

## BAL SHRISTI

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MUMBAI  
MOBILE CRECHES  
FUTURES UNDER CONSTRUCTION*Spreading our wings!**Greetings from Mumbai Mobile Creches!*

In the last six months we have spread our wings to include many more activities. In an effort to reach marginalised children from industries allied to the construction sector and to encourage brick kilns and stone quarry owners to acknowledge a heretofore overlooked responsibility towards migrant children on their sites, we took our day care centre models this year to seven new seasonal brick kilns and two quarry sites.

Since the brick kilns are operational for only six months, to stay connected to the migrant brick kiln and quarry workers, and to understand the nature of their villages, their seasonal occupations, and the availability of support systems for their children, MMC has started a source site intervention and visits to communities who migrate to the brick kiln sites. In the pursuit of our vision, 'for all children to have a nurturing and happy childhood', we have started exploring expansion plans as "Knowledge Partner"

with the NGO 'Jeevan Vikas Kendra'. This NGO works on the education of older children with a focus on adolescent girls as well as with the Women and Child Development Department (WCD) to run a creche-cum-anganwadi centre for over 90 children in the age group birth to 6 years at Poinjye village, based on the child care needs identified during the visit to these villages.

For the past 51 years MMC has been striving to provide safety, education and health intervention to one of the most vulnerable groups in Mumbai Metropolitan Region – the children of migrant construction workers. Over the past five decades we have worked over 300 construction sites and reached over 1,50,000 children. The past few months have been a euphoric journey with back-to-back events: first, our Puppet Exhibition followed by the MMC's art installation at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, and then our Bal Palika Training (BPT) Teaching Aids Exhibition.

**MMC's Reached to 1725 children**

Average number of children across all models

Day Care Centres on  
Construction Sites: 840  
children

Care on Wheels: 165 children



Child Care Centres: 63



Brick Kilns: 304 children



Slums: 78 children



Stone Quarries: 54 children



CORP: 221 children

42 children were enrolled in schools.

475 doctors' visits across all models

27 eye camps screening 905 children, 32 ear camps screening 1292 children, 32 dental camps screening 890 children

986 immunisations were facilitated across all models

256 chai-pani meetings were conducted across all models reaching on an average 830 parents every month

64 lokdoots conducted across all models reaching to 4450 community members

*My health journey*

Ronak was just 8 months old when he was enrolled in an MMC day care centre. His parents, originally from a small village in Bihar, were forced to migrate to Mumbai due to financial difficulties. They started working on a construction site where an MMC's day care centre was located. Their joy knew no bounds when Ronak was born. During a visit to the labour camp, an MMC teacher noticed Ronak and was concerned about his weak and unwell condition. The teacher briefed the parents about MMC and its comprehensive program, ensuring Ronak's enrollment in the creche section.

Recognizing Ronak's specialized care needs, the MMC teacher started paying special attention to his overall development, from nutrition to health care. Ronak's anthropometric measurements showed that he was malnourished, weighing 8.3kg and measuring 62.5 centimetres in height.

Initially, Ronak cried frequently at the centre. However, with the teachers' regular care, support, and attention, Ronak gradually began to adjust, and his health improved. Teachers ensured he received nutritious meals at regular intervals and administered calcium and multivitamins. MMC's empanelled doctors also regularly monitored his health status. Within five months, Ronak showed drastic improvement in his weight and height. He started eating on his own, moved around, played with other creche children, and actively participated in various activities. Ronak's parents expressed gratitude not only to the teacher but also to MMC for taking special care of their child. They now believe that "MMC should have such day care centres on every construction site, thus providing a safe, healthy, and caring environment for young children".

# Notes from the Field

## Our Special Events



### Safety Week

MMC collaborated with builders and contractors to observe 'National safety week' in March 2024 with the national theme 'Focus on Safety Leadership for Environmental and Social Governance excellence.' Recognizing the inherent risks of living on active construction sites, where accidents are a constant concern, it becomes imperative for workers to prioritize their well-being and that of their families. During Safety Week, MMC aimed to enhance awareness on importance of safety by organizing lokdoots (street plays). These plays focused on illuminating safety challenges encountered on construction sites, such as working at heights, lifting heavy weights, and operating machinery. Emphasizing precautionary measures, the street plays reached 120 workers, effectively raising safety awareness.



