 hrs spread over a period of 45 days. Till 11<sup>th</sup> Mar 24. This is being carried out under able supervision and guidance of Special Educator Ms. Rakhi Rahate, Clinical Psychologist, Ms. Anaya and Dr. Shital Fulzele. Post internship they will be given a certificate of completion and their performance will be graded on various criteria

### 7. Inclusion, Celebrations in EIRP centers

In all centers festivals are celebrated with great pomp and enthusiasms serving as occasions for joy, reflections and connections, celebrating festivals. It offers therapeutic experience of emotional well-being while providing child with inclusive environment where they feel valued, understood and empowered to explore their emotions and identities.

Occasions like New year Party, Makar Sankrant, Republic Day Navratri, Dassera, Diwali and Christmas celebrations conducted in EIRP centers where children and parents both participate with great excitement



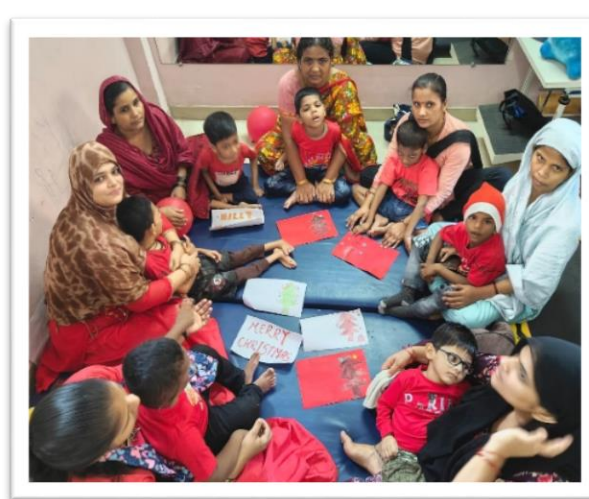
As a part of social inclusion once a year AWMH organizes picnic for children and their parents which is eagerly awaited by both parents and children. On 08th Dec-23 Mankhurd Centre set out for a Mumbai Darshan The itinerary included Gateway of India, Ferry Ride, Veer Jijamata Udyan, Nehru Planetarium, Old Woman's shoe, culminating at the Juhu beach via the Worli Sea Link On 19th Dec-23 Mulund and Ghatkopar centers went to Harmony village resort at Badlapur whereas Dombivali center went to Luara Resort at Titwala







On 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 Rotary Club Members along with Dr. Sunny Pariyaram visited the Mankhurd Centre. Among those who graced the occasion were Ms. Vakil, Dr. Sunny Pariyaram, Dr. M. Dhoniwala, and Ms. Reema Damani, from the Rotary Club, and Ms. Meena Parekh and Ms. Malti Dedhia from the AWMH managing committee. Together, they came for a heartwarming Christmas party, organized with love and care by the dedicated staff of the Early Intervention and Rehabilitation Program (EIRP).



A New Year Party on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024 at Dombivli centre was organized for children and Parents. Dr. Shital Conducted Art Based therapy for session for parents and teacher, all parents created handcrafted greetings cards for their kids, which was followed by Cake cutting and snacks Mrs. Gulshan for their friend's birthday distributed gifts (crawling alphabet printed mats) to all children, worth Rs.20K.







### 8. EIRP Annual Party 2023-24

On 27<sup>th</sup> January-24 AWMH organized the much awaited EIRP annual party popularly called as “Nanhe Ustad” at Mancherji Joshi Hall, Dadar where 120 children attended and 97 participated in Fancy dress competition along with their parents. “Nanhe Ustad” was a delightful extravaganza; The Hall was decorated elegantly, showcasing a playful and enchanting atmosphere. Children presented mesmerizing event of Fancy dress competition, showcasing their budding talents. The Judges, **Mrs. Swarupa Modi, Mrs. Malti Dedia and Mrs. Daksha Mehta**, were really impressed to see the beautiful costumes and makeup of children for fancy dress, and also with the efforts of parents for preparing participants for the event. Colourful Costumes cheerful Props and carefully choreographed dance performance added to the visual spectacle. Every child received heartwarming gifts for participation as token of appreciation. The annual day celebration proved to be a memorable experience, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment among the little stars and their families. **Mr. Nitin Patil, IAS, Secretary GST and Past Commissioner for Disability and Sister Babita, Principal of Villa Teresa School** were the **guest of Honor** for the day The function concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Muddasir Bamne on behalf of all Parents to all the people who contributed for Annual function including Sponsors, children and parents, all guests and committee members. Special thanks to **Mrs. NergesDodhy and Mrs. Vilur Shaproojeewho** had a major role of sponsoring a beautiful place, hall and sound system along with Snacks and cold drinks to Children. Also to be thanked was Mrs Swaroopa Modi for her contribution of Rs 5000/- towards the success of the event and Mr. Ravi our regular photographer for capturing beautiful moments to create memories forever.







