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MUMBAI MOBILE CRECHES NEWSLETTER

BAL SHRISTI

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Greetings from All of Us at MMC!

It has been an exciting and eventful last six months. In addition to initiating new activities and developments, MMC has continued to gain recognition on various platforms for our work with the children of migrant construction workers.

We received the best paper presentation award for our paper, "Screening Children of Migrant Construction Workers for Developmental Delay in Mumbai, India" at the second Annual New Horizons Conference on Developmental Neurosciences organised by the New Horizons Child Development Centre in association with the Indian Academy of Paediatrics in January, 2018. Our paper showcased MMC's health initiative to screen children from disadvantaged backgrounds for developmental delays and ways in which we facilitate early identification and intervention.

In the interests of making our centres even more safe for children, we have transitioned to outsourcing lunch for children in 8 centres from Annnamrita foundation, an ISO certified organisation. Children in our remaining centres are being served nutritious dry snacks.

Our book *Mujhe Ghar Mil Gaya* (Home Away From Home in english version) won the Children's Book of the Year Award in the category of Indian Languages at the Publishing Next Industry Awards. The picture book features a story about a child who has recently migrated to the city and lives on a construction site. **To get your own copy, you can reach out to us!**

In the coming pages we are delighted to share about the several special events and activities held at our centers during the past six months.



Meet Sabiya Ali!

Sabiya Ali, an 11 years old from one of our centres won a silver medal at a chess competition organised by The South Mumbai Chess Academy.

Read Sabiya's success story here: [Follow the prodigy.](#)

Women Build Nations

This October, MMC was invited to speak as the guest of honour at the Women Build Nations conference in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Our Chief Executive, Ms. Vrishali Pispati, spoke about MMC's organisational efforts and achievements in supporting women in the Indian construction industry. She presented MMC's comprehensive day care programme, which allows women to earn money for their families while their children are in MMC's care.



On an average MMC reached over **1300** children per month through its various models.



MMC reached over **5100** construction workers through **34** Lokdoots.
Over **300** community members reached per month through **238** Chai Pani Meetings



MMC reached over **600** community members through **4** general health camps & over **1400** children were screened through **17** ear check up camps & **14** eye camps



MMC operated **18** Day Care Centres on construction sites, **3** Special Projects, **12** Child Care Centres & Community Outreach Programme on **4** sites.



6 construction sites were covered by Care on Wheels - Mobile Bus education programme & **27** sites were covered by Care on Wheels - Mobile Bus health programme.

Notes from the Field

Annual Book Week

Our children enjoyed our eighth annual 'Book Week' held between November 13 and 18, 2017. The theme for the event was "Nikhar Netrutv Ka" (Enhancing Leadership Skills). The week was packed with exciting activities aimed to enhance leadership skills and promote literacy. The event celebrated across our centres kindled our children's love for books, increased their interest in reading, and highlighted the importance of literacy among community members.

In addition, 25 teachers from our centres participated in a workshop designed to enhance their story reading skills.



An Awareness Rally during Book Week

A Life beyond Construction Sites



Sports Day

In November 2017, Rajhans Vidyalaya, Andheri, graciously hosted over 200 children from nine MMC centres for a sports day celebration. Our children had a memorable day playing games like cricket, football, kabaddi, and tug of war. They enjoyed cartoon programmes screened especially for them, as well as a sumptuous meal after a day of fun and excitement. They also received wonderful gifts and prizes at the end of the day.



MMC Annual Camp

This overnight excursion at the beautiful Yusuf Meherally Centre in Panvel and Vidhayak Sansad, in Vasai is the most awaited retreat for our children. This is a chance for them to escape noisy construction sites and enjoy some serenity far from the hustle and bustle of the city. This year we organised four trips so that 350 of our children could participate in overnight camps between December 12 and 22, 2017. The children enjoyed many outdoor games as well as an exciting magic show. They also worked together to put up skits and talent shows for their peers.

Teaching Aids Exhibition

Our teachers created engaging and contextually relevant, educational teaching aids from recycled materials. This year, a batch of 30 trainees from our Bal Palika Training programme presented "Kitakon ki Rang Birangi Duniya" (Colourful World of Insects) at our annual 'Teaching Aids Exhibition' on February 13 and 14, 2018. The exhibition and games that our trainees presented, provided visitors a glimpse of the creativity and innovation in our day care programme.

