

BAL SHRISTI



MUMBAI
MOBILE CRECHES
FUTURES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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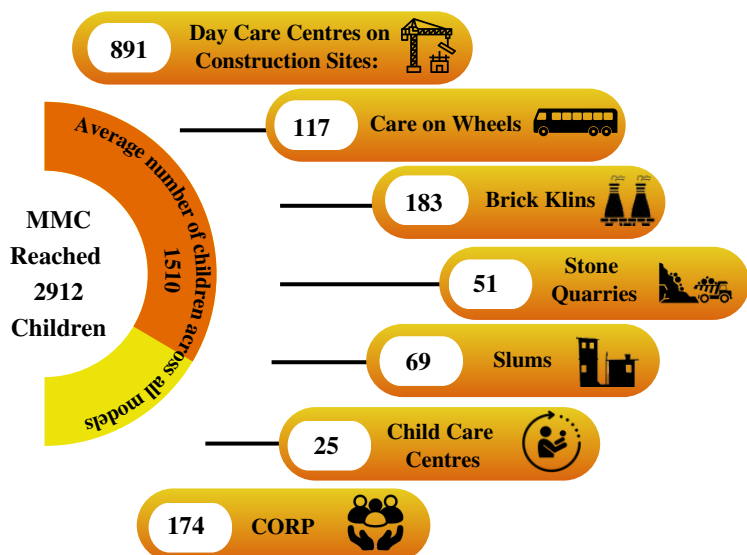
Rough diamonds may sometimes be mistaken for worthless pebbles. – ‘Thomas Browne’

At MMC, we are committed to shaping the lives of children—our "diamonds" residing on construction sites and in marginalized communities. We aim to provide them with a happy, nurturing, and healthy childhood. MMC continues to work tirelessly to make this vision a reality, running our various Day Care Centres and seeking new partnerships with NGOs and institutions that share our passion.

MMC's trained teachers in Fire Safety and Disaster Management have focused on increasing safety awareness and

enhancing the knowledge of both our community members and their children. This has made them more vigilant, better prepared, and equipped with the necessary skills to respond effectively during emergencies.

As is customary each year, the children celebrated their vacation by participating in Khel Mahotsav and Shramdaan, engaging in traditional games, constructing birdhouses, and raising awareness within the community on the importance of cleanliness.



Comprehensive Programmes:

- 153 children were enrolled in schools.
- 417 doctors' visits across all models screening on an average 1161
- 18 health camps – 6 eye camps screening 150 children, 9 ear camps screening 343 children, 3 dental camps screening 212 children
- 493 immunisations were facilitated across all models
- 233 chai-pani meetings were conducted across all models reaching on an average 710 parents every month
- 35 lokdoots conducted across all models reaching over 2400 community members

Reigniting Curiosity: Anupriya's Story of Learning and Growth:

Anupriya, a 10-year-old at MMC's Shirdhon day care centre, struggled with her focus and short attention span, which affected her academics and her ability to complete homework. MMC teacher noticed these challenges and discussed them with her parents, who had similar concerns.

The introduction of the tablet-based learning programme at the centre became a turning point in her life. Though initially she found this challenging, with her teacher's support and guidance, Anupriya learned to navigate the tablet. This sparked her interest in her studies. Watching educational videos improved her focus and engagement.



She now uses the tablet daily for an hour, referring to it for homework and lessons, even sharing her newfound knowledge with friends and helping other children in the centre. Her attention span gradually increased, and her overall engagement improved significantly. When she faces challenges in any subject, she turns to the tablet for solutions. For instance, she watched a video lesson to learn about computers and gained a solid understanding of their operations and parts.

Anupriya is thankful to MMC for introducing Tablet Based Learning and says, "I enjoy learning through the tablet videos; they give me a deeper understanding."

Her parents have noticed significant improvements in her and expressed gratitude to the teacher and MMC for her progress.