**9. EIRP General:**

**WIPRO-Know your Partner's Meet in Airoli , on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 23**

On 13<sup>th</sup> Sep-2023 Wipro conducted Partner's meet at their Airoli campus, The Objective was for their employees to know the partners who are working with undeserved communities in their city/location. AWMH was one of the participants and we showcased EIRP activities through Photographs of EIRP activities, Therapies and other social/ inclusion activities, A short video of EIRP video on continuously played on LED screen, We also Showcased success stories,EIRP therapy equipment and preschool activities.





On 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 and on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov –Entire EIRP Staff had a meeting with Cdr. Bijur during the meeting discussion on how to bring about more improvement at the EIRP centers and Documentation process were done

On 1<sup>st</sup> Dec-23 Cdr. Bijur was invited in TCS, Thane, for Tech4HOPE event. He did a presentation on Upgrading Documentation process for all EIRP centres

Ms. Harshada Gadekar, Occupational therapist, joined AWMH from 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023, She will be going to Mankhurd centre for 3 days and to Ghatkopar centre for 2 days. She has stepped in place of Ms Sheetal Aidale who resigned from AWMH in August-2023. Ms. Shraddha Shanivare, Speech therapist resigned from services of AWMH due to personal reasons. Her last day with AWMH was on 01<sup>st</sup> Jan-2024



Due to paucity of space at Mankhurd center we were in need of a new place fortunately we got a flat adjacent to our existing centre from where we started our operations on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov-23. Some of EIRP OT activities will be carried out at the new premises. We now have extended space for our EI activities at Mankhurd



TCS & AWMH are collaborating on new project for Enhancing Documentation process in EIRP centers. Cdr. Shrirang Bijur Mr. Durgesh Koppikar and Dr. Shital Fulzele are attending weekly conference meetings on every Monday with TCS to discuss Development of Templates for different types of Forms which are used to record children's assessment, progress and

other details. TCS is presently working on developing App on which these details will be recorded digitally. We have already provided them with the formats that are required to develop the App

### RECREATION & ACTIVITIES CENTRE

On 1st April, 8 Self Advocates and 7 volunteers met at Villa Theresa School. After prayers, they did exercises and laughter yoga. Members were encouraged to practice writing their names and some important information like their address, guardian's name etc. They very enthusiastically took this task up. Going by the response to this activity it was decided to make this a regular feature during the forth coming sessions. Sometime was spent in playing group games and also recognizing different playing cards. Plans for the next session were



made over snacks. Hitesh's birthday celebration at MacDonald, Haji Ali was planned. Malatiben too decided joining in celebrating dear Nilesh's birthday at the same time.

On 15th April 2023, after a very long gap, all time favorite McDonald was the venue for RAC party. 11 members and 9 volunteers/mothers joined in excitedly to celebrate Hitesh's and Nilesh's birthday. This time new guests namely Mr. Suprasan Kodial, his wife Mrs Niyati, son Varun and daughter Kaeya too happily joined in and were thoroughly overwhelmed with the loving welcome received from our RAC family, Two delicious looking cakes were cut amidst singing of birthday song with full gusto. Sumptuous and tempting

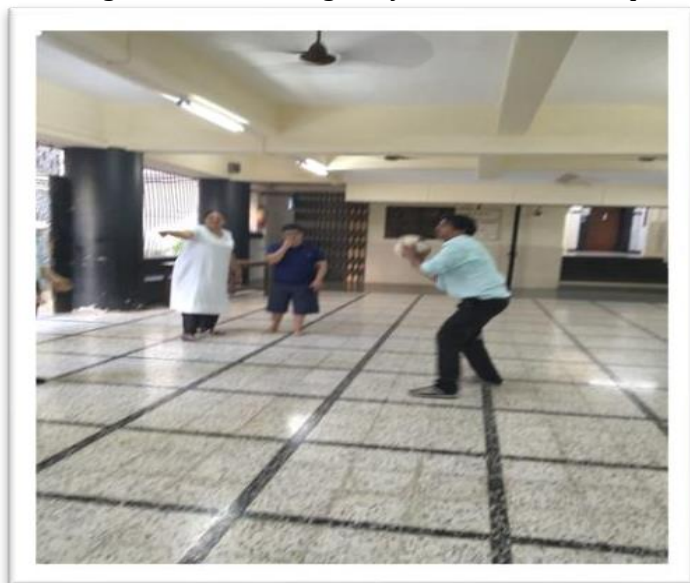
MacHappy Meals was relished by everyone. On the house, 'Softy' ice-cream for the Self-Advocates and the 2 kid guests was a pleasant surprise.