Celebration with Puppets

"Jal Hai Toh Kal Hai" (Conserve Water, Conserve Life) was the theme of this year's 'Puppet Festival'. The entire week of January 15th to 20th, 2018 was dedicated to creating artwork and puppets out of recycled materials. The children adorned the centres with their vibrant creations. They also enjoyed the puppet shows teachers put up for them.

In a puppet exhibition held on January 19 and 20, 2018 our talented staff of puppetry experts showcased puppets to other non-profits and the general public. Over 50 people attended our four puppet-making workshops and we reached over 280 people through four puppet shows.

Health Exhibition and Week

Our exhibition 'Health Lifescapes of Migrant Communities' focused on the vulnerability and health hazards faced by migrant construction workers. The exhibition, hosted on November 8 and 9, 2017, used art to raise awareness about the nutritional and health needs of the migrant labourers and their children. [Read more about our exhibit here.](#)

We celebrated 'Health Week' at our centres between February 19 and 23, 2018. Special activities included games, quizzes and videos all designed to encourage and educate the community about child and adolescent health, menstrual hygiene and the special needs of children with disabilities.

Reconnecting with our Alumni

Like previous years, MMC alumni came together for an alumni meet on October 8, 2017 at one of MMC's oldest centres in Powai. This was MMC's fifth alumni reunion, and over 64 alumni attended the event.

Alumni of all ages, with varied educational and professional backgrounds spent the day discussing their experiences and sharing fond memories of different MMC centres they had attended. The gathering fostered a spirit of camaraderie and kinship and renewed in them a common passion for empowering and improving marginalised communities.



MMC Alumni Meet

Skill Building and Empowerment

In the last six months, MMC organised a 12 day special training at four different sites in order to raise awareness about the importance of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) among underprivileged communities in Mumbai. These sessions equipped 55 women with knowledge about child rights, developmental milestones, health and nutritional needs of mothers and children, and first aid. They were also trained on interactive, activity-based learning methods for children.

We hosted a series of four workshops in January and February, 2018 and shared our ECCE expertise with 45 teachers and staff from 12 non-profits and educational institutions. The workshops focused on the art of puppet making, the effective use of songs and rhymes for children, thematic lesson plans and learning techniques, and easy ways to set up libraries for children.



A Proud Moment for Our Trainees



Towards A Better Livelihood

MMC collaborated with Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) and Rustomjee Academy for Global Careers (RAGC) to provide skill building opportunities to our community of construction workers. As a result of these initiatives:

- 24 workers have been certified as assistant shuttering carpenters by JSS
- 28 workers received RAGC training and became certified as assistant wiremen by the National Skill Development Cooperation
- 33 workers received training as bar benders and steel fixers (fitters) through RAGC and are now certified by the National Skill Development Corporation.

We hope that these certifications will help our community members access better livelihood opportunities!

Migrants Matter

MMC is continuing to advocate for migrant communities by presenting our research and work on various platforms. Our art installation at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival depicted a migrant's journey from the village to the city, and the difficulties and challenges that a migrant encounters along the way, especially as s/he adjusts to life in the city.

Between December 22 and 24, 2017, we made two presentations at the 27th Annual Conference of the National Academy of Psychology held at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur. Our poster presentation was titled "Learning to Read with Peers: An Intervention for Children of Migrant Construction Workers" and our paper presentation was titled "Developmental Screening of the Children of Migrant Construction Workers in Mumbai, India."

We also showcased our work in property expositions at an event organised by MCHI CREDAI at the Bandra Kurla complex as well as at an event with the Ashar Group at Thane.



Art Installation at Kala Ghoda

Staff Training: Foundation for Excellence

In our efforts to provide the best care possible to our children, we continued to invest in building skill sets of our staff and teachers. We organised five training sessions to equip 105 staff with the knowledge of child rights and gender issues, as well as the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

During our annual staff retreat in Goa, our team had a very enriching and informative opportunity to visit a non-profit dedicated to improving community health.

In an association with the Epilepsy Foundation, we trained 17 of our teachers about neurological disorders, their proper treatment and care. They learned how best to respond and most effectively manage a situation when a child has an epileptic episode in a classroom.

