

## **Dreamland A home for the children in need of care and protection.**

### ***Dream Land.***

In 1980 the organization started Dreamland, A home for the children in need of care and protection, in Kerwadi village in Parbhani district. Maharashtra. It is the first children home in the region. Since last 42 years, dreamland Steve's to provide institutional care to orphan and destitute children. The main thrust is to ensure overall development of children who are deprived of normal childhood rights. We are serving 70 children here at Dreamland.

we are proud to mention that, Dreamland is one of the best Children home in the state Maharashtra. We have received "Center of excellence" award in 2020 by Miracle foundation. (India- US)

### **1. The concept.**

Dreamland is a concept for wellbeing of children. Dreamland is a comprehensive, creative space for destitute children coming from poor or broken families. The children are provided with "HOME", residential facilities to pursue their future with dignity and confidence with hope and passion for life.

Two types of children are admitted here, those who have no one to take care of them, or those who cannot be taken care of by their mother or father. Children from 6 years to 18 years stay here in Swapnbhumi. We take care of 70-80 children in total. Some children live at dreamland, some are out for higher education.

Government grants are available to raise these children, but it is still meager. Rs.2000/ for each child per month. And this is for everything in it. That means child care-food-living, clothing-sickness-education and all the development of children, as well as the staff required for this work...all in this two thousand. But we are spending at least Rs.6000/ per month for each child to do all this.

We meet this cost by collecting donations from people. And Children's development is not just about living and eating. It required a lot more than that. Good quality counselors are needed, good quality education system is needed, coaching system is needed to play various sports. Children need loving companions to take care of them. Apart from this, there are huge expenses like, expenses for higher education of children, construction, necessary equipment etc.

### **2. Working for children from villages**

Swapnabhoomi is not limited to only 50-60 children or only Kerwadi. Dreamland is a concept for wellbeing of children. As mentioned earlier, It is a project, in which there is a system to help the needy boys and girls. Many villages in the area do not have schools after 7th grade. Hence the education of students from poor families likely to discontinue, especially girls. Parents do not want to send 14-year-old girls outside the village for education. We have to support such boys and girls to continue their education.

### **Support for higher education (extension of Dreamland)**

At the same time, there are several children in around villages, of poor families, who have completed 10th-12th standard and if we do not help them for further education, it will be difficult for them to go for higher studies. So it is necessary to help them for further education. **All such boys and girls are considered under dream land project.**

At present we are supporting 10 girls and 15 boys for college education-graduate and post graduate studies in Pune, as well 11 boys also are studding in ITI in Parbhani district.

There are many boys and girls from the surrounding villages, and it is difficult for them to complete their education if we do not help them. We want to help all such boys and girls to continue and complete their education. We need support from corporations -foundation to help these students.

So under Dreamland, swapnbhumi project, we are supporting several boys and girls of poor families for schooling as well as for higher education.

### **3. Direct Causes:**

1. Availability of education.

We mainly work in Palam taluka of Parbhani district, the most deprived block of the state.

#### Availability of schooling, at a glance.

1. In this block of 92 villages, 16 of these villages have schools only up to 4th.std.
2. There are 49 villages, having schools from 1st to 5th.only.
3. There are schools from 1st to 7th std, in 3 villages only.
4. schools up to 10th std in 13 villages.
5. And schools up to 12th std is in 11 villages.

In 49 villages school is available up to sth std. at age 12-13 children have to move to outside villages to continue their education. Here 30-35% girls dropout from schools. In total from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> std there is 70% drop out of the girls, and even 40% drop out of boys too.

Parents are reluctant to send girl out of village for education.

2. People list bother about Act/laws:

In India, legally it is forbidden for girls to marry below the age of 18. But it happens often. Dowry system is forbidden long back, but still is practiced.

In our opinion the gap between law and daily practice for a great deal is caused due to lack of triggers and stimuli that make people think independently. Plus we need to stimulate the capacities to think independently and creatively. For us these are the tools that people can use to influence an inequality-oriented culture into a more equality based one.

### **3. Social inequality**

In this area the sex ratio of children under the 6 year is as bad as 884: 1000. Statistics count almost 12% less girls than boys. Adolescent girls, as seen from a thesis written after study amongst youth in two project areas, really fear their future as married women, but at the same time feel absolutely powerless to influence this future. "An investment in girls is seen as an investment in someone else's family. "Many people in rural India see women as a commodity".

We consider this unacceptable.

### **4. The approach**

The **multi focused** plans that we developed together will be subject of change and growth but they all are based upon learning by exposure.

We want to make serious attempts to change that situation. We all are aware that this is a rather ambitious target.

Girls and boys, men and women are equally important actors when we discuss equality. We see the need for all to make all young people understand that the differences between girls and boys should not be in the way of their equal rights.