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 A large group of Self-Advocates (SA), 11 from SVCC and 4 of RAC met at Villa Theresa School premises. They were further joined by 3 parents, 7 volunteers / well-wishers. After the customary prayers which were fully led by the members, a program was decided for the session with suggestions and inputs from them. Accordingly, everyone participated in Yoga and laughter exercises led by Pramilaji. Since there were quite a few new faces, next on the agenda was introductions of new members. Sitting comfortably in a circle, with 2 volunteer anchors guiding them with questions, each one introduced themselves. This was a pleasant and exciting activity-knowing about their work, their hobbies, their mode of travel etc. besides the general information. Snacks were served after the formality of introduction of new members. During the conclusion of meeting. It was announced that there will be no RAC meetings during summer vacation from 6th May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

RAC Club reopened after summer vacation on 17<sup>th</sup> June-23. 5 Self-Advocates and 9 volunteers / well-wishers / parents met and greeted each other enthusiastically as they had met after along gap. After prayers, everyone participated in Yoga and Laughter exercises. The evening's attraction was the colorful & attractive Hand/Foot Co-ordination Mat which Malati ben had donated to the club. Not only the members but our young at heart volunteers and well-wishers too 'tried their hands n feet' on the mat. It was a thoroughly enjoyable activity. Before dispersing snacks were served and members chatted to catch up with each other

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. Due to continuous heavy rains, it was decided to cancel the meeting and the guardians were informed through message on RAC WA Group. On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023. 15 Self-Advocates (6 of RAC and 9 from SVCC) attended the session at Villa Theresa School. They were joined by 4 volunteers' and 3 parents.

Indoor games and making tasty Dahi-Wadas was planned for this meeting. After prayers, members got set for Over-Head Throw ball a good exercise as well. Soon their enthusiasm caught on the volunteers n parents and they too joined them! After playing it for quite some time, it was time to relax with the next game- Passing the Parcel. All this time, youngsters **were** keening waiting for the main attraction of the day- the Dahi Wadas! Volunteers had come prepared with all the ingredients needed for the dish. With excitement writ large on their faces, they listened to the instructions intently. With very little guidance, they could easily put Butter-biscuits in the disposable bowls, pour curds over it and garnish it with the essential masala powders etc. After serving every one, sitting together relishing what they had prepared themselves- well, so much joy and thrill for all present. During this meet Next Meeting was





planned for 05<sup>th</sup> August-24 On 5th August the session started with prayers and some Yoga exercises. As per the plans, RAC members celebrated Friendship Day by tying Friendship Bands on each other's wrists and offering sweets. Later volunteers guided them to make photo frames in origami pattern. After these activities all enjoyed snacks over chit-chat. Three Self- Advocates and three parents/volunteers attended the session. Since members from SVCC had some prior commitments at their workshop they could not join.

In the earlier meeting, it was decided to celebrate Raksha bandan on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023. As per our RAC tradition, Rakhis for the event are made by the members themselves. So volunteers had got all the material needed for making Rakhis. Members were eagerly waiting to start the work- a big gathering with 12 Self-Advocates, 4 volunteers and 1 parent. After the prayers, under the volunteers' guidance, they got busy cutting the ribbon to the right size, sticking the sequins and beads and decorations on it etc. Once the Rakhis were ready, it was time for celebration!! All the brothers were sitting in a group, with broad smiles on their faces, waiting for their turn. The 2 sisters in the group proudly went to each of them, applied Tikka on their forehead and then tied Rakhi on their wrist, and offered them sweets. It was truly a superb, happy & excited atmosphere. After the ceremony, it was time to enjoy snacks and then say good-bye to each other for the day.



On 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3 Self-Advocates, 3 volunteers and 1 parent attended the meeting. Prayers were followed by exercises conducted by Mihir, one of the members. After prayers they got busy with board games. For some time, the boys practiced with football. Before dispersing for the day, all enjoyed snacks over chit-chatting.

For the RAC family, Deepavali celebrations commenced much before the actual date! This year, a record number of 26 present and past RAC members along with their guardians, teachers and volunteers attended the party. Some of the AWMH Managing Committee members too graced the occasion. It was a group of 50 celebrators. The celebration was held from 3.00pm to 6.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Orient Club, Chowpatty. The spacious air-conditioned Heritage Hall was perfect venue for the fun filled activities. 'Musical Circle Round' for the SAs set in motion the merry-making. All of them thoroughly enjoyed the game.





Not only the winners but each one of them received participation prize. Live music with Bollywood numbers was so inviting that they rushed for dancing! The atmosphere was so charged and the dancers so excited that some “young at heart” enthusiasts too joined in and very soon with their loving insistence, everyone was on the dance floor!! The hall was reverberating with “Eighteen to Eighty Plus” doing Garba and Bhangra steps! Solo dances expertly performed by energetic Charmy mesmerized one and all. Viren bhai’s live music sponsored by our dear Swarupaben made it a joyous celebration. Youngsters would have loved to continue dancing but the heady smell of snacks tempted them to rush to the food tables. A variety of sweets and savories were enjoyed by all. Ice-cream was relished while chatting and catching up with friends. And soon it was time to say good bye. Gifts sponsored by Ms Himali Gala and Ms. Nina Parikh were handed over to all the SAs All the other guests too received gifts. Thanks to Swarupaben and Ninaben’s support in



planning, it was a memorable Deepavali celebration. It was decided after Diwali vacation, RAC sessions will commence from 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023. **December, the last month of 2023 has been a bonanza for our RAC members.**

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> December**, 10 self-Advocates and 5 volunteers/well wishers met in Villa Theresa School’s Activity Hall. The session started with prayers and then was followed by yoga exercises led by Rupesh. On popular demand, some indoor games were played. Everyone participated in these activities. Ms. Charmy, one of the members had come all prepared to celebrate her birthday with her friends. Cake was cut with all singing Happy Birthday song. The members were encouraged to arrange snacks in plates and distribute among all present.