Two of our teachers attended a teacher training programme at the American School of Bombay where they honed their skills in mathematics and language instruction. Our teachers reported that it had been a very enriching experience and recommended the programme for other MMC teachers.

Fundraising and Friendraising

Mumbai Marathon 2018

Over 100 employees from three of our corporate partners - Schindler India Pvt. Ltd., Owens Corning India Pvt. Ltd. and Hershey India Pvt. Ltd. along with other individual supporters expressed their solidarity for MMC by running in the Tata Mumbai Marathon, on 21st January this year. Among the thousands of participants, the corporate teams and individuals supporting MMC made their presence felt when they proudly wore our logo and carried our banners throughout the race, promoting the cause of migrant children living on construction sites. The marathon was MMC's biggest and most exciting fundraising event of the year. We thank all our runners for supporting us!



Our Supporters at Mumbai Marathon

Thank you!

Mumbai Mobile Creches has always been fortunate to have the support of donors who believe in making a difference in the lives of children and the community we serve. We extend our most sincere gratitude to each one of you. We would like to thank the following people and organisations in particular:

Individuals

- We are grateful to Nikhil Marwaha and Dr. Pareshnath Paul for consistently supporting our programmes.
- Our heartfelt thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Pankoke, Ashwin Assomull, Gautam Daswani, Padmini Khare Kaicker, and Khuzema Safri for their generous donation towards our cause.
- We deeply appreciate Homiyar Vasania, Aban Sabnani, executors of estate of the late Dr. Kamal Rajadhyaksha, Rajeev Ohol, Aastha Shah, Ashish Chugani, and Chandramouli Batibrolu for support towards our corpus. These contributions have helped to ensure the continuity of our programmes and financial stability.
- We thank Navin Agarwal for donating cloth bags for the children of our day care centres.
- We applaud our volunteers Luna Kulkarni, Sei Chong, Michelle Scott, Laura Hames, and Marion Hansford for their invaluable support.
- We express our gratitude to our supporters who donate in kind at our centres year after year. We are indebted for their wonderful support towards our work year on year.

Organisations

- Our special thanks to KPMG in India for organising a number of volunteering events and fun outings for our children.
- A big thanks to DSV Air and Sea Pvt. Ltd. who provided school bags with stationery as an Annual Camp gift for our children.
- We are grateful to Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Chevron Phillips Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd., Coface India Credit Management Services Pvt. Ltd., Medusind Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., PNB Housing Finance Ltd., Schindler India Pvt. Ltd., Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd., and Western Consolidated Pvt. Ltd. for supporting our comprehensive day care programme.
- We sincerely thank the Amrit Vasudeva Trust, Asha for Education, the Australian Consulate, the Blue Star Foundation, Child Vikaas International, the Central Social Welfare Board, the G-2 Foundation, the Genesis Charitable Trust, the H. T. Parekh Foundation, the Kashinath Charitable Trust, the KPMG Foundation, Leaders' Quest Foundation, the MCHI Trust, Premdhara Strom der Liebe e.V., the Reliance Foundation, Savita and Khemchand Dhingra Foundation, Tata Education and Development Trust, The Breadsticks Foundation, United Way of Mumbai, United World College of South East Asia, and Verein Mobile Krippen, Freiburg, for their support via donations and grants.
- We appreciate the generous contributions to our corpus by Godrej Properties Ltd., HGP Community Pvt. Ltd., Mullackal Polymers Pvt. Ltd., Owens Corning India Pvt. Ltd. and The Public Charitable Trust.
- Our special thanks to United Way of Mumbai for support extended during Mumbai Marathon.
- We thank K. Raheja Corp. for the generous monetary support to the parents of a girl child, at one of the MMC centres, for the treatment of her acute hearing disability.
- We thank South Mumbai Chess Academy for conducting pro bono chess lessons with children at one of our Day Care Centres.
- We applaud the marathon runners who supported our work by joining the teams of the companies Hershey India Pvt. Ltd, Owens Corning India Pvt. Ltd. and Schindler India Pvt. Ltd.
- We thank Mumbai Connexions and Songbound for their dedicated and effective volunteering at two of our centres.
- We sincerely thank our supporters who donated through platforms like Give Foundation, Give India, and GlobalGiving.