

Greetings from all of us at Mumbai Mobile Creches!

The last six months of the financial year 2016-17 were filled with excitement and activities. MMC's 4th Alumni Meeting was held in October, followed by the Annual Book Week in November, the Annual Camp for our children in December, and Puppet Week and Exhibition in January. The following month, we had three back to back events – first, the MMC's art installation at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, followed by the Bal Palika Training (BPT) Teaching Aids Exhibition and then our very first exhibition on health. In March we organised a consultation on the theme, *Childcare for the Vulnerable Young*.

For the past 44 years MMC has been striving to provide safety, education and health intervention to one of the most vulnerable groups in Mumbai city – the children of migrant construction workers. Over the past four decades we have worked on 270+ construction sites and reached over 100,000 children. Construction sites where we are unable setup day care, either due to lack of adequate safe space or the unwillingness of the builder, we have begun piloting a new model of intervention called the Community Outreach Programme (CORP). Currently, under this model we are serving three construction sites and are facilitating immunisations and school enrollments; monitoring anthropometric measurements; and conducting art & craft activities, health camps, chai-pani meetings and lokdoots. We are hoping to expand this model to more sites and reach out to vulnerable children who lack access to any welfare programme.

MMC in the Last 6 Months

- Operated **23** Day Care Centres, with a monthly average attendance of over **1100** children.
- **4** sites were served by Care on Wheels for education, and **21** sites for health.
- We also operated **11** Child Care Centres.
- **3** sites were covered under the new Community Outreach Programme (CORP)
- Conducted **38** Lokdoots which were attended by **5000+** community members.
- Over **2650** community members were reached through more than **100** Chai Pani Meetings
- Over **1400** children benefitted from **19** Ear Camps, **14** Eye camps and **1** Dental Camp



Chai-pani meeting in the community

Childhood Refound

Raju*, a four year old child from one of MMC's daycare centres on construction sites has been transformed from a quiet, shy and withdrawn child to an active and bright one. Raju was enrolled at our centre when he was just an 11 month old baby. Like most children of his age, Raju cried every time his mother dropped him at our centre.

Raju's parents had migrated from the Darbhanga district of Bihar in search of livelihood and started work as construction labourers. Raju is their third child, after two

daughters, one of whom attends MMC's centre, while the other has stayed back in their village. For his mother, a day without work is a day without pay. While she went to work, Raju attended MMC's centre on the site. With the love and care of the teachers, Raju gradually adjusted to the unknown surroundings and his peers. He is now in the Balwadi (preschool) section for 3-6 year olds. Raju's younger brother now attends the creche section of the centre. Raju's sister is free from taking care of her younger brothers and is able to attend school.

MMC's day care centre on the construction site assured his mother that her child is safe, educated and well nourished. Raju's mother is very thankful to MMC for taking care of all her children and now she can work without worrying about any of them.

**The name has been changed to protect the identity of the child*

Notes from the Field

Book Week

MMC's 7th Annual Book Week was celebrated in the 3rd week of November. Keeping in mind the cultural diversity at our day care centres, and to ensure an inclusive environment, this year the theme chosen for the Book Week was "Folk Tales" or "Lok Kathayen". To kindle children's love of books and enhance their interest in reading, MMC teachers had planned the week well in advance. The teachers introduced several new books on folk tales, and children had fun participating in activities related to those books. Through different folk tales, the children learned about other cultures and different traditions. Ms. Nilum Jajodiya, a story teller was invited to conduct a workshop for MMC teachers, focusing on the role of a story teller, different techniques of storytelling and the importance of folk tales among children.

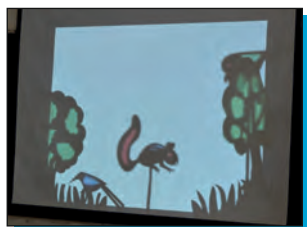
Rajhans Vidyalaya Sports Day

Like previous years, Rajhans Vidyalaya at Andheri organised a Sports Day on November 26, for children from Mumbai Mobile Creches. Over 200 children from 11 MMC day care centres attended the sports event. The day ended with the children receiving gifts, yummy treats and watching a cartoon film.

