

**Bal Mukul (Bal- Gopal) - Reaching children in need
(Quality care programme for CLHIV by GAP)**

Balmukul programme was launched by GAP in early 2010. The genesis of this programme lies in the need felt by GAP during the course of home visits. It realized the need to have a holistic approach for care, support and treatment of CLHIV. Accordingly, GAP launched a programme known as Bal Mukul(Bal Gopal).

As a part of quality care programme for PLHA, GAP has been conducting 'Home visits' in the rural areas of Sabarkantha and in the slum areas of Ahmedabad. During the course of these visits, GAP established contact with 136 CLHIV (Children Living with HIV and AIDS). Around 60% of these children were either orphans or semi-orphans. They are staying with their grandparents or relatives. GAP observed some gaps and weaknesses in the care and treatment of these children. GAP also observed the need to create greater awareness among care takers.

Through home visits, GAP monitored status regarding the physical and mental health, growth and also provided pediatric counseling services. Through this GAP was able to motivate care takers to register CLHIV at ART centers for obtaining free medicines.

GAP seeks participation of the public at large to make people aware of issues concerning children living with HIV/AIDS and pregnant mothers who are diagnosed as HIV positive. Through this campaign GAP appeals to the masses to come forward to adopt CLHIV for providing them nutritional, educational, health and hygiene support. GAP intends to take the responsibility of CLHIV from 0-18 years for providing them total quality care.

GAP intends to reach more CLHIV in need through this programme.....