

Spreading Our Wings

In our efforts to reach marginalised children beyond Mumbai and to encourage builders to acknowledge a heretofore overlooked responsibility towards migrant children on the sites, we took our Child Care Centre model to Nagpur for the very first time. Under this model the builder covers all the operational costs of running a centre on the construction site and takes on greater responsibility for managing the crèche. MMC supports the builder in setting up the crèche and ensures quality care for children by training its child care professionals.

Nagpur being the third largest developing district in the state of Maharashtra, MMC reached out to CREDAI Nagpur, and met builders and NGOs to understand the grass root realities and needs of the young children of that area. It took us over ten months of hard work and negotiation to take our core work to Nagpur. Under MMC's guidance, the builder took the initiative to start a child care centre at a site on the Nagpur–Amravati highway in February 2016. The centre operates from 9 am to 4:30 pm and has reached over 25 children in the past two months. Building on our success, we recently began to assist in quality improvement of another child care centre in the MIHAN area of Nagpur.

The last six months have been exciting for many more developments. In the pursuit of our vision, 'for all children to have a nurturing and happy childhood', we successfully brought together over 30 non-profit organisations working with young children at Nagpur. We hope that, this Early Child Care and Education (ECCE) networking initiative will bring together like-minded organisations to strengthen advocacy initiatives for the rights of the very young children. Further, we reached out to a larger audience through three international conferences where we presented our work to create awareness about the children of migrant construction workers and also published a paper advocating for their rights. Additionally, we continued to enrich our existing programmes and started two interesting initiatives - 'Puppet Exhibition' and 'Sudhrudh Bachpan' (Healthy Childhood) at the day care centres.

By the Numbers

19 Day Care Centres run on construction sites 6-days a week, for the full working day

4 Special Projects operated and **7** builder managed Child Care Centres facilitated

Care on Wheels - Mobile Bus operated education programmes on **6** construction sites and facilitated health intervention on **31** sites

32 Lokdoots conducted and over **6000** community members reached.

10 General Health Camps, **23** Eye Camps, **9** Ear Camps and **2** Dental Camps reached over **1000** community members and children.

Over **190** Aadhar cards facilitated.

58 Integrated Child Development Services workers trained in ECCE.

A Head Start for Development

We have always woven the concept of effective parenting in various aspects of our work, including community outreach programmes. We conducted two half-day training sessions at one of our centres, sensitizing 30 parents about various aspects of early childhood development. During the workshop, the trainers explained how a stimulating environment can be provided to children by talking to them while feeding, reading them stories, and singing songs; and how these interactions help in laying the foundation for future learning.

Vani, 4-year-old Geeta's mother, attended one of the parenting sessions at MMC's day care centre. Through toys and other daily use items, the facilitator explained to the parents how a child sees, and learns about the world around her which leads to concept development. The session helped Vani understand the balwadi's methodology of activity-based-learning, and she started doing similar activities at home with her daughter. Vani now feels confident and equipped to support optimal development of her child.



Notes from the Field

Book Week



Mumbai Mobile Creches celebrated its sixth annual Book Week from November 16th to 21st, 2015 to kindle love of books among children, and enhance their interest in reading. The theme for the book week was based on friendship - '*Adbhoot Dosti Ke Anokhe Rang*'. The book week was inaugurated by authors, illustrators, and publishers of the children's storybooks, site managers, and dedicated volunteers at the centres. The week, which was planned by teachers far in advance, introduced new books for reading and included exciting hands on activities related to those books. During Book Week the children participated in a 'child to child' reading exchange with students from municipal schools, attended book readings and received books as gifts.

Annual Camp

The Yusuf Meherally Centre, which is located far away from the hustle and bustle of the city, has a vast green campus and houses several small scale industries. This is where MMC's annual camp for children was held between 18th January and 3rd February, 2016. Over 350 of our children attended the camp in four batches. MMC has been organising annual camps for the last 29 years for children living on construction sites, giving them the opportunity to see and enjoy a world that is very different from their construction site reality. During the day, the children visited the oil-manufacturing unit, soap-manufacturing unit, the fertilisers and manures unit, and the pottery unit. In the evening, they participated in cultural activities of group dance performances, singing, skits etc. Their enthusiasm, efforts, and bright smiling faces lit up the evening's spirits. The audience of children and teachers cheered and encouraged every performance, making it a lively and fun filled evening. We thank the IL&FS Investment Managers Ltd., whose generous funding supported this camp.



