



Apne Aap Women's Collective

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About AAWC

Mission: To provide a caring and supportive platform of wholesome services to help women, girls and children in the Red Light Area make choices for a dignified and better quality life.”

Vision: “To provide the tools and resources for empowerment to trafficked brothel-based prostitutes, their daughters, and other marginalized girls and children in Mumbai’s Red Light District, and to prevent the cycle of intergenerational prostitution.”



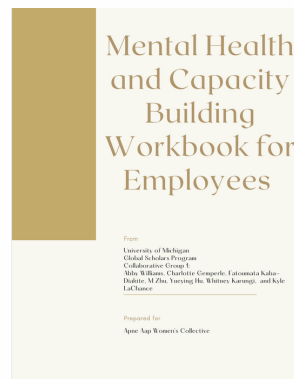
Background

Apne Aap Women's Collective is an anti-sex trafficking organization founded in 1998, based in the Red-Light district of Mumbai, India. AAWC works both with women involved in prostitution and their daughters in order to empower the next generation to obtain valuable skills and well-paid jobs, escape the cycle of intergenerational prostitution, and ultimately help bring their mothers out of prostitution as well.

What We Accomplished

Our work with Apne Aap focused on two main projects: lesson plans on mental health strategies for children and a mental health and a capacity building workbook for employees.

Lesson Plans: We created lesson plans for the staff to teach the children various mental health topics including anxiety, depression, concentration and self care. Through these plans, we provided different activities for the children to learn about these difficult mental health topics.



Workbook: During the second semester, we focused on constructing a mental health and capacity building workbook for employees to help apne aap educate their employees about mental health subjects and increase capacity building amongst the organization.

Learning Outcomes & Reflections

Professional Skills: Our project allowed us to adapt and overcome the challenges of working in an international and intercultural setting. Throughout the year, we became more accustomed to different styles of communication and the logistics of scheduling around a large time zone gap. Through research and assignments, we came to understand the critical global issue of human rights tracking and further learned the skills needed to engage with an NGO in addressing this issue to ultimately eradicate it.



Personal Reflections: Working with Apne Aap was a wonderful experience that offered us many personal experiences and skills like meeting so many amazing and inspirational workers within the NGO, as well as the children who go to school through Apne Aap's programs. In writing and producing our work, we learned to think more deeply about cultural sensitivity and the importance of clear communication with our CG members, CGFs, Clary and the AAWC supervisor, Sneha Mahajan.