

***HAPPY!***

***HEALTHY!***

***RESPONSIBLE!***

***The APSA Sexual Health Intervention  
Programme for Teenage Street and Slum Children***



# The APSA Sexual Health Intervention Programme for Teenage Street and Slum Children

An Evidence-Based and Comprehensive Programme to Reduce High-Risk Sexual Behaviours and Promote Healthy Sexual Development in Street & Slum Children in India

## THE ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

\* Fun! \*

\* Practical \*

\* Evidence-Based \* \* Easy-to-Use \*

\* Targeted \*

\* Comprehensive / Thorough \*

\* Broad / Wide-ranging \*

\* Intensive \*

\* Personal - Human \*

\* Open-minded \*

\* Flexible / Adjustable \*

\* Creative / Interactive \*

\* Positive \*

## THE NEED FOR A SEXUAL HEALTH INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

Research studies show that many Indian street and slum teenagers frequently engage in high-risk sexual behaviours. For many children as young as 14 or 15, regular sexual contact of various kinds, with partners ranging from peers on the street to commercial sex workers or adult customers, is the norm rather than the exception. To some of these children sex merely serves survival needs; to many however, sex also is a pleasurable escape from the stresses of living in the street.

With an estimated HIV prevalence of 1.5% in South India already, it is evident that street children are extremely vulnerable to contracting HIV. In addition, many street boys and girls experience sexual abuse, and many street girls below the age of 16 become pregnant. Clearly, something needs to be done to promote healthy sexual development in street children. But **what**, and **how**?

## USING IN-DEPTH RESEARCH TO BUILD THE INTERVENTION

From 1999 to 2002 three in-depth research studies on the sexual lives of street boys and street girls were conducted in Bangalore, India. These studies provided a wealth of information on the psychological and sociological aspects that influence the children's sexual risk-taking. Using these research results – together with the knowledge from international 'best practices' and the international literature – an intensive Sexual Health Intervention Program, specifically targeted to the special life circumstances and psychologies of Street and Slum Children, was started in 2002.

## OUR APPROACH TO SEXUAL HEALTH INTERVENTION

# YES!

- Discuss the children's individual personalities, patterns of thinking and feeling about themselves, as well as their attitudes towards life.
- Discuss the ways in which children feel, think and behave with regard to sex.
- Raise self-awareness.
- Motivate positive change.
- Take Time! Change needs time. A broad variety of activities from which to develop a process-oriented intervention program.
- Promote Well-being.
- Work on ALL the elements that affect the children's sexual behaviours.

# HEALTHY!

# HAPPY!

# NO!

- Not only giving information on HIV/AIDS
- Not simply telling them about the risks
- Not throwing moralistic stories at them

### Description of the *Children's Activities Workbook*

- A practical guide.
- Oriented towards the very specific (sexual) life situations of street and 'out-of-school' slum children.
- With descriptions of many creative activities and games as well as in-depth discussion and counselling schedules.
- With detailed suggestions on how to conduct each and every activity.
- Activities for both small group (maximum fifteen participants) and individual sessions.
- Providing the tools to build your 'own' intervention program.

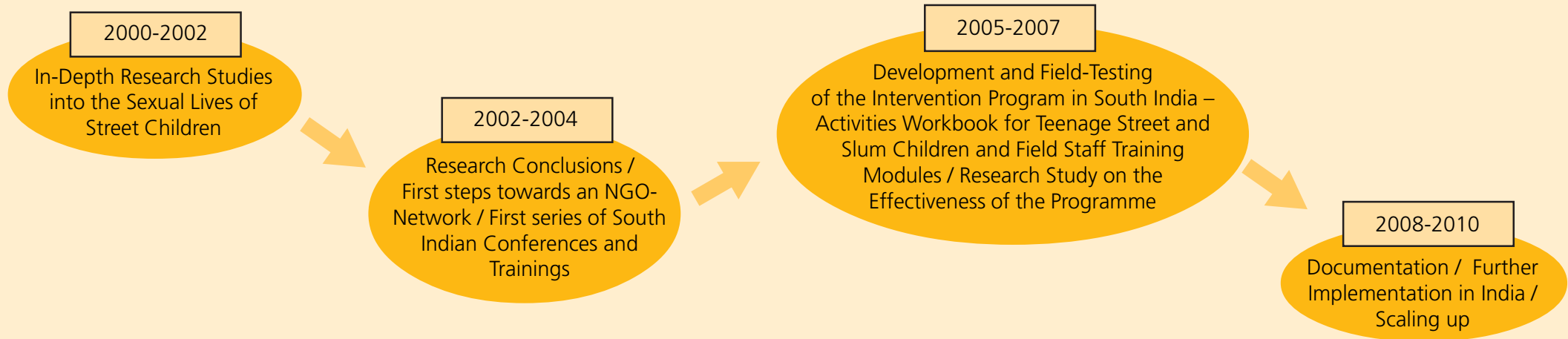
### Description of the accompanying *Staff Training*

Accompanying the workbook, an intensive training programme is being developed for professionals who work directly with street and slum children.

- Building comfort, confidence and skills in working on issues of sexuality and sexual health.
- Guidelines and exercises on how to use the activities described in the workbook.
- Strategies to discuss highly sensitive issues like sexuality, sexual development, risk-taking behaviour and psychology with teenagers.
- Ideas on how to work best with this special target group.

# RESPONSIBLE!

# PROJECT TIMELINE



Project Website  
**[www.streetkids-SRH.org](http://www.streetkids-SRH.org)**

## **An initiative of:**

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