

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page 1:

Editorial

Page 2:

State Forum

Page 3:

Glimpses of State Forum

Page 4:

Light the Way

Children's Day Celebrations

Pages 5:

The Girl with a Voice

Constitution Day

Celebrations

Page 6:

Awareness on Child Labour



Kid's Corner

Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabhag

A monthly newsletter highlighting activities of the Children's Parliaments in Maharashtra

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

In this last month of the year, we bring to you the 9th edition of the Newsletter. Ever since we started preparing these newsletters and sending them to you, we've come across some amazing articles of children who have shown leadership skills and taken initiatives to bring about a positive change not only in themselves but also their communities.

This shows that you as facilitators have guided and trained the children well to bring about this change and we want to thank you for this continued effort. We should always keep in mind that the children are the citizens of today and their smallest of suggestions should be treated in a way that grooms them for a brighter tomorrow.

Through this newsletter, we bring you an article on the recently concluded 2nd State Forum that had a Panel Discussion on the topic Violence against Children and which was telecast live on Facebook for all of you to see. Then there are articles on Children's Day, Constitution Day Celebrations and Awareness on Child Labour. Included is an article where children got an opportunity to interact with stakeholders at the UNICEF India head office and children who took the initiative to see that their streets were adequately lit.

Initiatives, no matter how small, will help the children in their overall development and through this medium we aim to give a helping hand to the children to realize their potential, build their confidence and to aim higher.

- The Editorial Team

PRATYEK

Presence and Pathfinders for Advocacy and Training of the Young for Earth-rights and Kids' rights



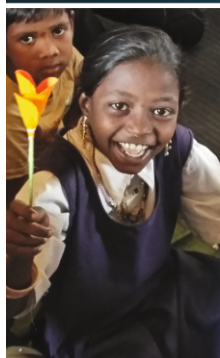
CENTRE
FOR SOCIAL
ACTION

FACILITATORS OF A JUST AND
HUMANE SOCIETY

unicef



Maaza
Maharashtra
Maaza
Sahabhag



UN Convention
on the
Rights of the Child

“Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment”

STATE FORUM

The second State Forum under the Phase II of the project Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabag was held at Sarvodaya – Centre for Capacity Building, Goregaon (East), on 5th and 6th of November 2019. The theme for this State Forum was “Violence against Children”.

A total of 31 children and 16 facilitators from Kolhapur, Beed, Raigad, Chandrapur, Palghar, Thane and Mumbai districts participated in this State Forum. The objective of this state forum was to educate the children on the chosen theme and to interact with various stakeholders in a way that they go back equipped with information on the steps that should be taken in case of reports of violence.

The two-day program began on 5th November at 10.00 am with the welcome of all the children and the facilitators by the Director of Centre for Social Action. The children were then given a summary of the activities for the two days followed by an ice breaker activity to get the children to know each other. Throughout the day there were various sessions like, explanation of four main pillars of Child Rights, Prevention and Justice on Violence against children and children’s thoughts on an ideal violence free society. The day ended with a basic training on Self-Defence which the children enjoyed a lot.

The second day, i.e. 6th November, had two sessions in the first half, viz. the role of media with regards to violence against children and “Sharing Circle” where just a part of an image was shown to the children and they had to describe what they saw and then the complete image as shown just to highlight the fact that violence could be hidden in plain sight. The

children were then urged to share their experience where they observed violence taking place against the children. This was followed by the preparation for the panel discussion which



was the highlight of the second day.

The panellist for the discussion which began at 4:00pm were Ms. Priyanka Narnavare (DCP, Thane District), Dr. Sudhir Sawant (President, CWC Thane district), Mr. Robert Almeida (Counsellor) and Ms. Priti Patkar (Founder Director 'Prerana'). This session began with the welcoming and introduction of each of the panellists. This was followed by a question and answer session where the children got an opportunity to ask questions related to safety in their environment to each of these panellists and these questions were answered to the satisfaction of the children. The children became aware of the do's and don'ts while facing violence, the authorities to whom they should approach at local level and the confidentiality maintained by the authorities. This panel discussion of two hours was telecast live on Facebook for all our partners from across Maharashtra to see.