Annual Camp

For the last 30 years, MMC has been organising Annual Camps for children, giving them the opportunity to see and enjoy a world outside the construction site. This year we chose two locations for our children's camps - Yusuf Meherally Centre in Panvel and Vidhayak Sansad in Vasai. More than 340 children went for their two-day trip in three batches – between 15th and 23rd December. Various activities, like magic shows and group games, were organised for the entertainment of the children. Our children also got an opportunity to present cultural programme to an audience of children and teachers.

Puppet Week and Exhibition



Shadow Puppets at the Exhibition

Puppets add a natural and enjoyable extension to the children's learning experience and help them develop their communicative, creative and social skills. From 16th to 20th January we celebrated our second Annual Puppet Week followed by a puppet exhibition that was held on 20th and 21st January at the Rajhans Vidyalaya. Our talented puppet team shared its skills by training children and teachers from various organisations the art of making puppets and performing puppet-shows.

City as Lab

City as Lab (CaL) is an annual, city-based research project undertaken by school children. This year, children from three of our day care centres had worked on six research projects related to their construction workers' communities. Our children had put in a lot of effort in collecting data from the community, and then the MMC teachers helped them to put their findings in writing. Among the projects submitted, two of the topics got selected for presentation at the CaL Conference at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sanghralaya on 22nd January. The topic of the presentation was "*Mumbai main bandhkaam majduron ka sthanantar aur unke zindagi main paision ka aadan pradan*" (Migration of construction workers in Mumbai, and the money-transfer process used in their day-to-day lives.) It was a proud moment for us to see our children present their research findings so confidently.

BPT Teaching Aids Exhibition

This year the Bal Palika teaching aids exhibition was organised on 11th February. A total of 28 trainees enrolled with MMC for the Bal Palika Training programme (2016-17) participated in the BPT teaching aids exhibition. This year the theme of the exhibition was "*Pakshiyon ka Mela*" (Bird Carnival) and the teaching aids related to this theme were developed by the trainees under different sections, such as maths, language (reading and writing readiness), science, interactive games and puppets. Mr. Ujjwal Banerjee from Tata Trusts inaugurated the BPT exhibition. A total of 219 representatives from 48 different organisations encouraged the trainees by their presence at the exhibition.

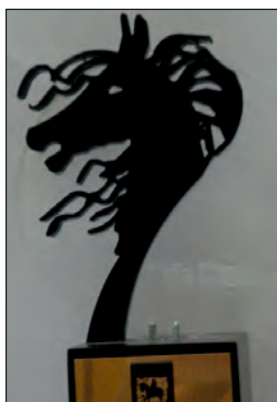


Performance by BPT Trainees

New Initiatives

ECCE Workshop

With over four decades of experience in working with young vulnerable children, MMC conducted ECCE workshops for other organisations who are also working with young children. Four workshops were conducted in a span of two months, and were titled as “Enhance Your Knowledge on Child Development”, “Fascinating World of Puppets”, “Curtain Raiser to Theme Approach”, and “Raising Little Readers”. Participants from more than 15 NGOs in Mumbai attended these workshops.



Installation at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival

This year for the first time MMC created an art installation for the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, 2017. The theme of the installation was “If wishes were horses” and depicted the dreams and aspirations of one of the most vulnerable groups of children living in urban Mumbai. We are happy to inform you that MMC received the third prize in the category of children's section of art installations.

Health Week and Exhibition

MMC organised a health week at the day care centres from 13th to 17th February, 2017, with the objective of intensifying community outreach on the themes of health, hygiene and nutrition; to maximize community participation with regards to public and personal health issues affecting the community; and to promote creativity among the children and youth on issues related to health. A different topic, relevant to the community, was chosen for each of the five days during the Health Week. These included – the importance of personal hygiene and safe sanitation practices for healthy living; healthy eating habits and nutritional needs of adolescents; the importance of early childhood care; mental health; and importance of girl child in the community. Some of the activities that the children participated in, were, making posters and artwork; demonstrating 6 steps of handwashing to the community; demonstrating Oral Rehydration Solution preparation to the community; and quiz competitions on nutrition.