The second session of the month was organized **on the**

**16<sup>th</sup>** with 12 members and 5 volunteers / well-wishers. It was planned to craft Face-Masks in this meeting so all the needed material was kept ready. After prayers and exercises, the SAs were eagerly waiting to start working. They were guided / encouraged to cut the card paper and colored paper according to given measurement size. They enthusiastically glued the stripes as per requirements. The Face-Masks were ready. Our SAs were all excitement holding the Masks and dancing and greeting each other!!! The happy group disbursed after snacks.

**On the 20<sup>th</sup>**, students of 8<sup>th</sup> Std of Villa Theresa School hosted a Xmas Party for RAC group from 2.30 to 3.30pm. In spite of it being a working weekday and at short notice, 21 SAs, 5 volunteers, 8 parents, 5 MC members attended and thoroughly enjoyed the loving





hospitality of the students. Under the guidance of their teachers, the event was started with prayers. Passing the Parcel, a very popular game among all age groups followed. 'Punishment for the loser' was a superb hit with our dance loving members! They danced with aplomb to their favorite Bollywood numbers and won't want this game to end. The young hostesses, their teachers and also Sister Maria very lovingly encouraged them. Sumptuous snacks were distributed to all besides each RAC member was given a gift. Though it was planned by the school at a very short notice due to the hectic schedule of last day of the month before Christmas holidays, every small detail for the party was taken care of. True to the Christmas spirit, an excellent message of caring and sharing!! Mr. Aggarwal gave the Vote of Thanks on behalf of RAC family

An opportunity to enjoy first day show of **Shah Rukh Khan starrer DUNKI** must be a dream for movie



buffs. On **Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup>**, this dream became a reality for RAC family!! Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Agarawal whose idea it was to show this movie and unstinted efforts of Ninaben and Malatiben to procure 22 tickets of the first day show at Starling Cinema, 9 SAs, 5 volunteers, 3 parents and 5 MC members had a fabulous time! True to his philosophy of 'Sharing and Caring', Mr. Aggarwal made the day all the more enjoyable by sponsoring snack boxes also for everyone at the end of the show. As we bid adieu to 2023, RAC Family wished everyone a Very Happy New Year

On 06-01-2024, 6 members and 7 well wishers/parents attended the session. After prayers, yoga and laughter exercises were conducted. After some games, members enjoyed question answer sessions with volunteers. Snacks were



distributed before saying good bye.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> Jan-24, 7 members and 7 volunteers/ well wishers/parents were present for the session on the 20th. Activities started after saying prayers led by members. Exercises for hand n leg movement coordination were conducted besides the regular yoga n laughter activities. Latest TV news was the topic for conversation. The Self Advocates quite enthusiastically tried to tell about Ayodhya Mandir and the preparations for the Pran Pratishtha ceremonies on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

On 03.02.2024. Most of the regular members had to attend an activity planned by their workshop so their in-charge informed that they would not be able to come for the RAC session. As such last -minute decision was taken to cancel the meeting planned to be held at Villa Theresa School. On 17-02-24. 3 Self Advocates and 5





volunteers/mothers attended this session at Villa Theresa School. After the prayers, Mihir and Charmy led the exercises. Some indoor games were also played. Mothers of SA's and volunteers also joined in these activities.

The members were eager to do the art work planned for the day. They chose the item they wanted to make, sticking the cut outs of coloured paper on CD discs and using marker pen on it. They were guided by the volunteers. The session ended with usual discussion over snacks. To Conclude Tentative plans of some outdoor activity were also discussed.

On 2nd March Meeting at Villa Theresa School had to be cancelled last minute as very few members reciprocated to attend. On 16th March a large group of 16 Self-Advocates and 9 volunteers/ parents attended the session, participated in the activities and celebrated Dharesh's birthday.

Prayers were followed by Yoga and Laughter exercises. These were conducted by the members with little guidance from the volunteers. Charmi, a member had prepared charts with pictures of fruits and vegetables, means of transport and persons displaying different professions. All Members thoroughly enjoyed recognizing the pictures related to their daily routine. Some of the SA's preferred playing indoor football. 20 white T-shirts with colorful logo of Wipro who had sponsored these for the sports events, were received.

We would like to thank Mr. Ravi Bagdi for sharing those with us. 18 member's n volunteers were thrilled to get those t-shirts.

Soon it was time for celebration. Dharesh cut his birthday cake with all present singing the Happy birthday song. the SA's wound up the session with usual discussion and snacks

It was a pleasant surprise for the RAC family to receive an invitation from Abhay Bijur, our ex- member. He wanted to celebrate his birthday on the 30<sup>th</sup> with his RAC friends even though it was a very short notice, 14 members including 6 from SVRR, 10 volunteers/ well-wishers/ parents turned up at 4 PM at Villa Theresa School to meet Abhay.