Unleashing Creativity: BPT Trainees Teaching Aids Exhibition



Like every year, this year too, the annual teaching aids' exhibition was organised to display teaching aids created by 25 Bal Palika trainees. The exhibition was held on 6th February on the theme - 'flowers'. All the early childhood tools, which were demonstrated by our trainees, were based on this theme. For many trainees this was the first time they faced an audience and exhibited their work. Over 160 visitors from 27 different organisations admired the creativity of our trainees. Seeing such a wonderful turnout and support at the event helped build the trainees' confidence as they prepared to work as teachers and childcare givers in Mumbai.

Building Staff Capacities

At MMC, we strongly believe in the importance of building our staff capacities in order to provide the best possible services to the children and communities we serve. Our teachers participated in a number of exciting training sessions and workshops. In the past six months, 38 of our teachers participated in first aid trainings and 49 were trained in fire safety. In addition, 14 teachers attended workshops to improve proficiency in English and 14 others were trained in basic use of computers. We look forward to further strengthening our staff capacity in the coming year.

New Initiatives

“Puppet ke Sang, Pariyavaran ke Rang”

While we initiated puppet week across our centres last year, we celebrated our first puppet exhibition on 12th and 13th of January, 2016 in Dadar, Mumbai. Puppets add a natural and enjoyable extension to the children's learning and help them develop their communication, creative, and social skills. Our talented puppet team shared their skills by training children and teachers from various organisations on puppet making using waste materials. A total of five puppet-making workshops were conducted, along with ten puppet shows, and reached out to over 375 people. We have seen much enthusiasm for this initiative and look forward to Puppet Exhibition 2016-17.



Sudhrudh Bachpan



MMC launched a new community initiative to promote healthy dietary routine and hygiene practices for the well-being of their children. Every month during our regular chai pani meetings with the community, the parents are commended for improved health status of their children: up gradation of the malnutrition status, fulfilment of immunisation requirements in accordance with their ages, clean and neat appearances and other signs of well-being. We hope, this initiative launched in January 2016 will help us achieve our mission to ensure safe and healthy childhood for all our children.

Networking and Linkages

In the last six months, we visited several organisations within and outside the state to understand the conditions of migrant children in construction settings and beyond to broaden our overall understanding of the ground realities. We visited non-profit organisations in Vidarbha, Marathwada, western and northern Maharashtra. Our visit to Kolhapur in western Maharashtra helped us understand challenges faced by the children of migrant sugarcane cutters. At Jalgaon in northern Maharashtra, fellow non-profit organisations briefed us about conditions of the children of migrant workers in the cotton ginning industry and the dal (lentil) mills. Our visits to Nagpur and Pune gave us insights into the challenges faced by children of stone quarrying and brick kiln workers. In addition, team MMC visited ISO certified Anganwadis at Aurangabad in Marathwada and explored issues and challenges posed by acute water crisis. Apart from visiting fellow non-profits in Maharashtra, MMC also visited Forces, Odisha, to learn more about their ECCE network. All these visits gave us insights into the tremendous efforts required to ameliorate the grim and deplorable conditions of vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

Connecting with Wider Audiences

In an effort to give voice to the concerns of marginalised children of migrant construction workers, MMC presented papers at three international conferences. In December, 2015 MMC presented the paper 'Reaching the Unreached: Grassroots experience of providing Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) to the children of migrant construction workers' at the Third International Conference on Early Childhood Development held at New Delhi. The paper shared concrete suggestions to aid the inclusion of children living on construction sites in equitable ECCE programmes. This paper was also published in the book titled 'Early Childhood Development Knowledge Series - IV: Children in Difficult Circumstances'. In January, 2016 we were able to reach out to audiences through two forums. MMC made a paper presentation titled 'Community Based Education to promote Health and Wellbeing for the children of Migrant Construction Workers in Mumbai, India' at the international conference – 'Education as a Driver for Sustainable Development Goals' held at Ahmedabad. The paper highlighted how MMC uses community based education to promote the health and wellbeing of the children of migrant construction workers. In addition, a paper titled 'Resilience among the children of migrant construction workers, Mumbai, India' was presented at the 4th International Conference on Psychology and Allied Sciences held at Goa. The paper was based on a research study we completed to explore resilience among five of the MMC alumni who outperformed their peers through exceptional educational attainments despite seemingly disadvantaged beginning and overwhelming obstacles. We hope that these efforts will help us further advocate the rights of children we serve.

