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MUMBAI MOBILE CRECHES NEWSLETTER

BAL SHRISTI

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Greetings from All of us at Mumbai Mobile Creches!

Working continuously to provide the best quality services to children living on Mumbai's construction sites, it is imperative for us to be closely attuned to significant changes in the construction industry and its effects on migrant families. We ran an increased number of smaller centres with fewer children on each of the sites compared to the fewer and larger centres that we used to in previous years. We continued to run comprehensive Day Care Centres on many sites, strengthened efforts to expand our newer model of builder managed Child Care Centres and explored opportunities for the further extension and enrichment of our programme. In the month of May we opened a centre at a stone crushing site and in September extended the Art and Puppet programme we ran at the children's home in Umerkhadi to another additional children's home in Chembur.

The past six months at MMC have been packed with new initiatives and developments! In addition to our annual summer celebrations, we launched our first fully illustrated children's story book 'Home Away From Home!' depicting a story of migrant children on construction sites. Our children enjoyed newly introduced chess lessons at two of our centres and tested their skill in a city-wide chess tournament for children. We brought variety in the fruits we served to our children by including seasonal fruits in our menu. Our worthy cause and our robust programme continued to attract attention and we were happy to host Professor Michael Porter, BBC, Twitter India, and a Symphony Orchestra at our centres. We were also invited by the Government of Chhattisgarh and UNICEF to share our innovative and tried and tested model of ensuring childcare for the urban poor.

Read the updates from our centres below and get to know more about our work through media coverage.

MMC in the Last 6 Months

18 Day Care Centres, **12** Child Care Centres and **3** Special Projects operated reaching over **1072** children on average per month

29 sites covered by Mobile Bus, their education programme reaching over **37** children on average per month across **5** sites

4 sites covered by Community Outreach Programme model reaching over **64** children on average per month

28 Lokdoots attended by **3300+** community members

218 Chai Pani Meetings reached **3600+** community members

18 ear camps, **16** eye camps and **4** dental camps benefitted **1600+** children

9 health camps benefitted **700** community members and **1** eye check-up camp benefitted **50** community members

30 community members benefitted from arc welding training facilitated

6 puppet workshops benefitted **185** participants from other organisations

Check Out MMC in Media!

[BBC Radio](#)

[BBC Digital](#)

Hear our Chief Executive Ms. Vrishali Pispati share her views on the significance of childcare facilities at the workplace.

[Moneylife Magazine](#)

Read about our programme

[International Journal of Indian Psychology Vol 4 \(3\) pp.103-11](#)

Futures under Construction: Workforce Development and Retention for Educating Children of Migrant Construction Workers in India

[Indian Journal of Psychology and Education Vol 7 \(2\) pp. 24-30](#)

Resilience among the Children of Migrant Construction Workers: A Case of Mumbai

[Rajagiri Journal of Social Development Vol 9 \(1\) pp. 3-14](#)

Community-based Education to Promote Health and Well-being for the children of migrant construction workers in Mumbai, India

[Navtika Journal of Early Childhood Care and Education](#)

Art as an Equaliser in Early Childhood Care Programme for Migrant Children at MMC

Notes from the Field

Musical Hours with Symphony Orchestra

The Symphony Orchestra of India performed at two of our day care centres this summer. The children were ecstatic at hearing traditional western music and seeing instruments as large as the cello. They were overjoyed to get the opportunity to sing with the musicians. The events were featured in [MidDay](#) and [Hindustan Times](#).



Professor Michael Porter Visits

This summer, Professor Michael Porter, from Harvard University, USA, visited one of our day-care centres in South Mumbai, along with a team of delegates from MARS Inc. and Tata Trusts. Our visitors took keen interest in our model and our nutrition programme.

Twitter India at MMC

In May 2017, a team from Twitter India visited one of our centres on a construction site. Our children were really excited playing completely new and different board games brought by the team of Twitter. It was fun to see our children placing the jenga blocks to form a tower and carefully removing them one by one. A session on Twitter for Good was also organised by Twitter India for MMC sharing many new aspects of handling Twitter account more efficiently.

