

Greetings from Mumbai Mobile Creches!

We have been busy these past six months with both new and standard activities as we endeavour to fulfil our mission to give children living on construction sites and other marginalised communities a happy and healthy childhood.

Through our centres, spread across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, we strive to provide safety, education, health & nutritional support to these children, and we have catered to an average 1329 children during April to September 2023. Efforts were made to improve the nutrition programme by giving the best possible nourishment to the children. Summers were made more exciting and lively by the introduction of new activities.



MMC's Reached to 1329 children

Average number of children across all models



**Day Care Centres on
Construction Sites:**
816



**Care on Wheels
Mobile Bus:**
123



Brick Kilns:
69



**Stone
Quarries:**
48



Slums:
63



Child Care Centres:
70



CORP:
140

- 118 children enrolled in schools
- 1119 children availed Phirti Library (Book circulation) and 1057 children availed Toy Library (Toy circulation) facility
- 410 doctors' visits were conducted
- 14 Eye camps screening 578 children, 10 Ear camps screening 263 children, five Dental camps screening 292 children
- 469 immunizations were facilitated
- 232 Chai Pani Meetings were conducted reaching on an average 679 parents every month
- 11 Lokdoots conducted reaching 772 community members
- Four children received scholarships under BOCWA.

Success story of Laxmi Sonkamble

Laxmi Sonkamble, now 25, first came to MMC when she was ten. MMC's teacher enrolled her in the nearby municipal school.



While at the centre, apart from a nutritious meals, she enjoyed educational activities such as learning through play, listening to stories, rhymes and participating in all special events. She learnt addition and subtraction. She went on field trips. All this inspired her to become a teacher serving her own community.

After she completed her 12th, MMC teachers encouraged her to enrol in the Balpalika Teacher Training (BPT) programme in the 2022-23 batch.

She acknowledges that completing the BPT course was not easy. But she managed, thanks to the support and encouragement of MMC's trainers. The stipend she received helped her to be independent and complete the course without putting any financial burden on her family.

She is now a proud teacher at MMC.



Notes from the Field

Dissemination Conference

MMC held a Dissemination Conference on June 28, 2023, at Melville Hall in Mumbai Central. The event aimed to highlight two research studies conducted by MMC concerning migrant workers on brick kilns and construction sites. The objective was to present insights and challenges from these studies, explore expansion plans at brick kiln sites, expand day care programmes for children at sites outside Mumbai, and strengthen advocacy efforts by networking with other NGOs working on similar causes. We were honored to have as our Special Guests, Mrs. Madhavi Surve (Assistant Commissioner of Maharashtra Labour Welfare Board-MLWB), Mrs. Arpita Singh from Schindler India Pvt. Ltd. and other representatives from organisations such as UNICEF, Ajeevika Bureau, Jansahas, Arohan, SACRED, Jeevan Vikas Kendra, Centre for Social Action, Karuna Trust, Apanalaya, Ration Kruti Samiti, and WCD Department - Palghar.

The special guests praised and commended MMC's work. MLWB also expressed their interest in collaborating with MMC to establish Day Care Centers for underprivileged children.



Advocating the need of day care centres for working mothers



Day care facilities have become a necessity for working mothers and the Maharashtra government is keen on setting up centres for children from birth to 18 years. Ms. Aditi Tatkare, the state's Minister of Women and Child Development, invited MMC along with other organisations for a preliminary meeting to discuss setting up centres in BMC schools.

In another fruitful meeting with the Maharashtra Labour Welfare Board Commissioner Mr. Raviraj Ilawe, and Ms. Madhavi Surve, we presented our proposal to run day care centres in collaboration with the MLWB at two of their labour community sites..

Networking for the cause of vulnerable children

We are delighted to share that our Chief Executive Mrs. Frahinsa Rodrigues was invited as a panelist in the "Third Forum Meeting on Building Conceptual Clarity on Deinstitutionalization, Gatekeeping and Family Strengthening" held on 6th June. The panelists shared their experience of various interventions.



ECCE workshops for other organisations

Among the several creative techniques we use for teaching, puppets are our favourite. We conducted puppet making workshops for institutions like Mumbai Smiles, Karunya Trust, Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work. There were more than 110 participants.

Life Skills Education



We have introduced Life Skills Education sessions across all centres. Children learn emotional intelligence, stress management, problem solving and coping strategies. To equip children with these valuable skills we collaborated with the organization Anubhuti. Its instructors used creative mediums such as storytelling, music, role-playing, mind mapping through engaging games, and small group discussions. During April to September 2023, 87 children participated in Life Skills sessions.



Notes from the Field

Tab-Based Learning

MMC aims to enroll the children in formal school as soon as they are ready. Teachers also help children on a continuous basis to make sure they do not drop out. After analysing the impact of tablet-based learning at one centre and receiving positive responses from children, we expanded the programme to three more centres in Shirdhon, Powai and Taloja. Currently the programme is run at six centres. 104 children have benefited from tablet-based learning.



