

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page 1:
Editorial

Page 2:
Vote For Me Campaign

Social Cause Rally

Page 3:
Basic Training of Trainers -
Amravati

Page 4:
I want to teach other
children too.

I am capable of speaking
up for justice.

Page 5:
Creativity Corner



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 7 | OCTOBER 2019

EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

Welcome to the seventh edition of the newsletter and we also take this opportunity to welcome our new partners to the network of children's parliament in Maharashtra under the project Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabhag. It is good to have like-minded organizations come together and work for the common good of the children so that they can be empowered citizens of today.

11th October is marked as the International day of the girl child and since child marriage is still rampant across Maharashtra, a campaign on child marriage is being organized from 10th October to 20th October. The objective of this campaign is to urge all stake holders, to stand up against child marriage and make education and skills a priority for all children in Maharashtra. Because that gives girls the Power to make choices and decisions, take actions, be independent, have control over their own lives and shape the world around them.

If you have in your own villages any such story where a girl child has said no to child marriage and instead opted to pursue education or the children from your respective Bal Sabhas got together and prevented a child marriage from taking place, please share these stories with us, so that we can appreciate the efforts of such children through this newsletter.

Looking forward to your continued support.

- The Editorial Team

PRATYEK

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



unicef



Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabhag



UN Convention
on the
Rights of the Child

“If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.”

VOTE FOR ME CAMPAIGN



Two Bal Sabha groups facilitated by our partner Sahajeevan Samaj Kendra, Pali decided to have a Vote for Me Campaign in their locality. The two groups met and decided on having the campaign on 15th August 2019 as it was a public holiday. Sub groups were formed and responsibilities were distributed amongst them.

There was a huge turnout for the Vote for me campaign. The children created awareness on

their rights and explained to the people their Charter of Demands. They urged the people to make sure that their voices were heard through voting for parties that highlight children's issues and opinions in their political manifesto. Through this campaign the children got the support of 388 adults.

On 24th August 2019, the children met a representative from a political party and had an interactive session with him. The children spoke to him about child rights and the purpose of the Charter of Demands and presented him with a copy of the same along with the signatures of the people. He was impressed with the children and told them that these opportunities were a stepping stone towards leadership. He commended the work done by the children and asked them to share with him any concerns that they had at a local level and assured them his support.



SOCIAL CAUSE RALLY

A “Social Cause Rally” with the theme - To Stop Violation Against Children was organised by

Sophia College for Women in association with UNICEF Maharashtra where over 300 students participated in a rally in suburban Bandra to sensitise people about the cruelty that takes place against children. Prior to the rally, there was a flash mob performance by the children of PRATYeK. The flash mob was done to highlight the need to create a safe environment for kids, the rally provided a platform for children to voice their concerns about safety. They composed, wrote and performed a song that aired their concerns.

“ You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well. ”

“ You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life. ”

BASIC TRAINING OF TRAINERS - AMRAVATI



With the objective of expanding the network of childrens parliaments, and introducing the partners to the concept of Bal Sabhas, a second basic training of trainers program under the project Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabhag was held from 24th to 26th September 2019 at Amravati. A team from Mahavan and Yuva Rural Association helped with the arrangements of the venue. 22 participants representing 14 organizations participated in this three-day training program.

After the registration of the participants the training program began with an introduction of Centre for Social Action (CSA), this was followed



by each participant introducing themselves and briefly spoke on the work done in their respective districts. Mr. Dayanand Patil, Project Coordinator of CSA gave an orientation on Bal Panchayats. Since this was a new concept to them, the participants had a lot of questions, which were promptly addressed to by Mr. Patil.

The next day the participants were introduced to UNCRC, difference between needs and wants, Child Rights and the four pillars of child rights. The participants were also explained the

importance of Rights and Responsibilities to address the local or community-based issues. All these sessions were interspersed with activities that the participants could have with the children to explain to them various concepts.

On the last day, a session on introduction to children's parliament was conducted followed with a presentation on creating child friendly Bal Panchayats and information on how to federate these at block, district and state level so as to train



the children in the art of advocacy using different mediums and to make their voices heard at various levels. There was also a session on Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) along with activities. Towards the end, the participants were asked to prepare a plan of action for the year.

The program ended with a feedback session from the participants who mentioned that the training program was conducted well and the flow was well thought of and logical. A founder member of Mahavan gave the vote of thanks and expressed his desire to be a part of the network. Mr. Dayanand Patil presented certificates of completion to the participants.



I WANT TO TEACH OTHER CHILDREN TOO



His love for technology is what drove Sameer to fight for a computer for his school. On an exposure visit to a Public Health Clinic in a village close to his Wadi, Sameer spotted a computer for the first time and found it fascinating. The buttons, the light, the sounds! He immediately knew he wanted one for his village.

Access to computers and e-learning remains largely a luxury in India. And yet, computers and the internet hold enormous potential for remote learning. Sameer knew his rights and wanted to fight for them. He sought the help of his local Wadi Sevika. Wadi Sevikas are local women trained by Centre for Social Action for supporting education

and livelihoods in their area. She suggested that he approach the local Gavki, a village level committee.

Members of the Gavki heard his request and asked him to approach the Gram Sabha. Sameer persisted and approached his Gram Sabha in their next meeting. For a 10-year-old child, that too an acutely shy one, talking in front of the village elders was quite daunting. But with the Wadi Sevika by his side, he spoke up and spoke well.

He requested for a computer for his school from the Sarpanch, saying it will help his classmates learn better. A computer in his school was his right. Upon hearing a child make a case for his rights, the Sarpanch was impressed. He agreed to disbursing a part of the Right to Education budget. Within 15 days, Sameer's efforts proved fruitful. There was a bright and shiny computer in his school. He'd done it! In a community where daily sustenance is a struggle, Sameer managed to bring in a computer, and slowly started learning how to use it. "I can Google, watch videos and sometimes we play games too," he says with a mischievous smile.

I AM CAPABLE OF SPEAKING UP FOR JUSTICE



When Rohini Marvi was about 14 years old, she remembers crossing an area filled with dirty gutter water on her way to school each day in Uttan village, Thane district. She and the other children contracted rashes on their legs because of the dirty water and complained to their parents. The gutter water had also merged with the water of a well where people washed clothes and utensils. But no action was taken to clean the area. Rohini and a group of other children discussed the

matter in a children's parliament and in school. With help from a teacher, Rohini penned a letter to the local municipal corporator and took signatures of 50 children. The letter asked the municipal authorities to immediately clean the gutter. "We also wrote that if no action was taken, the children themselves would clean the gutter, but bore no responsibility if any harm came to them," says Rohini, adding that within three days, workers arrived to do the needful.

The children also informed their neighbours that they should not litter the streets and dispose garbage only in designated municipality bins.

Rohini says that if adults had intervened, the authorities would have still responded. "But since nobody stepped forward, the children decided to do something themselves. We were appreciated for our actions," she says

