

# Annual Report – 2006 to 2007

## 1. About Identity Foundation

Identity Foundation (E-3981-Pune) is a charitable trust registered with the office of the Charity Commissioner of Pune. Identity Foundation has been working with underprivileged children since September 2003. It is a not for profit organisation without any political and religious affiliations.

### 1.1. Vision Statement

We, the members of Identity Foundation, our friends, supporters and partners envision a society that respects human rights, especially the rights of children. We envision a society that ensures a safe, secure, stable and healthy childhood with an opportunity for education and development for every child.

### 1.2. Objectives

- To work towards creating access to formal education systems for underprivileged children and provide opportunities for alternative education.
- To partner with the formal education system to provide access to quality education to children.
- To make available medical aid to children and provide linkages and establish networks for referral services to ensure that the health needs of children are met.
- To provide opportunities for vocational training and life skills education for children and youth.
- To protect children from various forms of abuse.

## 2. Programmes

Identity Foundation's work focuses on children from underprivileged backgrounds and concentrated on children belonging to migrant communities (referred to as street children)<sup>1</sup> till now. Over the past one year Identity Foundation has expanded its programmes to work with children from slum areas who also belong to the lower socio-economic strata. The information regarding Identity Foundation's programmes is presented below.

### 2.1. Non Formal Education (NFE) and Life Skill Education (LSE) Programme

Identity Foundation believes that all children should be attending formal schools and the NFE and LSE programme is a bridge for these children to be geared to attend formal schools. The NFE and LSE programme aims at creating the interest of children in education and building their capacities so that they become self-confident and self-reliant. The NFE and LSE programme aims at creating the interest of children in education and creating awareness among parents about the need for education through regular meetings with them.

<sup>1</sup> **The United Nations definition of a street child is:**

"Any girl or boy ...for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwelling and wastelands etc.) has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood; and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adult."

Note: Street children may or may not have a family to go back to i.e. they may be orphaned, abandoned or destitute and be completely on their own or they may have some contact with their families or they may be staying with their families.

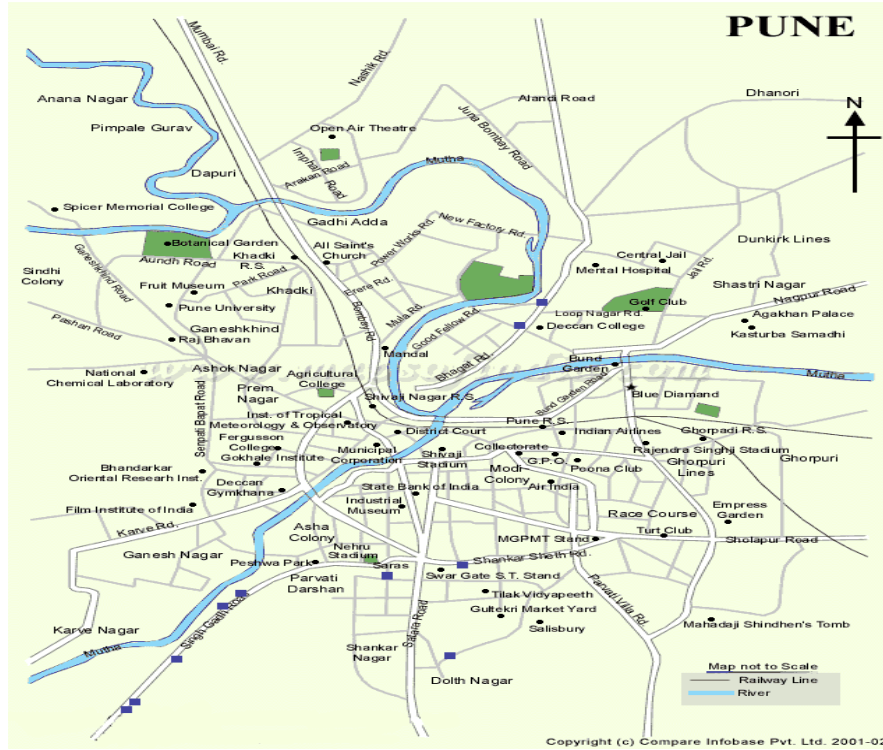


Under this programme Identity Foundation conducts classes/sessions with these children everyday (Monday – Friday). Children in the age group of 4 to 13 years attend these classes. These sessions teach our children basic reading and writing skills, maths, general knowledge, creative activities like art, craft, music, etc. A lot of games and activities are used to work with these children and reach out to the varied age group.