After the prayers and doing the usual exercises, all present very enthusiastically played some games. At 5o'clock, the Birthday cake was cut amidst singing of birthday song with extreme gusto. Sitting in a circle, all the members enjoyed the snacks and the cake.

It was fun to watch Abhay chatting excitedly with his old friends, catching up with them and present members were happy to make a new friend from Pune.



## **SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

At AWMH Sports and activities related to sports are also given priority and hold a special place for us. Regular sports activities like Table Tennis, Cricket, supporting other schools in holding sports meet are part of these initiatives. Regular sports activities like Table Tennis, Cricket, supporting other schools in holding sports meet are part of these initiatives

As a part of Weekend coaching program we had procured four Carom boards with stands and coins. Every Sunday was earmarked for training of students for Carom. We prepared them for the Carom Tournament which was held in the month of July-23. In order to help the students understand how to take the coin at an angle, we started the game with four coins on the board. Some of the students had fair knowledge of carom. We started teaching those students the placement of the coins before starting of the game



The students of Weekend Coaching Program trained for the Carrom Tournament which was held on 5th August 2023. It was organized by V.D. Indian Society at Sports Recreation Centre, Malad. Some of the students improved and started playing extremely well. On Saturdays we started off with Basketball with skill practice and half-court game. The session started with Basketball dribbling followed by the different body exercises and drills of Basketball. We started preparing for



Table Tennis on Saturdays, a basic preparation of the students for Table Tennis Tournament to be held in the month of September-23. Ability grouping for Table Tennis Tournament commenced from 12th August 2023. Admin Office had already sent request letter for booking of the TT Hall in July-23 to concerned committee

member's which was newly formed at GSC & request for booking of ground for cricket was to be done in due course of time. The sponsorship letter was mailed to Rotary Club of Mumbai Versova on 01<sup>st</sup> Aug 2023. Circular for the competitions such as Cricket and Table tennis was mailed to all the schools on the 07<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023. Students of the Weekend Training Program were on Summer Vacation for two weeks, starting from 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 till 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023. They resumed on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 as many of the students were travelling.





**Certificate of Appreciation for Table Tennis Tournament 2022 & Cricket 2023** Rtn. Manish Khemka had requested for certificates of appreciation for the Youth Rotarians who helped us during the Table Tennis Tournament 2022. He also requested the certificate of appreciation for Cricket Tournament to youth Rotarians who has helped us in the past. All the letters and certificates were duly handed over to respective stake holders accordingly. Similarly, ISC Coordinator from JasudbenM.L.School requested for the certificate of appreciation for the thirteen students who helped us for the Table Tennis Tournament.

The 14th Maharashtra State Table Tennis Tournament was organized by AWMH Maharashtra for the Special Schools in Maharashtra, at Goregaon Sports Club on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 which was sponsored by Rotary Club of Mumbai Versova. Around **437 students from 34 schools** in Maharashtra participated in this tournament from which **38 students** were from Pune, Pen district. Besides the



participants there were 73 teachers and 30 officials who were also a part of the tournament. The competition was conducted in two formats i.e. Individual Skill contest and Singles Competition. The ability grouping test was conducted three weeks before the competition for the students participating in this tournament. The Chief Guest was **DG Arun Bhargava**, Mumbai District Governor, RI District 3141 and other dignitaries were **President Rtn. Sushil Daga**, Hon. Secretary **Rtn. Mona Sachdeva**, Treasurer **Rtn. Pawan Chowdhary** who graced the occasion. The Guest of Honour was **Ms. Shobha Shetty**, former Principal of Punarvas Special School and **Mr. Someel Shah** Indoor Chairman, Goregaon Sports Club. Students were awarded with medals

and certificates according to his / her ability, which serves the purpose of World Special Olympics that every child is a winner in the competition. The accent here was on participation, and every participant was awarded a medal, regardless of the result. Rotary Club of

Mumbai Versova presented the students with one shoulder bag and a goody bag of sweets. Students participating in this tournament were given T-Shirts and teachers, parents and students participating in this tournament were served with snacks and lunch. Conducting such events require a massive efforts from all .We would like to thank Rotary Club of Mumbai Versova for being Title sponsors of this tournament, Wipro for providing the volunteers, Jasudben M. L. School for giving us the support of student volunteers, Goregaon Sports Club for providing the Table tennis Hall free of charge, Punarvas Special School for providing free lodging for all outstation students and their coaches and V. D. Indian Society School for providing the bus facility for transporting all outstation students and their coaches to the venue and back.



We conducted the sports teachers meeting for JamnabaiNarsee School Special Sports Meet on 25th October 2023 at JamnabaiNarsee School. Around 1300 entries were received for this competition. JamnabaiNarsee School organized the Sports Meet on 19th December 2023. AWMH sports team ably helped the school in conducting the competition.



After the stupendous success of **Table Tennis Tournament** on 09<sup>th</sup> Sep-23, we began teaching the students cricket skills at Sports Recreation Centre. Warm-up and exercises preceded the regular training session, which was followed by cricket skills like throwing and catching. AWMH Maharashtra in association with The Dalal Family Foundation (USA) organised 17<sup>th</sup> Maharashtra State Cricket Tournament

for the special schools in Maharashtra.