We expect that the approach not only will be an important step forward on the path to reach gender equality, but will help diminish other expressions of inequality as well. And of course better thinking capacities will help the development of the area in terms of material progress as well.

We started our work to make parents interest in the need of education for their children, and making them aware about their responsibilities in the process. . Now we are facing the challenges of new steps.

We are already discussing this issue of education with children and their parents. them. We are motivating the girls "not to marry earlier". And so go for higher education. Hundreds of girls are motivated and tempted to go for college education, for higher studies. We have good relations with their parents too. We are motivating their parents to give permission to their daughters for higher studies. Here we have to prepare to support them – who so required. In future we have to expand our limits and ready to support hundreds of such students for their bright future.

### **5. Programs - activities:**

1. Providing best quality coaching and counseling for the children in Dreamland.
2. Arranging best quality teachers to teach them, in house and on-line.
3. Arranging exposure for the children of Dreamland.

4. Arranging accommodation and guidance in study at city level for higher education, for Dreamland children and children from the community.
5. Motivating girls and boys for higher education.
6. Convincing their parents to send children outside for higher education..
7. Conducting training of children in
  - Thinking.
  - Expression.
  - Articulation.
  - Improvement in English learning for all students.

English learning is big problem in rural area. No good teachers and no supporting atmosphere is there. There is fear in everybody’s mind about this and so its considered “difficult subject for all”. We need to facilitate them through books, computer CDs and software etc for better English learning.

- **Computer use in study– digital school.**

7.1. Distance learning- use of internet

We should take advantage of modern developed technologies. Several software are available for studies, experts guidance is possible at distance through video and CDs and conference etc.

8. **Vocational training.**

As education system is not adequate to acquire any skill for livelihood. And now according to the new education policy, We need to create opportunity for young children to learn any suitable trade. May be we ourselves can start vocational training center and can use others training centers too.

9. **Sports and arts.**

In schools playing is considered as west of time. In fact sports have very essential and related with education. (UNICEF has published a document showing importance of sports in education). We have planned to develop a “Sport complex” at Dreamland. Fortunately we have a acre land adjoining to our residential area.

We need to aware parents and teachers to promote sports and cultural activities to improve quality of education in schools.

Budget for Dreamland, and community children.

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1	We need funds for higher studies for the children from community, those passing 10 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> exam with good marks. We plan to shift them to Pune in best colleges. Every year there are 50-60 girls and boys students to go. @rs.10000/p.m.x 12=1,20,000x50 = 60,00,000	60,00,000	Yearly.
2	we need better playground and sports equipment. Fortunately, we have a acre of land adjoining to residential building. We can convert that in playground. Also funds for better coaching personals.  Conduct sports competition in 20 villages.	6,00,000  5,00,000	Once  yearly
3	We need additional construction for boys of Dreamland.  2500sq.ft. @ rs.2500 = 62,50,000 + electrification and bed beddings for children.	70,00,000	Once.
4	We need a bus for transporting our children to the school-at one k.m. distance.	40,00,000	Once
5	We need funds for school building. 12 rooms. @625/sq.ft. @ rs.2500/ 18.75 Furniture and benches. Smart TVs. 7 no. Books for library and others	18,75,000 8,00,000 8,00,000 4,00,000	Once
6	Counseling for children. 10 visits each visit Rs.10,000/	1,00,000	Yearly
7	Teaching different subjects/ issues. In community	2,00,000	Yearly
8	Training	2,00,000	Yearly
9	English learning (Including community)	2,00,000	Yearly
10	Computer training(Teacher in Dreamland)	3,50,000	Yearly
11	Vocational training. (Individual placements) @rs.25,000/ each x 100 students.	25,00,000	Yearly
12	And of course, funds for daily expenses. @ 6000/ x 70 = 50,40,000	50,00,000	yearly

As already mentioned earlier, in future we have to arrange for more children, the economic condition of some families is really very bad. They live in “abject poverty”.

Nothing is available for their children to grow-properly. We have to look to such children and support them to grow in proper manner.

Needs and demands are unlimited. But we are sure, we all together can change life of several children, to live them with love and dignity.

**Specialty.**

Dreamland is not just a center to provide shelter for needy children. Its unique in nature, it's a dream of wellbeing of children.

The premises is beautiful, but the founder and Executive director /his wife are staying with the children in same building, since its inception. Even the core team members of the organization are also staying in the campus with children. So it is like extended family of 100 people. So several celebrations are don with the whole family of 100 members.

Here every child's needs are carefully attended, and support is extended in the best interest of the child. We always try to create a home-like atmosphere in dreamland. Pass out children are visiting dreamland with their wife and children, whenever they want to visit. It is considered always that they can stay at dreamland as long they want . so we keep relations with past inmates.

We have created an environment that makes any outsider feel very good and very satisfied after coming to dreamland. We care our children at the most, we want to keep them happy and cheerful always.

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