Notes from the Field



Unlocking Potential: Empowering Minds with Chess

Our children have limited exposure to the world beyond their immediate environment and few opportunities for sports or extracurricular activities. In collaboration with "Little Master Chess Academy," MMC has implemented chess programmes at several centres, benefiting around 95 children between the ages of 6 to 14 years. The academy's trainers were particularly impressed by the children's enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. This initiative has significantly enhanced the children's problem-solving abilities, improved their focus, and fostered self-confidence and sportsmanship.



Life Skills Education: The Foundation for Building Resilience

To equip children with social and emotional learning skills, MMC collaborated with Anubhuti, an organization that delivers experiential learning programmes using art, drama, games and community work. Children from the After-School Support section benefitted through this programme. Techniques such as focused group discussions, role play, and mind mapping were demonstrated. The Life Skill Education programme has been initiated across all models of MMC including brick kilns and quarry sites. Topic such as self-awareness, interpersonal relations, effective communication, problem solving, coping with emotions, creative thinking etc have benefitted over 250 children.



International Yoga Day

International Yoga Day was celebrated across MMC's day care centres on June 21, 2024, bringing attention to the ancient practice of yoga and its holistic benefits for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. The day emphasized the universal appeal of yoga and its potential to promote health and harmony. This celebration encouraged our children to adopt yoga not just as a form of exercise but as a way of life, promoting a healthier, more mindful existence.

Balsabha (Street Play) by Children

MMC's Balsabha programme is instrumental in providing children with opportunities to build confidence, develop critical thinking skills, and enhance teamwork. Children aged 6 to 14 from MMC centres engage in this programme, where they collaboratively write scripts and act out various significant topics. After dedicated practice, they showcase their performances in front of parents and other children at the centre. Topics covered included Vatavaran ki Swachhta (Environmental Cleanliness), Garma Mein Hone Wali Bimariyan (Diseases During Heat), Pani Ki Bachat (Water Conservation), Shiksha Ka Mahatva (Importance of Education), Ped Bachao, Ped Lagao (Save Trees, Plant Trees), and Good Touch, Bad Touch. On an average, 118 children took part in Balsabha, with about 245 parents and 460 children attending the performances across various centres.



Learning Reimagined: Empowering Education through Tablet-Based

This year marks the third consecutive success of our tablet-based learning programme, developed in partnership with iDream Education. Our children have greatly benefited from the programme, which helps them better understand and keep up with their school curriculum. The engaging and creative content—such as animated video lessons, practical exercises, audiobooks, and a digital library—has made learning more accessible for our children. The tablets,

customized as "Tab Labs" were designed specifically to address the challenges of low internet connectivity at construction sites, and the content is aligned with the Maharashtra State Board curriculum. The programme also operates offline, requiring no internet access, and offers materials in both Hindi and Marathi. Over 280 children benefitted from the tablet-based learning programme.



Exploring the World: Beyond the Blue Tin Sheet

In August, 39 children had the opportunity to explore Google's office. This outing marked a new chapter in their learning, as they discovered how to leverage Google's search engine for academic purposes and learned to navigate using Google Maps.

Additionally, our 10 children had an opportunity to participate in a workshop on child sexual abuse organized by the Prerana organization.



Notes from the Field

Shramdaan : Building Hygiene and Environmental Consciousness

MMC celebrates Shramdaan in the month of May every year. Shramdaan- means voluntary contribution of labour. Shramdaan at MMC teaches our children to be more conscious about their



environment. This year, the theme was 'शारीरिक स्वच्छता- Personal Hygiene', where the older children between 6 to 14 raised awareness about the importance and benefits of good hygiene. The children participated in a community rally

on personal hygiene. They created banners and slogans related to the theme. They participated in many activities during Shramdaan. Through the recitation of the handwash poem taught by MMC teachers, they learnt how to wash their hands with soap and water. It also reinforced the importance of cultivating healthy habits, even in environments like construction sites. As a part of Shramdaan, children also made wet and dry waste dustbins and placed them in their homes. Children also created birdhouses and water bowls using waste material.

