

BAL SHRISTI

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MUMBAI
MOBILE CRECHES
FUTURES UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Greetings from Mumbai Mobile Creches!

As the country battled the pandemic, and our centres and municipal schools were closed, our children's education suffered and their learning curves dipped. But we developed a digital solution to this crisis and our children adapted wonderfully to a few hours of dedicated virtual learning every day, guided by our teachers as well as enthusiastic and supportive parents.

During the intermittent unlock phases lasting a couple of months, our daycare centres started functioning. Both parents and children were thrilled to meet our teachers and have some centre activities resume. After ensuring social distancing norms, children and their parents were called to centres in small batches. We distributed rations and education materials comprising stationery, colour books, pens, pencils. The height and weight of children was monitored regularly, Toy and Book library activities where children could pick up books and toys twice every week were conducted.

MMC's Reach

- We reached 636 children on an average per month.
- We operated 18 day care centres, 4 special projects, and 6 child care centres. We covered three sites in our community outreach programme.
- Our Care on Wheels-Mobile bus programme served, on average, 52 children on 6 construction sites.
- 994 children received vaccinations and Doctor visits resumed at all day care and community care centres, Care on Wheels sites post the first wave.
- On average 676 parents attended Chai-Paani meetings every month. These meetings covered numerous topics, including anaemia, adolescence, the menstrual cycle, family planning, children's rights and school admissions.

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Supplementary Nutrition Distribution



"I have four children. Maintaining a large household was becoming very difficult. We could not ask our relatives for money since they were also in the same situation. Nor could we return to our village. During this time, we received dry rations for our children. And after a few weeks, we started receiving Milk, Rajgira Laddoo, Nachni Powder, Jaggery. It was truly helpful."

– A parent whose children attend our Powai day care centre.

Notes from the Field

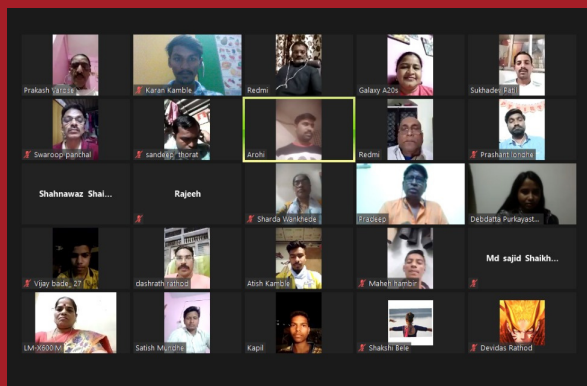
Supplementary Nutrition Distribution

The pandemic hit families living on construction sites had to face lot of hardships because they were not paid for months. With no savings to fall back on, they could not meet their daily requirements and hence were desperate to return to their villages. Because of the lockdown, they were stranded at their construction sites, without any way of getting back home. Their children were the worst affected. With the onset of the first wave, we started distributing supplementary nutrition kits to children comprising of Rajgira (Amaranth Grain) Laddoos, Nachni (Finger Millets) powder, Milk, and Dates.

The supplementary nutrition drives at all our centres reached more than 1000 children every month.



Alumni Meets



**"Gir Ke Uth Har Baar,
Har Koshish Ho Tera Vaar,
Kaante Bhi Sajavat Ke Kaam Aate Hai,
Phoolon Ka Ek Shahar Tujh Me Bhi Hai."**

- Karan Kamble, Sweta Dhuri, Vaishali Suryawanshi

A few lines from "... Ek Udaan Ho Aisi", a poem composed by Karan and his friends, alumni of MMC's HCC centre

MMC Alumni Meet

Our 8th Alumni Meet was held this year virtually. While our alumni missed the delicious lunches prepared for them in these meets, they were eager to participate in a Zoom session, the "new normal." They talked about their experiences during the lockdown and how they tried to mitigate the hardships of people around them. Some, whose parents had lost their jobs during the lockdown, shouldered the responsibility of running the house, some distributed rations either in their community or in other poor communities. They thanked MMC for inculcating in them good values that will enable them to have not just bright futures but also encourage them to contribute to society.

BPT Alumni Meet

Alumni from previous batches of the Bal Palika Training (BPT) Programme, connected in a virtual Alumni Meet. An interactive session on "Mental Health" was planned. Although everyone was adapting to working from home, it was especially challenging for them as they were teachers and caregivers in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sector. Many of them talked about how stressful it was to work on a laptop all day and also manage household chores, as well. The resource person Ms. Mani Mistry gave tips on meeting the challenges of working from home. All the trainees participated enthusiastically.

Book Week

Our teachers and the education team conducted the 11th Annual Book Week virtually at all day care centres and Mobile Bus sites. The theme this year was 'उमड़ घुमड़ भावनाएं, चली पुस्तकालय' All preparatory documents, such as the teachers' newsletter and feedback forms, school notification letters, Palaknama (parents' notification), were converted into e-documents and were shared digitally. 13 resource persons engaged with children from different centres for virtual read aloud sessions. Some of the books that became popular in these sessions were मेरे दोस्त (My Friend), हँसना मना है (Do not Smile), परेशान पहिया (The anxious wheel), etc. 757 books were gifted to children to encourage love for reading.



Notes from the Field

Celebrating the Colourful World of Puppets

The theme of our annual Puppet Week was “पपेट की रंगीली दुनिया” (The Colourful World of Puppets). We followed all Covid 19 safety protocols during the week. Videos and explanatory documents were sent to parents on the different activities we had organised. For the first time, parents also learnt how to make colourful puppets from dry waste. Children above six were called in small batches to perform their puppet show. Through video calls, our children taught each other different ways to make puppets.