On 28th February and 1st March, MMC organised an exhibition on the theme “*Behind the Walls: The Hidden Life of Children on Construction Sites*”. At the exhibition different mediums of art were used to tell stories. The event also had a puppet show, a display of photographs taken by children, and games, as well as life-size cutouts of the MMC superheroes that captivated the audience. The puppet show, “*Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*” was based on the importance of the girl child.



Photo Exhibition

Consultation with other NGOs

Since challenges faced while working with children of birth to six years of age rarely get articulated at a common forum, MMC organised a consultation on *Childcare for the Vulnerable Young* on 10th March. More than 50 participants from various civil society organisations working in the area of childcare attended the event. They discussed the ground realities of accessing quality childcare, challenges in implementing ECCE within or in collaboration with government services and about strategies in building networks and resolving challenges. At the end the participants expressed a need for follow up sessions to further accelerate the process of change.



Panel discussion at the ECCE Consultation

Fundraising and Friendraising

Mumbai Marathon 2017

The Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon was organised this year on 15th January. The Mumbai Marathon is the biggest annual fundraising event for MMC. Four corporate partners having over 200 runners along with 30 individual runners ran to support the cause of children living on construction sites. This year two youths from a construction site, who are our alumni, ran for MMC to demonstrate their support for the cause of migrant children.



Corporate supporters running for MMC

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 their kindness and commitment to our programme. In particular, we would like to thank:

Individuals

- Mr. Anantharaman for generously providing funds towards the core component of our comprehensive programme, our teachers.
- Mr. Rahul Ghai, Mr. Vijay Runganadhan and Mr. Manoj Kumar Vijai for their wonderful support towards our corpus. These contributions have helped towards ensuring the continuity of our programmes and in securing MMC's financial stability.
- Dr. Pareshnath Paul for his consistent commitment to our work.
- Individual runners who ran at the Mumbai Marathon in support of MMC and contributed towards our corpus and programmes.
- Our volunteers – Sei, Heena and Luna for their valuable support of our work.
- A special thanks to Ms. Sangeeta Bhansali for her efforts in supporting MMC.
- We thank Mr. Mukul Patel and Estate Of Late Dr. Kamal Rajadhyaksha for supporting our cause.

Organisations

- We thank Asha For Education, Chevron Phillips Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd., Child Vikaas International, Cigna Foundation, Coface India Credit Management Services Pvt. Ltd., Comic Relief, Epsilon Real Estate Pvt. Ltd., H.T. Parekh Foundation, Impact Foundation, Leader's Quest Foundation, Medusind Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Owens Corning (India) Pvt. Ltd, Mr. & Mrs. Pankoke, PNB Housing Finance Ltd., Premdhara Strom der Liebe e.V., Reliance Foundation, Schindler India Pvt. Ltd., Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd, thyssenkrupp Elevator (India) Pvt. Ltd., United Way of Mumbai, United World College of South East Asia, Verein Mobile Krippen, Freiburg, Western Consolidated Pvt. Ltd., for their support.
- We are thankful to The Breadsticks Foundation and Genesis Charitable Trust for their very generous and consistent support towards our programmes and institutional strengthening to help MMC reach greater heights.
- We thank our supporters who donated through platforms like Give Foundation, Give India, and Global Giving.
- Our Bal Palika Training programme is being supported by the Tata Trusts under the Teacher Education initiative. We appreciate their help.
- Our special thanks to KPMG Foundation for their support towards our programmes and for organising a number of volunteering events and fun outings for the children.
- Employees from KPMG in India, Nomura Service India Pvt. Ltd, Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd, Standard Chartered Bank, Singh&Singh | Malhotra&Hegde firm for volunteering at our centres.
- We are indebted to Mumbai Connexions for their continued volunteering at our centres.
- We truly appreciate the support of our programmes proffered by the employees of Google, Snapdeal, D.Y. Patil International School, Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd., and United Way of Mumbai.
- We also thank Renaissance Hotel for organising a pro bono food safety and hygiene workshop for our teachers.
- We are thankful to Schindler India Pvt. Ltd. and Reliance Jio for organising donation drives at their companies for our children.
- We are also thankful to Rajhans Vidyalaya for letting us use their space for our Puppet Exhibition.