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MUMBAI MOBILE CRECHES NEWSLETTER

BAL SHRISTI

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Greetings from all of us at Mumbai Mobile Creches!

We are back again with news about all that has happening at MMC in the last six months!

April, 2018, saw a transition in leadership as our former Chief Executive Ms. Vrishali Pispati joined the Board of MMC and we welcomed Ms. Anuradha Rajan, as the new Chief Executive of MMC. She comes with several years of experience in the non-profit sector, with expertise in programme development, monitoring and evaluation. We look forward to scaling new heights under her leadership.

In the last six months, we have focused significantly on enhancing our standards around child protection and on making it more robust and strong. The need to be more vigilant about children's safety was reinforced through regular meetings, interactions and multiple centre visits. We also introduced a daily safety checklist at the centres and a process of seeking consent from all individuals in group volunteering activities.

We are happy to share that in September MMC was felicitated by a well-known builder, Ajmera realty, during their 50th anniversary celebration. It was a proud moment for our team as the positive impact of our work was showcased to a large gathering of distinguished dignitaries from the construction and realty sector.

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



Memento received from
Ajmera Realty

MMC's spread and reach



MMC operated
21 Day Care Centres
on construction sites,
3 Special Projects,
9 Child Care Centres
&
Community Outreach
Programme on
4 sites.



5 construction sites
were covered for
educational activities
and
32 sites for health
interventions through
Care on Wheels - our
Mobile Bus
programme.



MMC reached
1160 children
on an average
per month through its
various models.



We reached out
to over **1500**
construction workers
through **22** Lokdoots

138 Chai Pani
meetings were
facilitated. Over **500**
community members
were reached every
month.



296 community
were members covered
through
4 general health
camps.
1078 children were
screened through
13 ear check up
camps, **8** eye camps
and **1** dental camp

Check Out MMC in Media!

Check out our e-series 'Food Memories of Migrant Women' featuring culinary delights from all over India along with incredible stories of migrant women living on construction sites. Checkout the features through links below:

Food Memories of Migrant Women - An e-book featuring recipes from different corners of the country

- **Hindustan Times:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/mumbaiwale-a-free-recipe-book-by-migrant-women-workers-in-mumbai-has-a-flavour-of-far-away/story-a8x5LseQilkuInlcBu9cvI.html>
- **The Better India:** <https://www.thebetterindia.com/154586/migrant-women-food-recipes-mumbai/>
- **Mid-Day:** <https://www.mid-day.com/articles/mumbai-food-migrant-women-from-10-states-share-lesser-known-recipes/19649194>

About MMC

- The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/apr/13/daycare-helps-construction-workers-in-mumbai-build-a-future-for-children>

Khel Mahotsav & Shramadaan

Our centres were booming with fun and laughter during the summer vacations in May as our children participated enthusiastically in Khel Mahotsav and Shramadaan. Several indoor and outdoor games competitions were organised for children.

Shramadaan, this year, carried a special message to the community through the children – ‘*Maa Mujhe Sashakta Karti Hai Aur Main Unhe*’ (Mother empowers me and I empower her). To make children aware about the hard work their mothers put in to raising them, we asked the children to make a list of chores done by their mothers. The long list of the chores made our children aware of the hard work and efforts of their mother. The children gifted seed balls (seed in soil) to their mothers. The mothers in turn planted these balls in small pots and now saplings have begun growing from these seeds. At one of the centres, children identified things which could help mothers organise their kitchen better. They made dust pans, spoon stands and soap holders out of waste material and gifted them to their mothers.



Building Minds

After piloting the chess programme at two centres last year, we expanded this initiative across six centres and reached 150 children. Trainers from Chanakya Chess Institute were impressed to see the enthusiasm among children – many of whom were playing such a difficult board game for the first time.



Taking a Twirl!

During summer vacations in the month of May, we introduced something new for our children at centres in remote parts of Navi Mumbai and Virar. Through classes offered by Victory Foundation our children learned various dance moves. Children had great fun learning dance steps to popular songs.

Life Skills

We collaborated with Apni Shala Foundation to conduct sessions on life skills for children in the age group of eight to fourteen at one of our centres in Thane. The sessions aimed to enhance their self-confidence and communications skills. Through sessions held twice a month for two hours each, the facilitators covered topics ranging from teamwork, self-awareness, leadership, self-confidence, respect for different opinions and empathy.



Children enjoyed a day out at Wonder Park, Navi Mumbai

Children's Day Out

During summer vacations a few fun filled outings were organised by KPMG in India for children at different centres.

