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Kid's Corner

Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabhag

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

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CRC30 YEARS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

20 November 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the rights of the child).

More than 190 countries, including India (endorsed it on December 11, 1992) have signed up to the UNCRC. All countries that sign up to the UNCRC are bound by international law to ensure it is implemented. This is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The UNCRC is made up of 42 articles which outline the civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of children. These are the rights that every child should have, regardless of where they are in the world. These rights should be met by the governments of every country. The anniversary provides us unique opportunity to celebrate the progress made for children, hold leaders to recollect and recommit to children's rights and most importantly address the work that still needs to be done.

Child rights are timeless, but childhood has changed. Childhood in 2019 is very different from childhood in 1989 and will look very different again in another 30 years. Global trends, such as conflict and mass migration, climate change and digital tech, pose new threats and new opportunities for child rights. We must look at the positive and negative outcomes possible for future childhoods and ask: "what is the future of childhood?" and work towards fulfilling the rights of every child, now and in the future generations

- The Editorial Team

UN Convention
on the
Rights of the Child

“You have a right to an identity - an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.”

Koshimbale village gets water

The villagers of Koshimbale village in Mangaon, district Raigad, faced a huge water crisis. The women of the village had to travel to a distant place by foot to fetch water for their families. Since someone was required at home when the mothers went to fetch water, the girls would stay back, taking care of the house. This resulted in either the child being late to school or had to skip school which did not go well with their teachers. The school too was at a distance of 5 kms from their village which they covered by foot.

Since this was taking a toll on their education, the children of the Bhairavi Vikas Bal Sansad group of the village discussed this matter in one of their meetings looking for solutions. With the help of their teacher, they wrote a letter to the BDO (Block Divisional Officer) describing their plight. They asked the BDO to help them out. The BDO informed the Gramsevak about their visit and he surveyed the village on the same day. A Junior Engineer of the block also conducted a survey and informed the villagers that they would get water supply soon.

A tank was constructed in the village and all the houses now receive sufficient water for their daily needs. This was possible because the children took the initiative for the well being of the villagers.



Children determined to make school Tobacco Free

A Children's Parliament is being conducted at Shivaji Vidyala, Tulshi, district Gadchiroli through our network partner Arogya Prabhodini. Ms. Omeshwari Puram, the facilitator has started discussing with the children on the topic of Child Rights and started a discussion amongst the children on their rights. A result of these discussions was an idea on a tobacco free environment in their school.

In the meanwhile, elections took place in the school and a new children's committee was elected. Based on the discussions in the children's parliament, this new committee passed a resolution to make the school tobacco free.

Accordingly, they conducted awareness sessions, took out rallies, created posters, made slogans, all to highlight the ill effects of tobacco. The children firmly decided to make their school completely tobacco free.



“You have a right to live with your parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.”

“If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together in the same place”

Vote for Me Campaign

Children of two different zones of Pali village in Dharavi Island, district Thane, got together for an orientation on the vote for me campaign. The facilitator explained the basics for the need to vote and went on to explain how voting during election plays an important role in a democracy, where people who by exercising their right to vote, elect representatives in the government.

This was followed by an explanation of child rights and how the child has a right to be heard and to participate. The children were explained that the vote for me campaign was a platform where the children can share their opinions and exercise their right to speak and to be heard. The facilitator also explained that how a child, though not eligible to vote, can speak to the adults and ask them to vote wisely, keeping childrens issues in mind.

Around 58 children having understood the concept took charge and then went around the village and asked the adults to be responsible citizens and to support them through the vote for me campaign and successfully got the support of around 522 adults from their village.



Personal Growth



Akash has been studying at Jeevan Dhara's study class from the past three years. He is in the 9th standard and attends the municipal school (Marathi medium). Before joining the study group he was in a world of his own and lacked interest in studies and other activities. His study class teacher used to put a lot of effort in teaching him but he used to ignore her.

But things changed after he joined the children's parliament. Slowly he started developing interest in studies and various activities. He found his hidden talents after attending the sessions. He was completely unaware of what a parliament is and what were his basic rights. But now he has information on his basic rights, he knows what the structure of the parliaments is and the various ministerial roles.

He never used to paint, but now he has painted the wall of his study class with the pictures of children's rights. He takes responsibility for every thing he does and challenges himself to handle even a difficult task.

The sessions of the children's parliaments that he has attended has motivated him to take the same sessions for another study class and helps the students to solve their problems.

Exposure Visit



A total of 17 children went to Lonavla for an exposure visit to Jeevan Dhara's rehabilitation center. The assistant counsellor explained to the children the ill effects of drugs and alcohol. A few children shared stories from their won families on alcoholism and asked for guidance to get rid of this addiction. The counsellor told them how to tackle this issue. The children returned home armed with knowledge and with all their doubts clarified.