Fundraising and Friendraising

Mumbai Marathon 2016

The Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon is the largest annual fundraising event for MMC. This year the Marathon was organised on 17th January 2016, and over 180 runners from three corporate companies supported MMC's cause. Among the thousands of participants, the corporate teams and individuals supporting MMC made their presence known when they proudly wore our logo, carried our banners, placards and balloons throughout the race, promoting the cause of migrant children living on construction sites.

Footsteps4good

MMC participated for the 4th consecutive year in the Footsteps4Good walkathon arranged at the Bandra Kurla Complex in the morning of February 7th, 2016. This year there were 81 runners supporting MMC's cause, and a significant amount of funds was raised through the event.

Thank You!

We are immensely thankful for the support of our many friends - individuals, organisations, and corporates alike in helping us build a bright future for Mumbai's migrant children. Our work would not have been possible without your kindness and commitment to our programme. In particular, we would like to thank...

Individuals

- Mr. Anantharaman and Mr. Rajat Gupta for generously funding the core component of our comprehensive programme, our teachers.
- We are truly grateful to Mr. Vineet Dhingra & Western Consolidated Pvt. Ltd. for his generous support towards our nutrition programme.
- Mr. Nish Bhutani for being a longstanding supporter of our cause, and his noteworthy efforts every year to raise funds for MMC at the Mumbai Marathon.
- Mr. and Mrs. Pankoke, Premdhara Strom Der Liebe e.V., and Verein Mobile Krippen Freiburg Germany for their ongoing and dedicated support to our work.
- Ms. Arti Vakil and Wishing Well for their consistent support for MMC's cause.
- Kings Learning for conducting pro bono English learning sessions for MMC's teachers.
- Individual runners and corporate teams for supporting MMC at the Mumbai Marathon and raising funds for corpus and programmes.
- Mr. Ashok Samuel, Mr. Homiyar Dara Vasania, Mr. Kishore V. Mariwala, Mr. Rajeev D. Ohol, Mr. Harshvardhan & Mrs. Reshma Piramal, Mr. Yogesh Kumar Mahansaria for their generous donations towards our corpus. These contributions have helped to ensure the continuity of our programmes and in securing MMC's financial stability.
- Dr. Pareshnath Paul for his consistent and longstanding support of our work.
- Our volunteers – Sei Chong, Heena Kapadia and Luna Kulkarni for their dedicated volunteering at the office and centres. We are indebted to Mumbai Connexions for their continuous volunteering at our centres.
- A special thanks to Ms. Tannaz Daver and her son, Zahaan, for their dedicated support to MMC's cause.

Organisations

- We thank Asha For Education, Australian Consulate-General Mumbai, Bombay Community Public Trust, Chevron Phillips Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd., Child Vikaas International, Coface India Credit Management Services Pvt. Ltd., Comic Relief, Concern India Foundation, General Insurance Corporation of India, Cravatex Ltd., Hersheys India Pvt. Ltd., H.T. Parekh Foundation, IL&FS Investment Managers Ltd, Impact Foundation (India), Medusind Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Owens Corning (India) Pvt. Ltd., PLAN International (India) Chapter, Ram Batra Memorial Foundation, Reliance Foundation, Sadguru Kamubaba Trust, Schindler India Pvt. Ltd., Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd., The Public Charitable Trust, United Way of Mumbai, United World College of South East Asia, for their support.
- We are thankful to The Breadsticks Foundation and Genesis Charitable Trust for their very generous support towards our programmes and institutional strengthening to help MMC reach greater heights.
- We thank Give Foundation, Give India, and Global Giving for continuing to effectively facilitate funding for us by providing us access to interested donors, friends and supporters who donated through these platforms.
- Our Bal Palika teacher training programme is being supported by the Tata Trusts under the Teacher Education initiative. We sincerely appreciate this generous contribution.
- We are thankful to Central Social Welfare Board for supporting MMC's work for many years.
- We deeply appreciate Eternus Solutions Pvt. Ltd. for their pro bono support in implementation of digitisation process of MMC's records.
- We are truly grateful to KPMG in India, who have shown admirable dedication in their commitment to our work over the past years in many ways, and for organising a number of volunteering events and fun outings for the children.
- Employees from KPMG in India, Nomura Service India Pvt. Ltd., Renaissance Hotels, Vodafone India Ltd., Tata Motors Finance Ltd., Tata Motors Ltd., Tata Consultancy Services, Edelweiss Group, SeeNRecruit, and Systems Plus for volunteering at our centres.