The Cricket Tournament was held on 06th Feb, 2024. Both the venues Prabodhan Krida Bhavan and Goregaon Sports Club for Cricket tournament were already booked for the event. Teams were categorized into Group A, Group B and Group C. From 8 districts of Maharashtra 58 schools with 216 students (12 teams) & 48 teachers were part of this tournament. Five students from Sports Recreation Centre were part of Mumbai Suburb Cricket team in the B and C category.

The Ability grouping of the team was decided on the basis of previous Tournament performance. The Required Cricket circular was circulated on the 07th Dec-23 to all the schools The officials (Match Referee, umpires) were informed about the Cricket Tournament venue, dates and reporting time.

This year we introduced girl participants in Group C category. There were four girls in each team in which two girls were the part of playing eleven and two were substitute. We are looking forward to conduct girls Cricket tournament in future. This will motivate girls training program for Cricket in all the schools

This year AWMH Maharashtra raised the prize money for all the categories. The winner was awarded Rs. 8000/- and runner up Rs. 6000/- in all the three categories. Cash prizes for the best batsman, bowler, fielder and man of the tournament was given Rs. 1500/- in all the three categories. All the participating teams were given full cricket kit (Track Pant, T-Shirt and cap). Keeping into consideration the Special Olympics motto, "Every participating child is a winner", AWMH Maharashtra awarded **The Dalal Family Foundation (USA) trophies** for winner and runner – up with gold and silver medal and participating medals to all the remaining teams and participation certificates were given to all the participating teams.

The outstation teams arrived one day before the tournament. The lodging and boarding facilities for two days for approximately 64 students and 12 teachers from outstation schools were at Punarvas Special School, Goregaon. The dinner for the outstation schools were arranged. Students participating in the tournament were served with heavy snacks and lunch on the day of the competition at two different venues. The bus facility from Punarvas School to the venue and back was given by V. D. Indian Society.





Guest of Honour for the Closing Ceremony was **Mrs. Toral Mehta, representing The Dalal Family Foundation (USA) and Mrs. Nisha Jadhav from VDA Infosolution Pvt. Ltd. and the office bearer of AWMH Maharashtra**

Besides cricket our sports team also helped in conducting the NarseeMonjee Educational Trust Athletic Meet for Special Schools which was organized by JamnabaiNarsee School on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The Chief Guest of the competition was Mr. Boman Irani. This was the 20<sup>th</sup> year of this competition. We initiated this competition with just 275 students and the number had swelled to 1420 students this year. There were 52 schools from Mumbai Suburb, City, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Virar, Vasai, Pen and Raigad who had participated for this meet

Christmas break was given to all the Weekend coaching program students. They rejoined on 6th January 2024

Result of the tournament was

#### **From A Group**

Winner Team	: MDC Home
Runner up	: Mumbai Suburb
Best Batsman	: Akash, MDC Home – 48 runs in 25 balls
Best Bowler	: Vipul – Mumbai Suburb – 2 – 5 – 1
Best Fielder	: Kashi, MDC Home
Man of the Tournament	: Akash, MDC Home

#### **From B Group**

Winner Team	: Mumbai Suburb
Runner up	: Virar
Best Batsman	: Suyog, Pen – 33 runs in 18 balls
Best Bowler	: Mayur, Virar – 2 – 3 – 3
Best Fielder	: Ganesh, Virar – 7 stumps and 5 catches
Man of the Tournament	: Siddhesh, Virar – 4 overs, 6 runs, 6 wkts and 19 runs in 9 balls

#### **From C Group**

Winner Team	: Mumbai Suburb
Runner up	: Aai Day Care Sanstha, Pen
Best Batsman	: Chetan, Aai Day Care – 38 runs in 27 balls
Best Bowler	: Abhimanyu, Mumbai Suburb – 4 – 30 – 4 wkts
Best Fielder	: Aadesh, Swami Brahmananad
Man of the Tournament	: Raj Singh, Mumbai Suburb – 15 runs and 3 wkts and 9 runs

#### **Encouraging Sports in Special Schools**

AWMH Maharashtra started sponsoring the sports kit to the schools in order to start the Physical Education program in their school. The sports kit contains one kit bag, four Basketballs, two Volleyballs, two Footballs, four Badminton rackets, ten shuttlecocks, eight Table Tennis bats, a dozen Table Tennis balls, two Cricket Bats, four stumps and one dozen soft tennis balls. This year the sports kit was given to MDC Home, Mankhurd and Swami Brahmanand Praishthan, Navi Mumbai.