Regular trainings are organised for the teachers on the topics such as making different kinds of teaching aids, creative activities, teaching methodologies, working with children, etc. This year the following trainings were organised for the teachers:

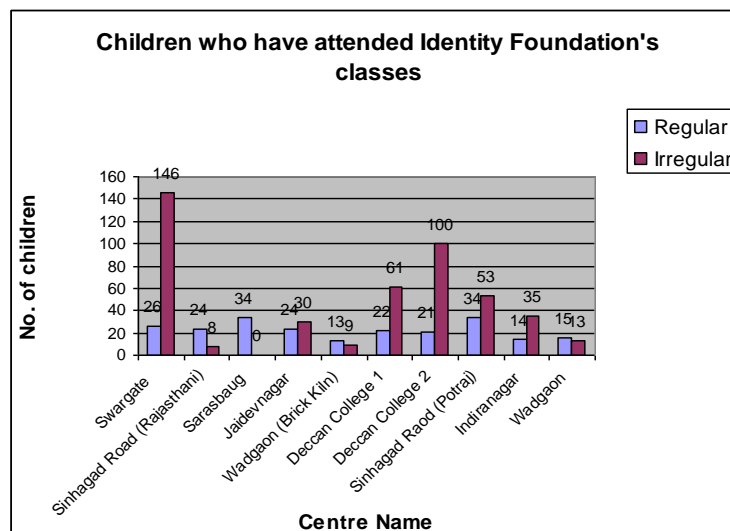
- songs and stories
- handling field level problems of children
- maths and language development for pre-school children

During the year 2006 – 2007 Identity Foundation worked with 10 different communities in Pune city. The following map shows the locations at which Identity Foundation conducted its NFE and LSE programme. The dark blue squares indicate the locations of the centres.

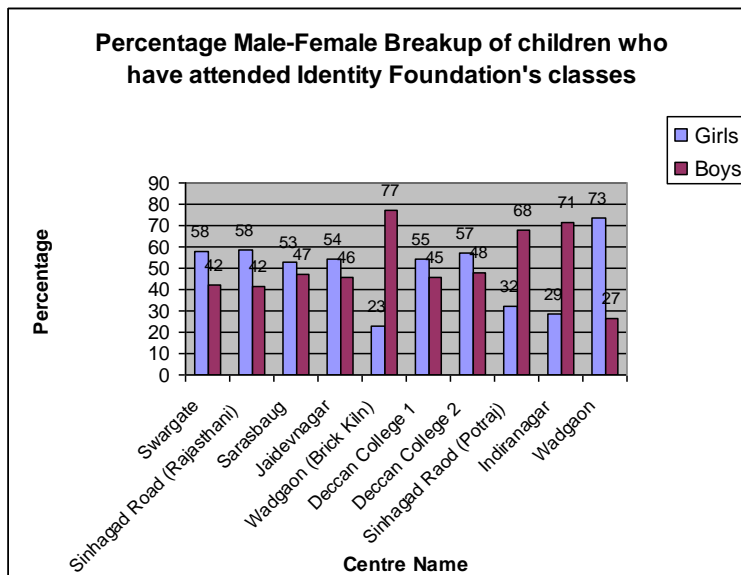


In March 2007, it was decided that children studying at the various centres of Identity Foundation would appear for the external examination conducted by the Education Department of the Municipal Corporation for the first and second grade. The exams were to be held in April 2007. Accordingly the teachers prepared the children so that they could appear for the examination. Also this year 2 children were admitted in the PMC schools.

As per the records maintained with Identity Foundation, this year 227 children attended the NFE and the LSE classes regularly. Identity Foundation also maintains a record of the children who have not attended the classes regularly. The number of children who have not attended the classes regularly is 455 and thus signifies the high nature of movement within this population. Given below is the statistical data about the children who have attended Identity Foundation's classes.



Graph No. 1 shows the number children who have attended Identity Foundation's classes at its different centres.