Where Fun Meets Growth: The Spirit of Khel Mahotsav

As with every year after Shramdaan, the children at our centres became very excited about Khel Mahotsav. Every day, they played a variety of fun-filled games. The centres are filled with cheers, joy, laughter, bonding, and even a sense of competition! Our teachers make the most of limited resources to craft engaging



games like book balance, balloon races, lagori, passing through the rope, and many others. Besides being fun, these activities stimulate both fine and gross motor skills in the children. It also ensures that the children get both physical and mental exercise at the centres by participating in various intellectual games, races, and outdoor activities. An atmosphere of joy and happiness permeates the centres with the sounds of cheers and clapping.



Lokdoot

At MMC, breaking language barriers through interactive engagement has proven to be highly effective. We use creative and playful approaches with children, while Lokdoots (street plays) have been instrumental in capturing the



attention of community members and delivering key messages in captivating and thought-provoking ways. MMC shares this expertise with like-minded institutions and NGOs. This year, MMC hosted a Lokdoot workshop for over 35 students from Nav Jivan Society, teaching them how to use it as an innovative tool for overcoming language barriers.

Imagination Unleashed Creative Sparks at Children's Observation Home and Bal Kalyan Nagari, Mankhurd



At MMC, arts and crafts have always played a key role in our educational approach, offering a creative and engaging way to connect with young children. We continued our series of art and craft sessions, reaching more than 100 children through 38 interactive sessions. These sessions gave the children an opportunity to explore their creativity and experience the joy of making something with their own hands.

I struggled with shyness and avoided speaking with others, but the Life Skills Education program on self-development and building confidence helped me break through that. Now, I'm confident when speaking and take initiative in other activities. - **Kudarat Khatun (7 years)**



I used to find mathematics intimidating due to my poor skills and fear of failing. Thanks to MMC's Tablet-Based Learning program, I've seen a significant improvement in my skills. The tablet's video lessons have provided me with a clearer understanding of concepts like shapes and dimensions. - **Nikita Patel (8 years)**

Breastfeeding week

Breastfeeding Week is observed nationally during the month of August. This year, the theme of Breastfeeding Week at MMC was 'Importance of Breastfeeding'. MMC has consistently advocated good breastfeeding practices. This



year too, MMC interacted with the lactating mothers to promote breastfeeding, disseminate information about the importance of breastfeeding for the first six months of a child's life and a lot more. MMC also distributed baby care products for children and seasonal fruits to the lactating mothers. In some centres, Anganwadi workers were present during the session and spoke about the importance of breastfeeding.

Notes from the Field

ECCE Workshops: Nurturing Knowledge for Young Minds:



Bal Palika Teacher (BPT) Training Programme

MMC is recognized for its expertise in ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) and Puppetry. Drawing on this expertise, MMC organized a series of workshops, focusing on both Puppetry and ECCE for like-minded organizations and institutes. The initiative included nine puppetry workshops with 381 participants and one ECCE workshop with 36 participants. These sessions were



held in collaboration with various institutions and NGOs such as Nanavati College of Home Science, Kishan Goradia Vishwavrutti Foundation, CHIP India Foundation, Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work.



The batch of 2023-2024, 20 trainees passed the course with flying colours. 10 trainees were placed and started working in different childcare institutions.

The new batch of BPT trainees commenced their training in June 2024 at Navi Mumbai and Wadala centres, 29 trainees were enrolled. Of these, 11 are from construction sites and 18 from other marginalized communities

Independence Day

On India's 78th Independence Day, the sight of our flag ignited a fresh wave of inspiration in our children. The centre was filled with a spirit of unity, harmony, and love as the children enthusiastically performed patriotic songs and dances, celebrating the nation's heritage



Thank You

Individuals

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Corporates/Institutes/Organization

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