“ You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right. ”

<https://www.crcasia.org/>

“ You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly. ”

<https://www.crcasia.org/>

GLIMPSES FROM THE STATE FORUM



LIGHT THE WAY

a discussion in the Bal Sabha meeting, the children decided to write an application to the BMC (Electricity Department).

On 4th November 2019, 6 children from the Bal Sabha visited BMC office and met a Senior Engineer from the Electricity Department and submitted the application to fix the streetlights.

On 8th November 2019, the streetlights were fixed. Having the area illuminated has brought cheer to the children who feel safe to step out in the evening.

The children from the Bal Sabha expressed their gratitude to the electricity department through a letter and look forward to networking with them in the future.



Centre for Social Action through its partner organization, Savdhan Samaj Kendra, Manori, conducted a session on 'Identifying safe and unsafe places for children in their locality'. Children were divided into groups and were told to draw a map of the area, marking safe places in green and unsafe in red. During this exercise, children brought up the issue of non-functional streetlights in their locality.

A few lamp posts had no bulbs installed due to which the children found the area unsafe. During

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

effective and the villagers extended their full support and cooperation. A cultural program was organized by the children after the rally and the Sarpanch of the village, the teachers and the Director of Navjeet Community Health Centre were invited as special guests. The program was conducted well by the children and this was appreciated by both the guests as well as the villagers.



The children of the Bal Sabha belonging to Awale village (Aasangaon), which is facilitated by our network partner, Navjeet Community Health Center, had organised children's day on 17th November 2019. More than 120 children participated in this program. In the morning the children organized a rally on prevention of child marriage and to promote peace. The rally was very

THE GIRL WITH A VOICE



Zosha Khan

Finance Minister of Children's Parliament, Mumbai

song curated by the children themselves to portray all the 45-child rights article as well as their respective states.

The Children shared their experiences of witnessing issues with the implementation of child rights including Right to protection, Child marriage, Child Labour etc. One among them was Zosha Khan who was a representative from YASH, Mumbai. She shared her success story at the event which was shared on the UNICEF India Page and also on different social media platforms. The event ended with Dr. Yasmin Ali appreciating the initiative of children being the defenders of child rights, which would also make the adults realise the importance of the same as duty bearers. She also mentioned that children driving change for other children is the most powerful thing where issues are being raised and defended by the children themselves. She also encouraged the children by describing them as role models spearheading the courage to millions of children, making self-confidence their biggest strength, she also motivated them to keep the mindset of child rights and take it forward as the next generation.

On the occasion of 30 years of Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Kidizens of PRATYeK | NINEISMINE got an opportunity to interact with renowned Dr. Yasmin Ali, UNICEF representative in India and Miss. Bidisha Pillai from Save the Children at an event held at the UNICEF India Head Office, New Delhi. Children from different states of India came together to discuss Child Rights. The Kidizens used creative methods like placards charts as well as a

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS



The children belonging to the Bal Sabha of Lallubhai Compound, facilitated by our network partner Jeevan Dhara celebrated the Constitution Day on 26th November 2019, in the memory of Dr. Ambedkar, the father of Indian Constitution.

The children expressed Dr. Ambedkar's message of peace and non-discrimination based on caste, culture and religion in three different languages

viz. Marathi, Hindi and English. The children then spoke about the four important rights of children, i.e. right to survival, right to development, right to participation and right to protection. They also stressed on the importance of having children's parliament in the community.

The children then played a couple of games with the facilitators and the program ended with very positive feedback from all who were present.



AWARENESS ON CHILD LABOUR



On the occasion of Child Rights Week, our network partner Pratham, organized an awareness on Child Labour for girls under 14 years who were involved in the cleaning of fish at Sassoon Dock, Colaba. The children belonging to the Bal Sabha, Anganwadi Sevikas, representatives from Labour Department, officials from Colaba police station and Juvenile Aid Police Unit were present during this awareness drive. There was also a meeting held with the parents of these children, educating them on Child Labour.



A drawing competition was organized by Pratham in association with Labour Commission at BMC School in Colaba to create awareness on child labour. The children who participated were awarded certificates.

