

**Project** - Samutkarsha Community Learning Center - After school learning center for underprivileged children in Shree Krushna Colony 'basti'(settlement). Sponsored by CHANCE Foundation, MN USA. Managed on site by Seva Sahayog Foundation & Volunteers, Pune India

**Location:** Shree Krushna Colony, Kothrud Pune – India

**Inauguration:** Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Inaugurated by CHANCE Foundation founding member Jaydeep Kulkarni. Attended & managed by Seva Sahayog Volunteers.

**About the project:**

**CHANCE** Foundation had announced this project at their launch event on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, as the first one that they wished to fulfill. Through UMANG – A musical evening, conducted on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2015, CHANCE Foundation was able to raise enough funds to kick start this project as promised before the end of this year.

This sustainable study center model, sponsored by CHANCE Foundation, is created to help underprivileged children, primarily living in slum conditions, to provide after school resources for continuing with education and life experiences. The objective is to provide a conducive environment for studying, guidance, support and space for these children to continue to learn and to continue to remain in school. The goal is to provide a safe, healthy environment which not only helps with schooling but also with overall personality development. Events, camps and educational field trips will also be a part of their everyday growth and experiences.

The center or "Abhyasika" (studyroom) is a small, rented 10' x 10' room, right in the middle of this 'basti'(community/settlement), providing easy access to all the enrolled 50 plus children. These children will attend in small batches. This room has basic amenities such as electricity, chalk board, cupboard and some stationery to begin with. Classes are now in full swing with two extremely dedicated teachers, an operations manager, a full-time coordinator and several volunteers and volunteer families.

**Inauguration:**

CHANCE Foundation was represented by Jaydeep Kulkarni, CHANCE Treasurer and founding member, at the inauguration of the center, on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> in Pune, India. The teachers and children had decorated the entrance with traditional auspicious rangoli (sand art). The 'deep' lighting ceremony was held in a nearby gym to accommodate all the children and volunteers at once, and was followed by worshipping a photo of 'Bharat mata' (Mother India). The actual ribbon cutting ceremony then took place at the center. It was followed by some very enthusiastic and enriching interaction between the children and Jaydeep. The teachers, Jaydeep and Seva Sahayog volunteers actively participated in explaining the purpose and working format of the Abhyasika to the children, parents and other volunteers. This was followed by some light snacks and social interaction with all those present for the event.

Jaydeep came back with a lot of humble memories and a beautiful and inspiring souvenir of the kids' colorful handprints and some photographs that they presented him on his second visit to the center.

**CHANCE recognizes the Heroes at this center– A big Thank you to you all!**

Shailesh: who is seva Sahyog's fulltime operations Manager, has quit his fulltime job a year ago and is doing this fulltime. He is now a part of the management chain at Seva Shayog.

Bapu - who is the fulltime co-ordinator of a cluster of such study centers in this part of Pune city, is now responsible for operations of about 9 of these study centers. He is with Seva Sahayog for 6+ years and has been part of Samutkarsha program from day one. He himself has grown up in one such community and now has a degree in social work and fully committed to helping the kids.

Atul: A dedicated Seva Sahyog volunteer and primary contact for CHANCE foundation.

The teachers: they are two young volunteers from the 'basti' itself and very committed to the upliftment of these children.

Volunteers: Last but not the least, all the volunteers and volunteer families who dedicate their precious time and efforts in helping CHANCE foundation to bring about the difference and work towards achieving the goal of empowerment of these children.