Shramadaan and Khel Mahostav



During the month of May every year, the children at the Day Care Centres and Child Care Centres celebrate Khel Mahostav (a festival of play) and Shramadaan. Our children enjoyed indigenous games during Khel Mahotsav. Apart from fun, the games also provided children ample of opportunities to develop interactive skills, leadership and team building qualities, and helped them reconnect with local culture. Games were also organised for community members and teachers.

This year, the theme for Shramadaan was – “Why is it so hot in 2017”? Children actively participated in guided discussions followed by a number of activities facilitated by our teachers to help children understand the different effects of heat and man-made factors contributing to pollution and climate change. The children are encouraged to give back something meaningful to the community every year through Shramadaan. The children made bird nests, created garbage bins to reduce plastic waste in the community, made colourful bags using scrap paper, and planted saplings at their centres.

Theatre and Movie Screenings

Some of our children attended screenings of the movie 'Dhanush' and 'The Smurfs'; some others enjoyed the play 'Pinocchio' at the Prithvi Theatre. These outings were organised by KPMG in India. One of the children who attended the play shared his feelings: *“I went to see a play for the first time in my life. I was so lost in the play that I didn't realise where I was. The boy (in the play) was just like us, but a puppet. And after the fairy's boon, he became just like us- a human and he started going to school too. But whenever he lied, his nose would grow. The play suggested that one should not lie.”*

Bal Palika Valedictory Function

We were proud to see a batch of 27 trainees complete our yearlong child caregiver training course this September; nine of them were from the construction workers' community. Twenty-five of these trainees appeared for the SNTD examination and secured diploma certificates in Nursery/ Crèche Management. The training not only provides community women with valuable skills and professional knowledge that will allow them to work as child care workers but also encourages community investment in childcare and education programmes. Becoming certified child care workers provides these women with the opportunity to become financially independent and develop a sense of identity. We are happy that 19 of these trainees were successfully placed at various organisations as professional child care workers. Ms. Shubha Arora, Chief People Officer of Schindler India Pvt. Ltd., one of the longstanding supporters of MMC, graced the event as the chief guest. For the new batch of trainees who attended the event, it was a truly motivational and enriching day.



Indian Premier League Cricket Match

Once again, with the continued support from the Mumbai Indians' “Education for All” initiative, 40 children along with five teachers from three of our daycare centres had the opportunity to enjoy an Indian Premier League cricket match. The children created a sea of blue as they sported Mumbai Indians' colours and flags at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. It was a wonderful fun-filled day that the children will never forget! We thank The Reliance Foundation for facilitating this experience for our children.

New Initiatives

Home Away From Home! Book Launch

MMC recently launched its' first fully illustrated children's story book titled, 'Home Away from Home!' which tells the story of the Indian migrant children. The Hindi version of the book is titled 'Mujhe Ghar Mil Gaya!'

The idea for 'Home Away From Home!' was inspired by the migrant children who attend MMC's day care centres on construction sites in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane. For our library programme, our teachers were looking for children's books that narrated a story of migrant children or the construction worker's community in India, but they couldn't find any. We created this book so that the migrant children we serve could see their lives reflected in its pages. The book was launched at Kitab Khana in April, followed by a reading session by Ms. Deepa Balsavar, for children from MMC's centres. We feel that it will be a wonderful book for children in the age group of 8-12 years. [Reach us here to avail your copy today!](#)

Learn more about the book through media coverage: [Scroll.in](#), [Asian Age](#) and [Help Your NGO](#)



Chess Sessions at MMC Centres



We introduced the game of chess at two of our centers to facilitate children's learning, decision making, and analytical abilities. We partnered with the Indian Chess School and the South Mumbai Chess Academy Pvt. Ltd. (SMCA) to provide children with weekly chess lessons. Chess is not only fun to play but requires a player to plan, develop original strategies and analyse consequences; the game develops foresight, discipline and confidence in a child, and boosts memory. A child from our centre said, *"I am excited to learn the new game and I am looking forward to learning all the tricks of the game!"*

Three of our children participated in a monthly SMCA chess tournament and won a silver medal in the entry level group. Kudos to our budding chess players!

Museum on Wheels

The children at three of our centres were able to see 'Museum on Wheels' a customised bus of Chharatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai. The bus is fully equipped with interactive demo kits, art supplies, objects, and digital media on display as well as hands on learning kits. Our children were thrilled to see the exhibits.



Safety First!