Arts and Craft Workshops for children



Arts and crafts have always been an integral part of MMC's educational programme as they are effective ways of connecting with young children. We continued our programme of art and craft sessions at the Children Observation Home and Bal Kalyan Nagari in Mankhurd. We reached 71 children through 24 sessions. The sessions conducted by our team also provided these children an opportunity to experience the joy of creation.



This year MMC collaborated with the Dr. Ernest Borges Memorial Home and conducted an arts and craft workshop for 25 children undergoing cancer treatment. The kids participated enthusiastically. The workshop enabled them to express their creativity and helped distract them from the discomfort or pain they were experiencing. We've now been asked to conduct such workshops every fortnight.

Breastfeeding Week



Breastfeeding Week is observed nationally during August every year. This year, the theme of the week at our centres was 'Let's make breastfeeding at work, Work!'. We distributed baby care products for children and seasonal fruits to the lactating mothers. In some centres, health post, anganwadi workers were present during the session and spoke about the best practices of breastfeeding.

Chess Training

This year we continued intermediate Chess training at one site and introduced basic training across five sites. Playing chess helps children in develop problem solving skills, improves concentration, boosts self-confidence and inculcates sportsmanship.

During April to September 2023, on an average 115 children learnt chess through 86 sessions.



Quotes from our children

"I love to play chess. We should be very focused on the game while playing chess. My favourite moves are Checkmate and double attack - **Rama Kamble (13 years)**"

"I like to play chess and learn new moves. My friend Amit also teaches me the moves that I don't remember
Sanjana Kumari (12 years)"

"I eagerly wait for the chess sessions. Sir teaches us chess very well. I like to make moves with knight, queen and pawn. From all the moves that I learned, double attack is my favourite move - **Shaurya Khandare (8 years)**"

"I eagerly wait for the chess sessions and love to play. I like to move the queen criss-cross and if the path is blocked, I make other path to move and save the king
Karankumar Balkrishna Sada (9 years)"

Notes from the Field and Fundraising & Friendraising

Balpalika Teacher Training Programme



The batch of 2022-2023 passed the course with flying colours. 10 trainees were placed and started working in different child care institutions. The new batch of BPT training commenced their training in June 2023 at Navi Mumbai and Wadala centres. 25 trainees were enrolled. Of these, 12 are from construction sites and 13 from other marginalized communities.

Customized Balpalika Teacher Training Programme for Dosti Foundation



This year for the first time MMC customised the yearlong Balpalika Teacher Training (BPT) programme to six months. The Dosti Group Foundation had approached MMC to train 12 teachers from the Palghar Jilha Parishad School, Taluka- Talasari, Dahanu. This six-month training in Early Childhood Care and Development will enhance the capacity and knowledge of teachers and help them develop new techniques and skills.

Parenting Workshops



This year, MMC's crèche and balwadi teachers underwent parenting training using the tools developed by the Hincks Dellcrest Center (Canada) as adapted by Bala Mandir Research Foundation. The teachers disseminated this information to parents during Chai-Pani meetings and discussed the importance of parents' involvement in their children's development. 43 teachers have been trained in parenting. The programme, conducted by these teachers, has reached 2767 parents across MMC models.

‘MMC ka Darwaza’ showcasing our Alumni stories:



At MMC, we have always maintained a strong connection with our alumni. We asked ten children enrolled in our programme to draw scenes of what their lives would have been like without MMC and to write about how their lives turned out thanks to MMC. We then published a diary showcasing these drawings and stories.

Thank you!

Individuals

- We appreciate the generous donations of Mr. Gunther Pankoke and Mr. Nikhil Marwaha towards our work and thank them for their continual trust and support.
- We are grateful to Ms. Priyanka Morvekar, Mr. Rajeev Ohol, Mr. Satyendranath Bhat and Ms. Sejal Waghela for their generous donations to our corpus fund.
- We thank Ms. Purnima Thacker and Ms. Rishita Chandra from 'Know Your Art' for conducting art sessions for our children. We also thank other volunteers- Zeleika Vranka, Xaviera Vranka, Mira Dhall and Tanishq Desai for teaching English, Math and conducting arts & craft activities, games, etc.
- We thank Mr. Vishal Mahakalkar for conducting an aural care awareness session.

Organisations

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- Many thanks to these organisations for conducting awareness sessions- Rubaroo on child sexual abuse, SNEHA on importance of breastfeeding, MLWB on de-addiction and Jansahas Foundation on BOCWA and e-shram card registrations.
- Many thanks to the ladies from the MCHI's Women's Wing for spending time with our children and donating toys and teaching-aids.
- We thank the student interns from SNT 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 thank Mrs. Bharati Bhoje from Balkumb Health Post, Dr. Punam Jaykar & Mr Kamble from Dhagaon PHC sub centre, Kalyan, for various health awareness sessions.
- We thank Mr. Viren from Tata strive Skill training, Pratham Education Foundation and Kotak Education Foundation for conducting skill orientations and training sessions.