### Expression of Gratitude

Finally we would like to to express our gratitude to the people who have helped us reach the benefit of Sports and fitness to the children with intellectual disability

**The Dalal Family Foundation (USA)** – Major sponsor of the Tournament

**Dinesh Bagdi**– Director of Reis H.R. Service Private Limited

**Mrs. Nisha Jadhav**, VDA Infosolution Pvt. Ltd.

Jasudben M. L. School, JamnabaiNarsee School

Bharti Varade, Goregaon Sports Club,

Prabodhan Krida Bhavan

Mr. Prabhakar Shetty, Landmark restaurant

Punarvas School for providing lodging and boarding for outstation school

Vasaribai Dagra School for transport

Match referees Mr. Nitin Parulekar

Mr. Hemant Joshi and team

Admin staff of AWMH Maharashtra for contributing success of this tournament

Mr. Madhav Bhalerao for taking care of outstation schools lodging and boarding

Head of the schools, Principals, P.E. teachers and coaches.All the competitors, participants and parents.Last but not the least a big thanks to all the well wishers for making this tournament a very successful one.







### Collection Drive:

Jamnabai Narsee School Principal has accepted our appeal of the collection drive by their students for AWMH Maharashtra. On the other hand Jasudben M. L. School has agreed for the collection drive by the students for the year 2024 – 25. Appeal for the same to be mail in the first week of April. As part of initial preparation for mega events like Cricket, Table Tennis and Basket Ball. On the weekend coaching program front we have started Basketball after the Cricket tournament to the students attending offline. Basketball and Table Tennis to the students attending virtually. At this moment twenty students are attending weekend coaching in person and five more are joining virtually.

### Our Coaching Programs

#### a) Online Dance Class:

We are conducting online dance class for our students every Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. To Begin with we started this class with the six students and now the number has reached to ten. The students are enjoying the class as they are learning dance on different songs. Some of our students have performed in a program arranged for the students with intellectual disability.

#### b) Carrom coaching program:

As soon as the students of Sports Recreation Centre return from summer vacation, we will start teaching them the different skills of carrom like setting up the board, gripping of the striker, significance of the coins, rules of queen etc.. This is the third year of the Carrom tournament organized by V. D. Indian Society which is scheduled to take place at the end of July 2024

#### c) Table Tennis coaching program:

AWMH Maharashtra Table Tennis Tournament will be held in the month of September 2024. To prepare the students for Table Tennis Tournament we will begin the training after the Carrom Tournament is concluded

#### d) Cricket Coaching program:

We will begin preparing the students (boys and girls) in November for Cricket tournament scheduled at the end of January or in the first week of February 2025. We have started our session with Basketball for forty five minutes and remaining time students play Carrom. Students of the Weekend Training Program will be given Summer Vacation for two weeks, starting from 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 till 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024. They will resume on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024. We have our scheduled our sports calendar with various events for the year 2024-25

Sr. No.	Date	Competition	Hosted by
1	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Carrom Tournament	V. D. Indian Society
2	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2024	Table Tennis Tournament	AWMH Maharashtra
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024	World Disable Day Athletic Meet	Social Welfare & AWMH Maharashtra
4	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Jamnabai Narsee School Athletic Sports Meet	Jamnabai Narsee School
5	31 <sup>st</sup> January and 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	Cricket Tournament	AWMH Maharashtra

Circular for the competitions will be mailed to all the schools six week in advance. For Booking of competition venue Admin department will be mailing the request letter for booking of the ground 2 months in advance and follow up with the venue in charge.

## Budding Chef 2023-24

Besides Early Intervention and Sporting activities AWMH also organized Budding Chef Cooking Contest on the 09<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 and has been organized year after year except the turbulent pandemic years. The Idea behind this is to help people with Intellectual Disabilities to be as independent as possible. This year **56 Students** from **14 Schools** for Intellectually Disabled enthusiastically participated in the Budding Chef Cooking Contest 2023-24. They were given a time frame of 2 Hrs to prepare 2 dishes ie. One dessert and One Savory. Each School had a team of four students (consisting of both boys and girls) who got on to their task as soon as the time started and by the time the deadline ended they had their dishes ready to be presented & tasted. They were judged on the basis of Recipe, Presentation, serving and finally on cleanliness and clearing the work area.

The Judges **Chef Vidyadhar and Chef Sunil** visited all the respective cooking areas and patiently judged and gave scores after tasting each and every dish. They interacted with the contestants and had a small chat with all of them making them comfortable in the competitive atmosphere. A Big Thank you for their contribution in making this event a huge success. At the end of the contest the Judges had to say that it was very difficult for

them to go through the procedure of judging the dishes as all of them had given excellent performance and made their job tougher.

AWMH congratulates all the winners and their mentors who patiently taught them the required skills. It would be unfair if we don't appreciate the efforts of other participants who performed equally well but couldn't make it to the finishing line nevertheless we wish them best of luck for next year.