Movie screening of Oscar winning children's animation film 'Coco' at Andheri

Visit to Parle Biscuits factory at Ambarnath

Celebration of International Day of families at KPMG Office at Goregaon

Visit to Wonder Park, Nerul

Playful session at Playzone at Infinity Mall, Malad.

60 children from five day care centres went to watch an IPL match at Wankhede Stadium on April 14, 2018. This outing was organised by Reliance Foundation.

25 children from one of our centres enjoyed a cupcake decorations activity at Renaissance Hotel in Powai.

In August children from three centres participated in an Art & Essay competition in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya.

In September, children from one of the centre visited the Godrej Mangrove Centre in Vikhroli, in an outing sponsored by Premdhara. The guide took the children for a nature walk where they learned about mangroves and the varied flora and fauna of the area.

From Inception to Infinity: Health Exhibition and Round Table

This year, we took our health exhibition, 'From Inception to Infinity: Grassroots efforts to effect change' to our children and community on three construction sites. The exhibitions showcased three key themes relevant to MMC's work on construction sites:

Maternal and Child Health

Child Protection and Safety

Water, Health and Sanitation

Installations depicting the lives of construction workers around these themes along with relevant information on good practices were placed at our centres. 235 members of the community and 15 site officers visited the exhibition.

We also held three consultations which brought together different stakeholders working on issues of children's health, child protection and sanitation. The consultations helped participants share successful models in these sectors as well as look for new ways to network for advocacy. Held on 24th, 26th and 28th September, the consultations were attended by distinguished panelists from government departments as well as NGO's.



Taking Our Cause to an International Platform!

We made our presence on a wider platform by presenting our work to an international audience. It was a proud moment for everyone at MMC when our health coordinator presented a paper on "Addressing Malnutrition among Children of Migrant Construction Workers in India" at the Asia-Pacific Regional Early Childhood Development (ECD) Conference (ARNEC) Kathmandu, Nepal in June, 2018. The audience were keen to know how we measure the impact of the programme with children staying for such a short duration with MMC. We shared about the indicators we use to assess the effectiveness of our work. We hope that our presentation will help us bring the voice of invisible migrant populations in cities to the attention of the public.

Celebration of World Breastfeeding Week

To encourage the practice of breastfeeding, we celebrated Breastfeeding Week in early August, on 16 construction sites. We partnered with builders, sensitizing them on the importance of breastfeeding and of allowing women on their sites to breastfeed their children whenever needed. We organised Chai Pani meetings at construction sites and other communities where we work, to disseminate essential information regarding breastfeeding and other communities where our interventions take place. Although most of the women who participated knew that breastfeeding was essential, time constraints due to work pressure prevented them from breastfeeding their children regularly. They also shared that many women could not breastfeed exclusively due to insufficient milk production. We realised that undernourishment of the mother is a major contributing factor for this. We engaged in home based counselling visits for lactating women to encourage them to breastfeed: emphasising on the correct position and the importance of responsive caregiving while breastfeeding. We also collaborated with Nirmala Niketan College of Home Science to conduct capacity building sessions for our staff on the importance of breastfeeding, food safety and hygienic measures for the growth and development of children.

"I did not know that it is essential for a child to burp after breastfeeding as well as to ensure my breasts are clean before I feed my child. I will take care from now onwards."

- Sima, a mother at one of our sites

Bal Palika Trainees' Meet

At a feedback session held on June 9, 2018, our Bal Palika trainees from previous batches met at Bhagini Samaj, Dadar. They shared about their journey of struggle and success. Many of them spoke about beating the odds and completing the Bal Palika training course. The group discussion was followed by an interactive session on how to improve communication skills conducted by employees from Schindler India.