### Annual Book Week

MMC's 14th Annual Book Week was celebrated in November 2023.

Keeping in mind the aspiration and dreams of our children and to ensure an inclusive environment, this year the theme chosen for the Book



Week was - 'चलो सपनों में खो जाये!' (Let's drift into the world of our dreams!) Children were encouraged to share their dreams and aspirations for the future. The children were also teleported in an imaginative world through reading, storytelling, arts and crafts and a lot more! It was initiated with 'Prabhat Pheri' by our children to announce the celebration of Book Week. Our guests site officers, supervisors, authors, writers, volunteers and funders inaugurated the Book Week and read stories to children. The event was concluded with an Exhibition on the last day, featuring the art created by children.

### Annual Puppet Festival

Our Annual Puppet Festival celebrated in January 2024 with a theme आओ खेले

बचपन के खेल' (Let's play childhood games). As



puppets add a natural and

enjoyable extension to the children's learning experience, we celebrated puppet week across MMC model followed by puppet exhibition that was held on 9th & 10th February 2024. Children created amazing puppets and art based on the theme. The puppet festival also included Puppet Shows conducted by children and our teachers. Also, proudly displayed puppets created by our children at the exhibition.



### Health Week

Due to lack of awareness and limited resources the migrant workers as well as children are prone to vitamin deficiencies and ailments related to it. Keeping these challenges in mind, MMC celebrated health week with the theme 'Sources of Vitamins' from February 2024. The objective was to intensify community outreach on the themes of health, hygiene and nutrition. Various activities were enjoyed by children and community such as poster making, artworks related to theme, making fruits salad and sprout bhel. Additionally, awareness sessions were conducted by our empanelled doctors on the sources of vitamins and its importance.



### Women's Day Celebration

MMC payed homage to all the incredible women who stand tall amidst challenging conditions to support their families. International Women's Day was widely celebrated in March and MMC also joined in, contributing to uplifting and empowering women living on



construction sites, brick kilns, and stone quarries. Many of these women labour tirelessly on these sites to support their households. To appreciate their selfless contribution for their families, MMC organized fun activities for women, offering them a chance to enjoy the day and let their hair down!

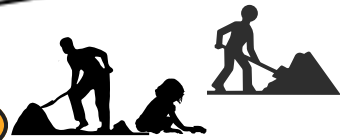
### Our Dream Home



The Kala Ghoda Art Festival 2024 witnessed our installation, 'हमारे सपनों का घर' ('Our Dream Home'), soaring into the realm of imagination. We feel honoured to have been recognized on the Merit List for our creation. Every corner whispered stories of hopes and possibilities, from lunar construction sites to dreams reaching toward the stars."

# Notes from the Field

## Life beyond construction sites



### Annual Camp

In December 2023, MMC organised its annual residential camps, continuing the tradition of the last 37 years. These camps were organised for the children in batches at Yusuf Meherally Centre, Panvel. Over 400 children enjoyed the overnight camp. This was a chance for them to escape noisy construction sites and enjoy some serenity far from the hustle and bustle of the city. The children enjoyed many outdoor games and watched an exciting magic show. They also worked together to put up skits and talent shows for their peers. Apart from this, children saw live sessions of crafts such as pottery, soap making, manure making, and trees of different types. Annual camps are a great way to expose children to the outside world and also provide them with a much-needed break.



### MCHI cricket match

It was an exciting moment for our 51 children who participated in the CSR Cricket Tournament 2024 MCHI Premium League 10 (MPL), organised by Maharashtra Chambers of Housing Industry



(MCHI). This cricket tournament has been a yearly tradition for MMC's children for the past decade. The winning team received trophies and the best performers medals,, boosting their self-confidence. In addition, there were fun activities such as tattoo making and dance performances. For our children, who rarely have the opportunity to go beyond their construction sites, this outing was a valuable experience.

### Rajhans Vidyalaya Sports Day

As in previous years, Rajhans Vidyalaya at Andheri organised a Sports Day in February for our children. Over 100 children from nine day care centres attended the sports event. The day ended with the gifts, yummy treats and watching a cartoon film.