Graph No. 2 gives the percentage male-female break-up of children who have attended Identity Foundation's classes

Challenges met with during the course of our work with these children have been enumerated below:

- Priority is accorded to work over education
- Adapting education to the real needs of the children
- Very high rate of migration
- Taking care of siblings
- Non-availability of space to conduct classes.
- Non-cooperation of parents or guardians wherever present
- The varied age group of children

## 2.2. School Library Programme

As part of Identity Foundation's effort of reaching out to underprivileged children, Identity Foundation has been conducting the School Library Programme (SLP) in two Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) Schools. Children attending the government schools come from economically weaker sections of the society. Their only exposure to education and information about the outside world is through the schools. The only printed material available to them in the schools is their textbooks and hence this exposure is also limited. Based on the above background, Identity Foundation decided to start this project in the PMC schools. Through this programme it is reaching out to about 300 children in two schools belonging to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.



**Objectives:**

- Developing reading skills of children.
- Inculcating reading habits.
- Child development through stimulating the child's capacities.
- Encouraging children's participation in all activities.

A team of animators (referred to as “book fairies”) carry a large range of books with them to the school during the school hours and assist the children between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade in reading them. The book fairies go to each class once a week for one hour. The participation of the school authorities and the teachers is also drawn in the programme. Before starting the actual programme the children are assessed by conducting the reading ability test (pre-test) and divided in groups as per their reading capacities. The book fairies distribute relevant books to each child. Attention is paid towards each child and the child is supported in his/her learning process. The book fairies use interactive language games to conduct reading and writing activities with the children and take them to the next reading level. Different forms of media such as songs, story telling, games, puppets, crosswords, etc. are used to make the activities more interesting.

Identity Foundation conducted the School Library Programme from December 2006 to March 2007. There has been a significant change in the reading abilities of the children (The change in the reading abilities cannot be singularly attributed to the reading classes only. The reading classes along with their regular classes assist in developing the reading skills of children). The following graphs show this change in reading levels of the children in the two schools. The pre-test and the post-test conducted in the schools help us measure this change in level.

Standard	Dec 2006				Mar 2007			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Incomplete Alphabets	42	24	13	6	34	3	5	0
Alphabets Complete	3	7	9	4	5	8	2*	0*
Matras Complete	3	7	7	4	8	22	15	10
Composite letters and words	0	3	2	6	0	2*	2	5*
Reading	0	3	4	9	1	9	11	14
Absent (throughout the year)	0	2	2	1	0	2	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>30</b>

Table No. 1: Change in reading levels of the children for school no. 65 (Dec 2006 to Mar 2007)

Standard	Dec 2006				Mar 2007			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV

Incomplete Alphabets	27	4	4	0	22	1	1	0
Alphabets Complete	2	7	14	3	4	<b>2*</b>	<b>0*</b>	<b>0*</b>
Matras Complete	0	17	10	3	3	<b>13*</b>	19	3
Composite letters and words	0	4	5	5	0	<b>7</b>	10	<b>2*</b>
Reading	0	12	6	14	0	12	9	20
Absent (throughout the year)	9	2	0	0	9	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>

Table No. 2: Change in reading levels of the children for school no. 65 B (Dec 2006 to Mar 2007)

It can be seen that there has been a decrease in the number of children who fall in the category of incomplete alphabets in the month march. In the other categories we see that the number of children have increased in March thus implying that there has been a change in the reading levels.

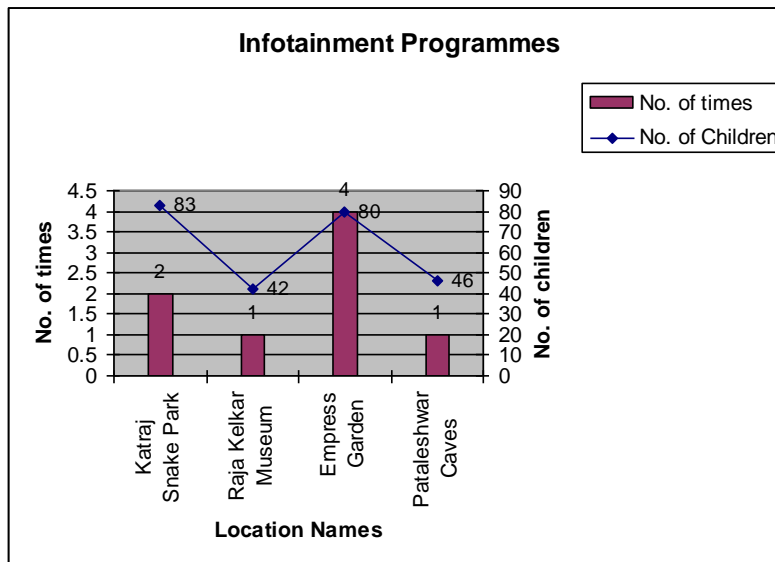
(Some figures are marked in bold with an \* - one observes the number in these columns in March 2007 have reduced compared to the corresponding column in December 2006. This is because they have moved to the next reading level)

Detailed report available for further reference.



