

not more than two cases have been solved," she adds.

"In some cases, people took their complaints back because they were called to the police

In some cases, people took their complaints back because they were called to the police station but not provided any solution.

ANUBHA SINGHI, resident

on our complaint and now we have even lost hope of recovering the valuables."

The residents say absence of any security measures has emboldened the burglars.

"Police patrolling is done regularly but it is not possible to build a police post in every colony as we do not have the workforce," says AR Singh, beat officer.

"On their part, the residents can freely visit the area police station and report a case. They will not face any problems whatsoever," he adds.

side is used for parking by the civic agency, not much emphasis is laid on its upkeep. From morning until the market remains open, the vehicles remain parked on the pavements creating more trouble."

ONE CAN SEE MOUNDS OF MUD LYING ON THE ROADSIDE COVERING THE PAVEMENTS COMPLETELY.

maintained properly. Since walking on these pavements is uncomfortable one prefers taking the longer route to enter the market."

The shopkeepers have approached the civic agency several times but they have not been provided either with a concrete reply or a solution.

"The maintenance of the market is under one agency and the parking falls under the other. Ultimately, it is the shopkeepers and the visitors to the market who face the problems," says Sareen.



Pavements are meant to facilitate pedestrian movement, but here they obstruct it.

NARESH MALIK, visitor

Giving them wings to fly

Darima Wabra

#palitaonline@rediffmail.com

Sahas was a dream that Sunita Palita nurtured for many years. Even while working with Deepalaya, a non-government organisation that works for the well-being of urban and rural poor with a special focus on children, Palita always wanted to go a step further. She wanted to provide a place for children where she could nurture and instill confidence in them. Thus, she formed Sahas and started running the operations from a Jangta flat in Sarita Vihar.

"It has been almost two decades. The idea of starting from a Jangta flat was to involve as many children as possible from the unauthorised colonies surrounding Sarita Vihar. There are many bright children in these houses but because they do not have the guidance, they never realise their true potential," says Palita.

Children who came to Sahas very young, who had no knowledge of alphabets or numbers, grew into intelligent girls and boys as they were groomed under the watchful eyes of director of Sahas, Palita herself.

Rani, Devshi, Nilika are now teenagers who are going to various mainstream schools like Frank Anthony, Sri Ram School, Blue Bells etc. "The idea is to provide a platform and not to spoon-feed them. The stationery and books are provided by Sahas so the children do not discontinue coming here," says Palita.

Herself a mother of two, Palita is aware that nutrition also plays an important role for a child's development. The kitchen here serves piping hot, nutritious food for lunch. "Mothers of many children that come to Sahas or have been a part of Sahas are involved with the organisation at different



• The young students are brimming with confidence.



• Small children learning the basics.



• Sunita Palita (extreme right) with children of Sahas.



• Hands on training in tailoring.

SUNITA PALITA/HE PHOTOS

levels. Two of them prepare food here, some have learnt vocational courses and have become trained beauticians, tailors who go out and earn a living for themselves. Sahas also runs a wing for women where they make table mats, bags, bed-sheets, pillow covers that are sold in the market for generating funds," informs Palita.

Many women working with Palita are confident mothers and wives who are keen to build a future for their own selves and their children too. One of them

is Arti Singh who took vocational training in a beautician's course from here and now has a client base of her own.

"I am independent and support the family with the extra income. I can give better facilities to my children and also cook nutritional food that was not possible earlier as the means were limited," says Singh. Adds Palita, "I wanted to make Sahas self-sustainable. It has been an interesting journey and at every step a new person joined it, making it a fulfilling

experience. I still remember, many years back, a young girl started accompanying her mother to my house. She was my cook's daughter. One day I was watching Kaun Banega Crorepati and every time, Amitabh Bachchan would ask a question, this girl would instantly reply. I was amazed with her intelligence and spontaneity and asked her to be at Sahas the next day." This child soon blossomed into a young and confident girl Rani under Palita's mentorship.

"Initially I was hesitant to join Sahas and my parents were also apprehensive. I had never gone to any school earlier but after spending a few days in Sahas, I was sure that it is going to change my life forever. After spending a few years here, madam asked me to sit for a test, for admission in a mainstream school. I did as she guided me. She also spoke to the principal and I was admitted in the mainstream school. I want to become a doctor," says Rani with a broad smile.