### Staff Social

This year, with the generous support of Bajaj Alliance Ltd., a trip to Kolhapur for a total of 70 staff was organised. It included an exposure visit to an NGO Umed Foundation and city sightseeing. Umed Foundation working with children of migrant sugarcane workers, was a great way to exchange ideas and knowledge, and exploring the opportunity of collaboration as 'Knowledge Partner'. Our staff also enjoyed sight scenes such as Panhala Fort, Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj Museum, Rankala Lake, temples etc.



### Educational Exposure Visit

MMC's education programme provides a platform of visits for children who are not exposed to the world outside of their construction sites covered with blue tin sheets. This year, over 200 children had the opportunity to visit different places such as Shishuvihar International School, Shantivan Adventure Park, Tata Trent office, American School of Bombay (ASB), Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Dr. BMN college of Home Science, Art Carnival- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, etc. These visits provided rich learning experiences and exposure to a completely different world.

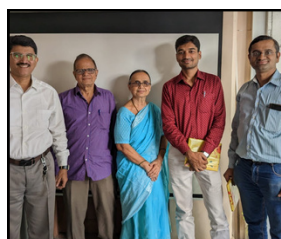
### Running for a cause – Mumbai Marathon

The Mumbai Marathon is one of the biggest annual fundraising events for MMC. This year, our director, Ms. Shagoofa Rashid Khan, team member Ms. Aarati Morvekar and seven alumni youths participated in the Tata Mumbai Marathon held on January 21, 2024 to bring the attention of people to the issue of children living on construction sites. They made their presence felt when they proudly wore our logo and carried our banners throughout the race. It was an inspiring experience for our runners and they have decided to mobilise more of their peers next year. Additionally, this year 40 runners from our corporate partner Owens Corning India Pvt. Ltd. along with three individual runners also ran to support our cause. We thank all of them for supporting us!



### MMC's Doctors' Meeting

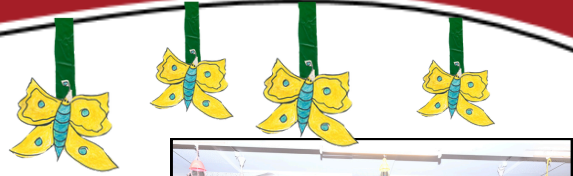
A special thanks goes to all MMC's doctors who have been supporting us for a very long period. They are the pillars of MMC's health programme which focuses on the physical wellbeing of children. In February 2024, MMC conducted a meeting with its panel of doctors, where they shared their experiences about the overall health status of MMC's children and deliberated on ways to further improve MMC's health programme.



### Alumni Meet

They all took different paths in life, but no matter where they went, they never forgot their roots. It is a matter of pride for us that in spite of coming from some of the most challenging backgrounds, MMC's alumni are doing remarkably well in their chosen fields. As we do every year, we arranged a small get-together for our alumni in February 2024 at Shantiwan, Panvel. A total 69 alumni, above 18 years from various educational and professional backgrounds spent their day knowing each other and sharing their fond memories of their childhood at MMC centres. Additionally, the alumni greatly valued the counselling and career guidance received by Mr. Vikas Kadam.

# Notes from the Field and Fundraising & Friendraising



## Annual Teaching Aids exhibition

Every year our trainees from the Bal Palika Teacher (BPT) Training programme create a wide array of teaching aids that they learn during the course and are displayed at our annual Teaching Aids Exhibition. This year's theme was 'आओ पहचाने खुद को, मैं हूँ कौन?' (Know yourself 'Who am I?') showcased the Teaching Aids created by them from waste materials. This creativity and confidence of theirs was truly inspiring. There were songs, dances, puppet shows, thought-provoking stories shared by the trainees and a lot more. Creative teaching methods i.e. interactive games and puppets jostled for space with attractive teaching aids on building math and language readiness. Over 100 participants that included children, university students, teachers and people from various NGOs visited the exhibition both days with gusto!



