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# Kid's Corner

## Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabhag

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

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 4 | JULY 2019

**PRATYEK**

Presence and Authenticity for Advocacy and Training of the Young for Earth-rights and HRD rights



**CENTRE  
FOR SOCIAL  
ACTION**

FACILITATORS OF A JUST AND  
HUMANE SOCIETY

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**Maaza  
Maharashtra  
Maaza  
Sahabhag**

### EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

We bring to you the fourth edition of the Newsletter and without any doubt these last four months have been very exciting. It is very fulfilling to see children taking a lead in getting officials to address their basic needs. The confidence shown by the children is truly remarkable and we hope that through the medium of these newsletters, children pick up best practices and adapt the same to their own surroundings.

In this newsletter, we bring to you the recently concluded state forum for children which saw a good participation. It also has a few stories of children who have shown leadership qualities to address various issues in their surroundings.

We once again urge you to share these stories with the children of your respective children's parliaments / Bal Sabhas so that they may be inspired and empowered to carry out the good work in bringing about a change in the society they live in. Your feedback on this newsletter truly matters to us. If you have any comments or suggestions you can get in touch with us on [balsansad@csamumbai.in](mailto:balsansad@csamumbai.in). And yes, keep the stories coming...

- The Editorial Team



UN Convention  
on the  
Rights of the Child

“You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.”

## STATE FORUM

The 1st State forum of the second phase of the project Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabha was held on 07th and 08th June 2019 by Centre for Social Action in association with PRATYeK and technical support from UNICEF at Sarvodaya - Capacity Building Centre, Goregaon East, Mumbai.

The objective of the State Forum is to bring together child representatives of Bal Panchayats / Children's Parliaments from various districts under one roof and to provide a platform for these children to put forward their voices from their respective parliaments with legislators and other stakeholders. The State forum also provides children with training in the art of advocacy as well as development of their vocational capacities.

43 children and 24 facilitators from various districts of Maharashtra (including Chandrapur) participated in the State forum. On the first day, through an ice-breaker activity, children got introduced to each other which led to children coming forward to share their experiences with all. The Manifesto / Charter of Demands (CoD) was then discussed. The purpose of preparing a CoD was explained to children. Post lunch, the children were divided into groups and with the help of resource persons, workshops on six different mediums of advocacy such as Street Play, Jingles, Dance, Clay modelling, Poster Making and Puppet show were held. After these sessions ended the children practiced using these mediums to express various Children's Rights such as Right to Protection, Right to Education, Right of Participation, Right to Development, etc. for the next day.

On the second day, exhibition stalls of the various mediums were put up, the children were made familiar with interactions (type of questions / answers expected) from representatives of the political parties through mock interview. After a tea break, it was time for children to put up their events / performances. Guests, facilitators who visited these stalls were greeted by children who explained to them about the stall they had put up and the theme that they chose to display. There were representatives from a political party as well. They saw the performances, visited every stall put up by children, and interacted with them. Children asked questions on issues of concern to them, and to these representatives, were amazed at the knowledge and confidence level of the Children. The representatives signed a Support Pledge assuring the children to look into their issues of concern.



After a brief feedback sharing session and plans to meet for the next State Forum on 4-5th November 2019, the event came to an end.

“You have the right to privacy.”

“You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.”

## BE THE CHANGE...

Saba Kaazi is a 16-year-old girl residing at Rafi Nagar a slum around a dumping yard in Govandi, Mumbai and is a part of the children's parliament facilitated by our network partner Pratham.

Though shy in nature, she slowly started opening up and suggested measures to curb few problems, one of them being visiting the police station and requesting the senior police officer to start a beat chowki in the area and/or to start patrolling on foot to nab anti-social elements (eve-teasers, drug addicts, alcoholics, etc.) as the police vehicles would not be able to move around in the narrow lanes. Another problem that she addressed to was the shortage of toilets for children and requested the Corporator to build new toilets for the area as the children were defecating in the open. Today, two new toilets are being built in the area. The corporator applauded Saba for her initiative.

Saba, now in std. X, has been actively participating in meetings held for parents regarding children's activities on 'Child Rights & Safety'. She also was a part of a panel discussion. She believes that the child safety and implementation of child rights is the responsibility of parents, society and the government. She is very alert about the problems that are seen daily which may be a threat to child rights and communicates the same to Pratham. One such incident was the problem of overflowing gutters and unclean surroundings which she conveyed to the Corporator and action was taken the very next day. Saba agrees on the fact that we can change others only if we bring about a change in our own thought process, then, each of us can be an instrument of change.

## COME TOGETHER TO MAKE A CHANGE

We children belong to Lotus Balsansad Group, Lower Koli Wada, Gorai Village. To see our Gorai Village equipped with basic services, a meeting was held on 20th June, 2019. In this meeting, we discussed issues regarding the surrounding we live in. Through this discussion, the prime concerns of our village were: increase in the number of mosquitoes and lack of separate dustbins for dry and wet garbage.

We all discussed how difficult it was to make our surrounding mosquito free due to no pest control being done for the past one year and how the inability of segregation of waste due to the common dustbin creates a lot of stench. With the help of facilitators, we drafted applications regarding these issues and addressed them to the BMC Solid Waste Management Department of Gorai. On 22nd June 2019, six of us, along with the facilitators visited the R- Central Ward municipal office. We submitted the application letters to the Junior Supervisor Mr. Sadanand Shetty. We also discussed with Mr. Shetty, our needs of making our surrounding mosquito free, installing separate dustbins for segregation of garbage so that the basic need of health and hygiene in our village could be addressed.

He accepted our applications and assured us that immediate action would be taken. The next day, a pest control team came to our village and carried out fogging near drains and other open spaces. On 24th June 2019, our village received 25 new dustbins for the segregation of dry and wet garbage.

This was our first visit to the BMC office which gave us an understanding about the different departments in the office and also how the officials function at different levels. We also managed to get in writing that fogging will be carried out every month. Our interaction with the officers and its result has given a boost to our confidence that if we have the will and try, we can bring about a change in the society.



## CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP

A 5 days' workshop on climate change was organized by PRATYeK, Mumbai for 'Yash Children's Parliament' (YCP) from the 10th to the 14th June 2019.

All the days started with a meditation exercise. On the first day, the YCP members were shown a video of how the Mother Earth existed earlier and its status now. Children learnt different causes of climate change and shocking facts such as shortage of portable water for Mumbai in upcoming years, Delhi being the most polluted city in the world and many more. The children pondered over the questions asked, 'Must we Change?', 'Can we change?' and 'Will we change?'. Since the answer to all the three questions was "YES" the children brain stormed possible ways to bring change in the climate so that it

would come near normal.

Matt informed the children about the 'Drawdown' book written by 100 or so scientists from all over the world, having top-20 solutions suggested to address this global issue. One of the major solutions was to reduce 'Refrigeration' because it emits the most amount of harmful gas such as CFC's, Greenhouse gases like CO<sub>2</sub>, which are the main reason of the fluctuations in climate. Educating the girls and family planning were the other two solutions discussed.

Matt and his wife along with the children went on community visits and were shocked to see garbage hills in the community. The children learnt the importance of segregation of plastics based on recycling code given on each plastic item. During the last two days the children discussed and wrote down the things that they aimed to do to bring about a positive change. This five-day workshop was an eye opener for all and they were motivated to contribute towards addressing this issue and strive for a sustainable future.