### 2.3. Infotainment Programme

Identity Foundation organises activities like field trips, movie screenings, picnics, sports-days, etc., for these children to provide opportunities for overall social, emotional, physical, mental, moral and creative development. This allows Identity Foundation to spend quality time with the children and to create a healthy physical and emotional environment.



Graphs No. 3 gives an overview of the programmes organised for the children during this year

On 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007 the children from all the centres were brought together and a magic show was organised for them. In all 85 children participated in this event. The children thoroughly enjoyed the magic show.

This year for the celebration of Children’s Day on 14<sup>th</sup> November some of our children joined about 800 children of construction labourers at the Empress Garden. They splashed colours on a 325-foot cloth, enjoyed a magic show and a puppet show which was followed by a sumptuous lunch. Our children had a wonderful time playing in the children’s area too!! Children from many NGO’s participated in this programme. The event was organised by ‘Promoters’ and Builders’ Association of Poona.

## 2.4. Mobile Learning Centre

The process of setting up a Mobile Learning Centre programme was initiated this year (the actual programme was launched in April 2007). As mentioned earlier most of the children that Identity Foundation works with belong to communities that have migrated to the Pune city in search of livelihood. These communities live on the streets and do not have access to a proper shelter. The classes with these children are conducted in whatever space that is available i.e. they may be conducted on the roadside, under a tree or in the huts of these families. During monsoons and summers, it becomes very difficult to conduct classes for our children because of the lack of covered space. In most locations where these communities live, there are usually no covered spaces (rooms) which can be hired and even if there are, people are not ready to rent them out for these children. The floating nature of this population makes it difficult for the organization to invest in any permanent infrastructure. Looking at this scenario it was felt necessary to set up a Mobile Learning Centre Facility to be able to cater to the needs of the children.



The Mobile Learning Centre will serve as class rooms for our children where there is absolutely no space to conduct the classes as well as double up for an infotainment centre. This Centre will ensure continuity of the programmes and make our programmes even more significant. The Mobile Learning Centre Facility is also available to other organisations working with children.

## 3. Other Activities

### 3.1. Health programme related activities

A health camp was organised by CII and Yi at the Jaidevnagar Centre and the Sinhagad Road (Potraj) Centre covering a total of 57 children. The major problems that came forth were that of anaemia, vitamin deficiencies and skin infections. The medicines were distributed by Yi.

An aids awareness session was held at the Deccan College Centre which was attended by about 45-50 parents. This was conducted Avinash Chakranarayan of Deep Griha Sanstha. He used stories and posters to convey the message.

Discussions are still going on to create a health programme which will be sustainable and scalable.



## 4. Future Plans

### 4.1. Mobile Learning Centre Expansion

In Identity Foundation's effort of reaching out to underprivileged children the Mobile Learning Centre Programme will be expanded to creating another such centre to reach to more children effectively.

### 4.2. ERC (Educational Resource Center)

In the coming years Identity Foundation will set up a Education Resource Center. The center's objective will be to create a digital platform which promotes the sharing and enhancing of teaching aids, learning aids and other educational resources between actors involved in a child's development from parents, teachers, schools, NGO's etc.

### 4.3. Health Programme

This year Identity Foundation has been unsuccessful in creating a sustainable health programme. But in the coming year, in partnership with Yi, the Health Programme will be implemented.

## 5. Fund Utilisation

A separate document of financial reporting will be published by the foundation. To maintain Transparency and accountability, our accounts are audited and validated by an external Accounting Practice of Kamdar and Co.

## 6. Donors

We have received consistent support from several individuals and Corporates who have believed in us and supported the various initiatives of Identity Foundation's to address the needs of underprivileged children.

### Corporate Donors

Advik Hitech Pvt. Ltd  
Bhoruka Jet  
IKF  
IndiaCo Ventures Pvt. Ltd.  
Instragem Consulting Pvt. Ltd  
ITB  
Jetline Corrugated Boxes Pvt. Ltd  
Polybond Group of Industries  
Surya Real Estate  
TietoEnator  
Zensar