

'Footpath Shaala', school with a difference

By Hitesh Limbachia

THE footpath near Agmark office on North Ambazari Road witnesses a school-like hustle bustle from 5 pm to 7 pm every day. It's a different school, far away from the regular classrooms. It's a school that comes to its students, teaching them the basics of education and life.

Adhering to the inspiring quote "Hands that serve are holier than lips that pray" by Robert G Ingersoll, a city NGO, 'Upay', is taking knowledge to the needy, where it is needed the most.

The NGO, founded by Varun Shrivastava, is into educating street kids. Under the 'Footpath Shaala' initiative, a team of 15 volunteers is conducting classes by the roadside for the destitute for last one year.

The 'Shaala' has four 'branches' across the city and classes are conducted daily for two hours near



Dr Harsha Sonak checking homework of the students. (Pic by Anil Futane)

Agmark office on North Ambazari Road, at LIC Square, near Alankar Talkies and at Yashwant Stadium.

"We want to literate every kid belonging to families living on footpaths. Through this initiative, the

volunteers are teaching basics of Maths, Hindi and English," said Praveen Kuthey, a member of the team when asked what prompted 'Upay' to start the 'Shaala'.

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