This year there was a bit of change in the prize distribution pattern this year prizes for most nutritious and innovative dish were also introduced. First Prize was won by **Holy Cross Convent Special School**, and their preparation was also adjudged the most nutritious dish. Second Prize was won by **Punarvas Special School** &

Third by **Om Creation Trust**. Preparation by **A K Munshi Yojana** was adjudged the most innovative dish

Prizes were distributed post the competition, with **Mr Dharaj Kotak** taking over as Master of Ceremony and with his humorous one liners and non-formal way of addressing the crowd had everyone glued to the proceedings. **Mr Vinod Kotak**, As usual a silent player behind the scenes did a wonderful job by arranging delicious snack boxes and refreshing soft drinks for all the attendees. Big Thank you to **Mr. Dhanraj** and **Mr Vinod** who took time off to participate in this event

Chief Guest for the Function was **Mrs Shruti Desai**, **President Innerwheel Club of Bombay West** who were also the sponsor of this event. And Guest of Honor was **Mrs. Sadhana Kharkar**, **HOD Food Production Rizvi College of Hotel Management and Catering Technology**. Office bearers **Mrs. Meena Parekh**, Hon. Secretary and **Mrs Nina Parikh**, Hon. Treasurer. MC members **Mrs Gauri Borkar** & **Mrs Maltiben Dedhia** also graced this occasion.

The event was efficiently coordinated by **Mr. Bernraf Dias**, Lecturer at Rizvi College who was a SPOC at Rizvi College for AWMH. He was the mainstay in arranging volunteers and supporting staff who ably assisted the contestants. A Big Thank you to the **volunteers and support staff** for their assistance

Special Thanks to **Mrs Gauri Borkar** for coordinating with Rizvi College and making this event a success and also for arranging the caps and aprons for the contestants. Last but not the least Admin Staff, Ms





Tanuja Shinde, Mr Dilip Somale, Mr Durgesh Koppikar & Mr Naresh Shinde also needs to be thanked for their contribution toward making this event a grand success. A Big Thank You to all the people who were involved in this event



## 1) Organizational

a) AWMH was invited by National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities–NIEPID) in May-23 for Campus interview of students passing out from **Dip Ed (Sp.Edn–Intellectual disabilities)** class in July 23. Two students **Ms. Savita Sutar & Ms. Akanksha Kharat** from NIEPID perusing D.Ed. were selected for Internship in AWMH. on 17<sup>th</sup> July 23 for six months internship.

Three PG Psychology students Interns recently completed their Internship of 120 Hrs with AWMH. They were from SNDT University. They started off on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb-24. They Reported at Khetwadi Centre and under guidance of Ms Rakhi Mahadik & Dr. Shital Fulzele completed their assignments by 11<sup>th</sup> April-24.

b) AGM for the year 2022-23 was held on **07<sup>th</sup> Oct-23**. During this meet Donors, Parents and all Staff and office bearers of AWMH were present for the event. Presentation on activities by EIRP & RAC was done. Some of the parent of children with ID also shared their experiences with AWMH and thanked the staff profusely

## 2) Governance

- a) After prolonged discussion amongst the MC Members it was decided to give a uniform 10% increase in 2023-24 to all employees of AWMH who have completed more than 6 months of service.
- b) The issue of Annual/ Diwali gift for employees of AWMH subject was discussed in detail and members expressing their opinion based on their experience in respective organizations. It was decided that the employees who have put in more than 6 months service in AWMH on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 23 be paid Rs 5000/- as one time festival gift amount. Above amount was paid along with October salary
- c) Updation of List of Residential centre for Persons with Intellectual disabilities is under process. This list basically consists of centres which take care of individuals who are 18+ and are with Intellectual Disabilities
- d) We are in talks with **The Dean of JJ Hospital, Dr.(Mrs) Pallavi Saple** for setting up a new EI centre in their premises. JJ Hospital also was receptive to our proposal as we did operate one EI centre where we had a very useful and valued partnership with their Pediatric Wards for providing Early Intervention Care and Therapy to affected infants and children.
- e) List of Active & Passive members' register of AWMH Maharashtra has been prepared. This is normally prepared before AGM of that FY
- f) This year AWMH went in for a new EIRP folder featuring all important points related to identifying and helping children with delayed milestone. New Brochure was presented before the Committee members for their inputs or any changes that were required. Also it was decided the brochure would be translated in Marathi for better reach amongst parents and other stake holders.

## 3) Financial

- a) AWMH has received Section 12AB & 80G renewal of approval from IT dept.
- b) Data for 10BD was prepared for all donors for FY 2022-23.
- c) Annual audit for the FY 2022-23 was completed and signed off by statutory auditor with satisfactory report. And the same was shared during the meeting with other MC members.
- d) IT and FCRA Returns have been completed for the Year 2023-24
- e) Currently AWMH invests in only Fixed Deposits (FDs) It was decided to go for other investments like Public Bonds of good standing to earn higher returns for AWMH.

## 5. Capacity Building

AWMH had its 500th board meeting on Monday 31st July 2023. The meeting was devoted to developing AWMH vision for the next 20 years along with a road map on how to achieve.

## 6. Pune Land Case.

Due to challenges in maintaining the Pune Land it was decided that we sell off the land and the proceeds of the sale is put to a good use thereby benefitting our institution. Prior to that we had invited three bids for the sale as per rules and regulations on the **Hon. Charity Commissioners Office**. Meanwhile process of Land acquisition by PMRDA is already in its initial stages and unanimously it was decided that we should not proceed with the sale of land as it was expected that the sale to PMRDA Dept. would fetch a desired amount benefiting us

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