Virtual Republic Day

On Republic Day, dressed in patriotic colours, our children connected with their teachers over video calls. They sang the national anthem, recited poetry, made speeches, sang and danced. Our staff connected over a Zoom call for virtual flag hoisting and performances on patriotic songs.

Teaching Aids Exhibition

Our annual Teaching Aids Exhibition was hosted by those attending our Bal Palika Training (BPT) programme. As life started normalising, we decided to host a physical exhibition as well as a virtual one, strictly maintaining all norms, including social distancing. The theme was “Jaltarang” (Water) and various models, including the different sources of water, the water cycle etc. were exhibited. The trainees made all the models from waste materials such as cartons, dupatta, and fallen leaves. Creative teaching methods such as interactive games and puppets jostled for space with attractive teaching aids on maths and language. Experts from the Education sector, donors and partners visited the exhibition and shared their insights with the trainees, which gave them immense confidence.



International Dance Day

We partnered with the Victory Arts Foundation to celebrate International Dance Day. Dance trainers organised a session for children from the After-school Support group (ASS). Children danced on popular songs along with the instructor. Despite being held during the second wave of the pandemic, it was a fun-filled and high-adrenaline occasion.

Khel Mahotsav

Due to the ongoing pandemic, MMC this year organized Khel Mahotsav via digital medium and ensured that all children play games along with their families. This year, Khel Mahotsav was a mix of live interactive sessions and games. Over 900+ children across the length and breadth of the country actively participated in Khel Mahotsav. Teachers put in exceptional efforts to create around 100 plus indoor games for children which they could play individually, along with their siblings, parents, relatives, etc. Our children had the opportunity to meet and interact with former Indian Hockey Captain Viren Rasquinha. Viren encouraged our children to take up sports and emphasized on the right values



Fundraising & Friendraising

Citing in Publications

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (2020). Living with Multiple Vulnerabilities: Impact of COVID-19 on the Urban Poor in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Final Report. Mumbai: India.

https://yuvaindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/COVID19_MMRImpact_UrbanPoor-1.pdf

Construction workers' entitlements

We work closely with construction companies and the Labour Department for facilitating workers' registration under the Building and Other Construction Workers' (BOCW) Welfare Board. Due to the pandemic, new registrations and renewals had come to a complete halt until late last year. As application processing gradually started, MMC liaised with the Labour department and construction site officials to register over 1,700 workers at 13 construction sites in the MMR region. Workers from these sites have started receiving benefits, including safety kits.

Thank you!

Individuals

- Our sincere thanks to Mr. Nikhil Marwaha for consistent support to MMC
- We thank Dr Rajeev Ohol for his generous donation to our corpus fund
- Our sincere thanks to Ms. Anuradha Rajan, Dr Narayan Varadkar, Ms. Eva Runganadhan, Ms. Luna Kulkarni, Ms. Rohini Kulkarni, Mr. Sushrut Paranjape, Mr. Sameer Naik, Mr. Satyendranath Bhat for their generous contributions towards our programmes.
- Many thanks to Ms. Sanober, Ms. Rekha Menon, Ms. Seema Jaiswal, Ms. Shyamala Shanmugasundram for volunteering with us during book week.
- Special thanks to Mr. Viren Rasquinha -former Indian Hockey Captain for interacting and motivating our children to take up sports during Khel Mahotsav.
- We thank Ms. Suvita Shetty, Mr. Sandeep Indap, Mr. Sameer Kapadia for conducting online yoga sessions with our children during Khel Mahotsav.

Organisations

- We are grateful to Bajaj Finance Ltd, Coface India Credit Management Ltd, Godrej Properties Ltd, Kotak Mahindra Investment Ltd, Medusind Solutions India Pvt Ltd, Schindler India Pvt Ltd, Western Consolidated Pvt. Ltd. for supporting our comprehensive programmes.
- We would like to thank Eastman Chemicals India Pvt Ltd, Solutia Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd, MCHI, Roma Builders Pvt Ltd for their generous donations to our Corpus fund.
- We sincerely thank Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative, Executors of Late Dr. Komal Rajadhyaksa, Child Vikaas, Kalpataru Trust, Mobile Krippen, United Way of Mumbai, Reliance Foundation, Smt. Parmeshwari Jan Kalyan Trust, V.V. & K.V. Mariwala Charity Trust for their grants and donations
- We sincerely thank ICICI foundation for their Pro bono support in conducting online Financial Literacy sessions with construction workers of our sites
- We thank staff members of Schindler India Pvt. Ltd. for volunteering and engaging our trainees of Bal Palika Training programme in various educative activities.
- Many thanks to Victory Arts Foundation and their trainers for taking digital dance sessions with our children on the occasion of International Dance Day.
- We sincerely thank Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalay (CSMV) for conducting series of sessions with our children on ancient toys and games and also for the opportunity to have a virtual tour of the museum.
- Many thanks to L& T Health centre, Brahmakumari Hospital Andheri and Laxmi charitable Trust ,Chola, & Sightsavers for organising health camp for our workers.
- We sincerely thank Pratham Education Foundation for their support in conducting skill training workshops for construction workers on our sites.
- We sincerely thank all those who donated through platforms like Give Foundation, Give India, Benevity Inc and United Way of Mumbai.