Our funding partner, Schindler India Pvt. Ltd. runs 'Safe-T Rider' programme as a part of 'Fulfill Futures' safety initiative, with an objective to educate children on the safe and proper way of riding elevators, escalators and moving walks. In the second week of June, 'Safe-T Rider' training sessions were conducted at four of our centers in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane. The sessions were very informative for our children as they inhabit spaces in which high-rises are constantly being built.

Encouraging Breast Feeding

Recognising that breast-feeding prevents childhood illnesses, we celebrated Breast Feeding Promotion month at all our centres this August. Our teachers attended a workshop 'First 1000 Days' and updated their knowledge about best infant and young child care practices. We also celebrated 'National Nutrition Week' and held sessions on Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices across our centres. Throughout the month our teachers engaged the community in guided discussions and emphasised the importance of healthy dietary practices and addressing malnutrition among the children to the parents.

MESCO Inauguration

Our Chief Executive Ms Vrishali Pispati was invited as a chief guest for the inauguration of a Teaching Aids Exhibition organised by MESCO - an NGO who runs nursery schools for children from disadvantaged communities. She graced the occasion and shared her experience of running day care centres for the children on construction sites and also spoke about our one year long teacher training programme on ECCE.

Fundraising and Friendraising

Run for MMC at Mumbai Marathon 2018!

At Mumbai Marathon running is more than fitness! It inspires individuals to be the change they want to see in the world; to make an impact, no matter how big or small.

The upcoming Mumbai Marathon is scheduled on 21st January, 2018. This will be the 10th year of MMC's participation in the Mumbai Marathon.

Charity Bibs are available at MMC for participating in the Mumbai Marathon 2018! For more details, write to us at communications@mmcmail.org or call on 9769010346 / 8879783533.

Thank you, Supporters

The compassion and support of our donors, funders and volunteers helped us to reach the lives of thousands of children. We would like to thank all of them for their support.

Individuals

- A special thank you to Dr Pareshnath Paul and Nikhil Marwaha for consistently supporting our programmes.
- We are grateful to Mrs. Shyamala Deodhar for her special support towards our corpus in memory of her late husband, Lt. Commander Madhav Govind Deodhar.
- Our sincere thanks to Cornelia Rummel, Sarah Gross, Elijah Elias, and many others for their generous donation towards our corpus fund.
- We thank South Mumbai Chess Academy for conducting pro bono chess lessons regularly with the children at one of our Day Care Centres.
- We are grateful to our volunteers Luna Kulkarni, Sei Chong, Michelle Scott, Laura Hames, and Marion Hansford for their support.
- We thank Aryan Kumar, Geeta Kanade, Gopa Shahane, Ratika Prasad, Sephra Abraham, and Yash Naik for consistently providing volunteer support at our centres.
- Our sincere thanks to Sangeeta Bhansali, Deepa Balsavar and Deepa Hari for their support.
- We express our gratitude to Vikas Dimri and Leena Barick for their extraordinary efforts in raising funds to provide fruit for our children. We are indebted to our donors for their wonderful support and consistent donations in kind at our centres year on year.

Organisations

- Our special thanks to KPMG in India for their outstanding efforts in organising a number of volunteering events and fun outings for the children. Employees from Twitter India and Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. volunteered at our centres. We thank them for the time and efforts they invested in our cause.
- Our special thanks to HDFC for organising a magic show for our children in their office.
- We sincerely thank, Chevron Phillips Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd., Coface India Credit Management Services Pvt. Ltd., Medusind Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Parthenon India Pvt. Ltd., PNB Housing Finance Ltd., Schindler India Pvt. Ltd., Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd., and thyssenkrupp Elevator India Pvt. Ltd. for supporting our Comprehensive Day Care Programme.
- We are thankful to Asha for Education, Blue Star Foundation, Child Vikaas International, Genesis Charitable Trust, H. T. Parekh Foundation, Leaders' Quest, Mobile Krippen, Premdhara Strom der Liebe e.V., Reliance Foundation, the Australian Consulate, The Breadsticks Foundation, The Central Social Welfare Board, and the United World College of South East Asia for their unconditional support via donations or grants.
- We appreciate the continued volunteering support of Mumbai Connexions at our centres.
- We sincerely thank our supporters who donated through platforms like Give Foundation, Give India, and GlobalGiving.