Summer Camp for Youths

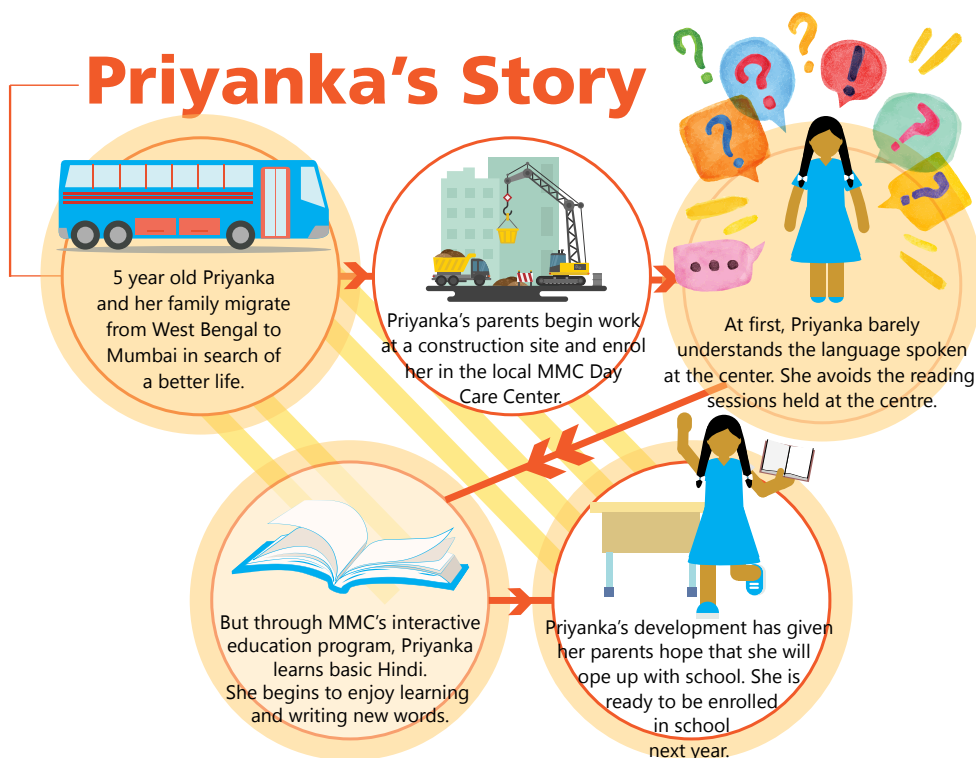
This summer, we organised three workshops on sensitising youth to the issue of gender discrimination and the need for equality. 110 adolescents and youths from construction sites participated in these workshops, which were highly interactive and participatory. The resource persons focused on issues such as gender as a social construct, gender stereotypes and societal expectations. The youth participated enthusiastically, with great interest as the issue resonated with their lived experiences.



Skill Training for Youths

283 youths from two construction sites in Thane were trained in bar bending, shuttering and masonry through 12-day skill trainings conducted in collaboration with Team Lease.

Priyanka's Story



Priyanka's story is similar to many other children attending MMC's centres. Almost 60% of the children attending MMC are from other states of the country and speak different languages. MMC works towards including and mainstreaming them into the formal education system.

Fundraising and Friendraising

Thank You!

Individuals

- Our sincere thanks to Nikhil Marwaha and Dr Pareshnath Paul for their consistent support to MMC.
- Our heartfelt thanks to Seenu and Ashok Samuel for their wonderful and consistent support towards MMC year on year.
- We thank Ayesha Farouque Shaikh, Krishnavel V Chathadi, Mukhesh Bhagwan Waghela, N Vaidheeswaran Iyer, Nalini Chhugani, Padmini Khare Kaicker, Savita Dhingra, Sukrut Paranjape, Umesh V Koshy, Usha Raman, Vineet Dhingra for their generous contributions to our cause.
- We are thankful to Luna Kulkarni, Laura Hames, Marion Hansford and Sunny Chen for being wonderful friends of MMC.
- Our special thanks to Patricia Jane Kelly, our intern this summer from Columbia University, USA. She has contributed greatly in completing the Annual Report, 2017-18 of MMC.
- We are thankful to our supporters who have donated generously in kind at our centres.
- We thank volunteers from Mumbai Connexions for dedicating their time at one of our daycare centres.

Organisations

- Our heartfelt thanks to KPMG in India for organising fun activities and outings for children at our centres as part of their employee engagement.
- A special thanks to Songbound for conducting music sessions at two of our centres. 11 children from our centres participated in their year-end music concert at St. Paul's School, Dadar.
- We thank employees from Accenture India Pvt. Ltd., Owens Corning India Pvt. Ltd., Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd., for conducting volunteering events with our children.
- We are grateful to Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Coface India Credit Management Services Pvt. Ltd., Future Generali India Insurance Co. Ltd., Medusind Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Micro Housing Finance Ltd., Owens Corning (India) Pvt. Ltd., PNB Housing Finance Ltd., Schindler India Pvt. Ltd., Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd., and Western Consolidated Pvt. Ltd.
- We sincerely thank our funders – Amrit Vasudeva Trust, Asha For Education, Blue Star Foundation, Central Social Welfare Board, Child Vikaas International, Cigna Foundation, Genesis Charitable Trust, Give Foundation, H.T. Parekh Foundation, Kalpataru Trust, Kashinath Charitable Trust, KPMG Foundation, Leaders' Quest Foundation, Premdhara Strom der Liebe e.V., Reliance Foundation, Savita and Khemchand Dhingra Foundation, Tata Education and Development Trust, United Way of Mumbai, United World College of South East Asia, V.V. & Smt. K.V. Mariwala Charity Trust, and Verein Mobile Krippen, Freiburg, for their support through grants and donations.