

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page 1:  
Editorial

Page 2:  
Ward Level Forum

Tree Plantation

Page 3:  
Vote For Me Campaign

Basic Training of Trainers

Page 4:  
A Step in the Right Direction

All Rights for All Children

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 6 | SEPTEMBER 2019

### EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

How fast time flies. It's already six months that we started sending this newsletter highlighting the good work that is being done by children at the grassroots. Like I mentioned in the previous newsletter, children are doing some amazing work in their communities. They are curious and have capacity to provide insight to those with responsibility for the design, development and implementation of services.

While we strive to build their capacities through various training programs/activities, we must also remember that family time plays a very important role in a child's overall development. The UNCRC emphasises the importance of family life and the role of parents and carers. To this effect UNICEF, Maharashtra is having a campaign from 1<sup>st</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of September on the topic Early Child Development. The objective of this campaign is to create awareness and highlight, why the first six years of a child's life are important and how can the family, as the first and most important support system, provide the essential requirements to the children.

You can have various activities in your communities creating awareness on this topic or you could have children draw on the topic 'My family' or you could have them make a frame and put their family photo in it and click their photographs holding the frame. You can send these to us and it will be displayed in the next newsletter

Let's continue our mission to facilitate children explore their rights to be healthy, happy and safe across the domains of home, school and community.

- The Editorial Team

PRATYEK

Presence and Ruthlessness 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

“You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.”

## WARD LEVEL FORUM



network with these government bodies and understand their structure and various schemes related to them.

Dr. Padavi explained the structure of the PHC and the facilities and health programmes available for the children and the community. He offered to conduct a health check-up camp for the children. Mr. Panpatte, summarized the various activities that are offered to children at the MBMC level across all departments. He assured the children that they could approach the departments with queries regarding their development and they would help and support them. This was followed by a question and answer session where both, Mr. Panpatte and Dr. Padavi answered questions that were raised by the children to their satisfaction.



Centre for Social Action organized the first Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation (MBMC) Ward Level Forum on August 22, 2019 at Mukti Sagar Hall, Uttan, Bhayander (West). 52 children from 11 Bal Sabhas, along with 10 facilitators participated in this forum. The children shared the work done by their respective Bal Sabhas.

With the objective of creating a platform for advocacy and to interact with various stakeholders, Mr. Sambhaji Panpatte, Assistant Commissioner of MBMC and Dr. Padavi, Medical Officer of Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Uttan were invited. The children got the opportunity to



### TREE PLANTATION

The Bal Sabha children of Pali, Dharavi Island, Bhayande West procured 40 saplings from Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation, Forestry Department and carried out tree plantation in their community at various locations on 1st August 2019. They have also taken the responsibility of watering and taking care of these saplings

“You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.”

“You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.”

## #VOTEFORME CAMPAIGN



The children clarified the concept of Bal Sabhas and highlighted the fact that 40 percent of India's population was below the age of 18 years and as per the constitution they did not have the right to vote and hence it was the responsibility of the adults to make sure that their voices were heard. The children confidently answered all the questions raised by the adults by explaining to them about their rights and demands through charts prepared by them.



The Bal Sabha children of Snehjyot Samaj Kendra, Uttan, Bhayander West organized a VoteForMe campaign under the guidance of the staff from Centre for Social Action in order to create awareness in the community on child rights and to vote for parties that highlight children's issues and opinions in their political manifesto.

## BASIC TRAINING OF TRAINERS



Miming the facilitators highlighted the importance of Environment, Education, Health and Participation.

They were also guided on how to link the children with administrative officials as well as the local elected representatives with a view to create Child-Friendly Panchayats, and how to federate these at block, district and state levels in order to create opportunities for children's advocacy for Child Rights.

Phase 2 of the Project Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabhag saw participation from 23 facilitators across 10 organisations from various districts of Maharashtra for a Basic Training of Trainers Program held from 27th - 30th August 2019 at Sarvodaya – Centre for Capacity Building, Mumbai.

The objective of this training was to provide an orientation on the concept and objectives of Children's Parliaments using the manuals created for this purpose. Using various mediums of expressions such as, Slogans, Posters, Songs and



## A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



action against Rajesh. While taking other children's signatures on the letter the other teachers noticed and strictly told them not to indulge in such activities, which, clearly indicated that the teachers supported Rajesh.

In the next meeting the children discussed about this new development and felt that it was necessary that the principal should be aware of what was going on. This prompted Salim and the other children to write another letter addressed to the principal which stated that if no action was taken against Rajesh and the teachers, then, the complaint would reach the Administrative Officer (AO). This letter was handed over to the principal without taking any signatures from the children. This move proved to be a success and Rajesh was fired from his job. The principal also scolded the teachers for suppressing the issue and warned them against repeating this behaviour in future.

\* Names changed to protect the privacy of the individuals

**R**ajesh\* a watchman at a school in Govandi used to beat the children, which was his version of disciplining a child as he thought that he would be held accountable if anything happened to a child under his watch. Sometimes a drunk Rajesh would report to work and the school authorities did not do anything about it.

Our partner organization, Pratham facilitates a Bal Sabha in this area and this issue was raised in one of the Bal Sabha meeting by Salim\*, and other children also narrated that how once Rajesh's behaviour led to a child being hospitalised.

The children decided to write a letter to the principal which was drafted by Salim to take

## ALL RIGHTS FOR ALL CHILDREN



(UNCRC) who is simultaneously celebrating 30 years of continued commitment in the field of child advocacy. Aman and Pooja spoke eloquently about their advocacy efforts with the Maharashtra State Forum to reach hundreds of children whose lives and futures are endangered by conflict, crisis, poverty, inequality and discrimination.

**O**n the 70th anniversary of its founding, UNICEF India celebrates the immense progress made for the children in India. To commemorate this, Aman Gupta (17 years old) and Pooja Vishwakarma (16 years old) from PRATYeK/NINEISMINE campaign were invited to speak at the press conference organised along with Convention on the Rights of the Child