## Staff Training: Foundation for Excellence

### Capacity building for our staff

Appreciative Community Leadership by Bal Vikasa Training Center, CSR Fundraising and Statutory Compliances and Grant Management for NGOs by Impactyog Development Services, Class Management and Teachings Aids by Anubhuti Endeavours Pvt. Ltd. and Navnirmitti Edu Quality Foundation  
Association for Early Childhood Education and Development (AECED) - workshops and international spotlight webinars, Kahani Tree-Library Workshop, Event on Early Years Intervention Programme by Vipla Foundation  
Refresher session on Child Development Aide and Early Childhood Champions programs by Ummeed Child Development Center  
Fire Safety & Disaster Management, First Aid, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (POSH), Inhouse workshop on leaderships roles and responsibilities

## Sensitisation And Creating Awareness

In order to protect children from all forms of harm and to create an enabling environment, MMC felt the need and importance of creating awareness and sensitising their children and their parents on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO). Thus, MMC collaborated with the Rubaroo Breaking Silence Foundation for conducting the POCSO sessions across MMC models. This deepened the children's knowledge about safe and unsafe touch and made them aware of how to protect themselves from offences of sexual harassment and assaults. In the last six months 152 children and 81 parents benefitted through 15 sessions.

## Building Child Care Capacities for women living on construction sites

MMC conducted 12-day Bal Vikas Sahayog (BVS) training programme on Building Child Care Capacities. In the last six months, total of 19 women from construction sites and slums completed this course successfully. The women trained would be the change agents to their children, wherein they are providing good childcare, attention on their health and nutrition.

## ECCE Workshops

With over four decades of experience in working with young vulnerable children, MMC performed puppet show for Tata Memorial Hospital in December 2023 where over 500 audience enjoyed the show.

## Thank you!

### Individuals

- We are grateful to Mr. Raghavan Shastri, Mr. Nakuleesh Sharma, Ms. Vrushali & Mr. Sameer Naik, for their generous donations towards MMC's Corpus funds.
- We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Gaurav Wakankar, Ms. Minaxi Haksar, Ms. Natasha Albuquerque, Ms. Frahinsa Rodrigues for their generous donation towards our day care centre programmes.
- We would like to express our immense gratitude to Mr. Nikhil Marwaha for his trust and support towards MMC.
- We thank our volunteer Mr. Steven Swaby for visiting our day care centre, teaching English and football to our children and also for generous donation of clothes and toys.
- We immensely thank Ms. Purnima Thacker and Ms. Rishita Chandra from 'Know Your Art' for conducting art sessions for our children and generous of stationery and art material for our children attending annual camp.

### Organisations

- We are indebted to Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd., Bajaj Finance Ltd., Capri Global Housing Finance Ltd., Coface India Credit Management Services Pvt Ltd., Godrej Seeds and Genetics Ltd., HDFC Capital Advisors Pvt. Ltd., Kotak Mahindra Investments Ltd., Medusind Solutions India Private Ltd., Owens- Corning (India) Pvt. Ltd., Sajjan India Ltd., Schindler India Pvt. Ltd., Solutia Chemicals India Pvt Ltd., Western Consolidated Pvt. Ltd., Western Union Services India Pvt Ltd, for supporting our comprehensive programmes.
- We sincerely thank Azim Premji Foundation, Child Vikaas International, Reliance Foundation, Verein Mobile Krippen, and United World College of South East Asia for their grants and donations.
- Our heartfelt thanks to Anamudi Real Estates LLP and Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry for their generous donation towards MMC's corpus funds.
- Heartfelt thanks to the team of Owens Corning India Pvt. Ltd. For visiting one of our centres and participated in arts and crafts activities with the children. Other volunteering activities were organized by Accenture India, Tata Consumers Ltd., Reliance Foundation, Hersheys India for our children.
- We thank the student interns from SNDT Women's University, Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work, NMIMS School of Design, Azim Premji University, BITS School of Management and MIT School of Fine Arts & Applied Arts.
- We would like to thank Jansahas Foundation for conducting awareness sessions and BOCWA registration and e-shram card registrations.
- We thank MLWB for conducting De Addiction session for community members and SNEHA for conducting session on Domestic violence.
- We thank Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Centre for Child Heart Care & Paediatric Cardiac Skills, Kharghar for organising two cardiac screening camps for children, pregnant and lactating mothers in association with Indian Academy of Paediatrics Navi Mumbai Chapter.
- We would like to thank The Trunk Museum, a project of the CSMVS Children's Museum for conducting educational sessions on India's first ancient civilisations -the Harappan Civilisation.
- We thank Headways Early Learning Center for donation of toys, teaching-learning-aids and stationary material for our children.
- We sincerely thank our supporters who donated through platforms like Benevity Inc., Give Foundation, Giving Impetus to Voluntary Efforts, Give and United Way Mumbai.