



**CENTRE  
FOR SOCIAL  
ACTION**

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOMBAY

**IMPACT**

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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NEWS BULLETIN



**Oswald Cardinal Gracias**

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**OFFICIAL**

### **Advent Campaign Against Hunger and Disease**

“May we always care for our children, not counting the cost, so that they may never believe themselves to be mistakes, but always know their infinite worth” says Pope Francis. This year’s theme of the Advent Campaign Against Hunger and Disease resonates the same: Serving the Best Interest of Children.

Centre for Social Action, which is the office of Social Work of the Archdiocese of Bombay (Mumbai), is coordinating 127 Children’s Parliaments involving over 1400 children, and networking them at the Taluka, District and State level. This project is implemented with the technical support of UNICEF. These children are trained to take up issues of development in their neighborhood and also ensure that the rights of children are not violated.

In addition to the above, Centre for Social Action is also coordinating supplementary classes for children, vocational skill development and job placement for youth, financial literacy programs, and training for traditional and alternate livelihoods with marketing support for their produce. Enhancing livelihoods reduces migration to the cities, enhances the quality of life for women, and enables the education of children.

I whole heartedly endorse and bless this campaign. I urge the faithful of our archdiocese to continue our tradition of generosity and concern for the poor. You may donate online at [www.csamumbai.in](http://www.csamumbai.in) or send your Cheques/ drafts favoring Centre for Social Action, to Eucharistic Congress Building, 5 Convent Street, Mumbai 400 001. Those contributing Rs. 10,000/- and above are requested to send us their PAN no. Donations made to this cause are eligible for exemption under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

The contents of this Official are to be made known to our faithful on the Sundays of Advent through appropriate announcements, posting it on your notice board as well as on your parish / institution website. Also, kindly ensure effective distribution of the donation envelopes to the faithful. I also recommend that you appeal to children and youth to make a sacrifice during the advent season and save part of their pocket money to contribute for this cause.

My personal thanks to you for your efforts in this Campaign to make ours a more humane world and the Church a more Christ-like Church. May God bless the Archdiocese of Bombay abundantly.

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November 15, 2019

✠ **Oswald Cardinal Gracias**  
Archbishop of Bombay

**OUR VISION:** Facilitators of a just and humane society based on Love, Equality and Harmony with creation.

**OUR MISSION:** To INITIATE, EMPOWER and SUSTAIN Non-violent, Collaborative and Integral Development processes for vulnerable individuals and groups.

# DHARAVI ISLAND

## Core Committees (CC)

Under the People Led Development approach, Centre for Social Action (CSA) in collaboration with its partner organizations has been animating the core committees in the villages of Dharavi Island, Bhayander (West). The members of the core committee undergo various capacity building programs that help them to effectively develop their communities. They meet on a monthly basis to review and identify issues in their respective villages, mobilize the people, identify stakeholders, develop strategies and meet these stakeholders who are at various levels to help address their community issues.

The CC of Chowk facilitated by Sahayog Samaj Kendra got the officials of Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation (MBMC) to clean and repair the storage water tank that supplied water to all the zones.



The CC of Prerna Seva Kendra, Dongri approached the Assistant Commissioner of MBMC and the Head of Medical Facilities at MBMC and started a mobile health clinic in their village.



The staff of Snehyot Samaj Kendra, Uttan and the CC members identified 13 poor women and trained them in various skills to alleviate their poor financial condition.



The CC facilitated by Sahajeevan Samaj Kendra approached the corporators with an application to clean the two drains that were blocked in Ward no. 4 of Pali village.



CC members of Gorai, facilitated by our partner organization Suryodaya Samaj Kendra mobilized the people, drafted applications and held meetings with various stakeholders over a period of time to have the water connection in their area restored.



## From Darkness to Light

It had been a very long wait for the Manthanpada community of Manori village to have street lights in their locality. Their area used to get pitch dark after sunset which resulted not only in fear of snakes and scorpions but also instilled constant insecurity amongst the villagers. Manthanpada Mahila Mandal, a group facilitated by our partner organization Savdhan Samaj Kendra, took up this issue with BMC. The staff of CSA helped them to prepare a plan of action. They met the BMC officers, presented their case and asked for street lights to be installed. Their sheer determination resulted in the installation of 25 electricity poles which lighted up the area and has lifted the spirits of the villagers.



## Bal Sabha Ward Level Forum

A ward level forum of children's parliament is a platform for advocacy and for children to interact with various stakeholders. CSA 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. Assistant Commissioner of MBMC and Medical Officer of Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Uttan were invited for this forum. After sharing the work done by their respective Bal Sabhas, the children interacted with these stakeholders and got information on various activities for children at the MBMC level and the health care programs available for them. The officials present assured the children of their support.

## Capacity Building Program

Capacity building is the process by which individuals and organizations obtain, improve and retain the skills, knowledge and other resources which are needed to do their jobs competently. Hence, in order for the core committee members to be effective, CSA initiated a Capacity Building Program from August 2019 for the members of the core committee of the six villages of Dharavi Island. 27 members have registered for this course and topics such as social work values and methods, leadership and personality development, Community mobilization and para-legal literacy have been covered.



# RAIGAD

## Exposure Visit – Baradpani, Ahwa (Gujarat)

An exposure visit was organized for the members of Self-Help Groups from Paned, Khopoli, Mangaon and Mahad, to Baradpani, Ahwa to witness the functioning of enterprises run by the women's Self-Help Groups (SHG) there. The members witnessed the production and packaging of Lemongrass tea, visited a hotel run by the women serving authentic Dangi food, visited a poultry farm, then a rice mill that is run by the SHG members who make nachni papads and paper plates to earn a livelihood. Their final visit was to Apna Bakery which is run by an SHG of 10 members. The women visiting these places learned the importance of packaging products, challenges faced, and most importantly, to have patience and to not give up.



## Enhancing Livelihoods

Vulnerable individuals and groups are trained to make various nutritious products from raw materials that are largely sourced locally. They are guided on quality control, packaging, and also given opportunities to access urban markets under the brand name of Navjeevan Enterprises (NJE), a social organization working in association with CSA, for uplifting the tribals through sustainable livelihoods. NJE sells these products at various locations including the premises of corporates. 80% of the proceeds from the sale go to the tribal SHG by NEFT payment into their bank account, while the other 20% is used for transportation and other logistic expenses. Enhancing livelihoods helps in reducing migration which in turn improves the quality of life for women and enables the education of children.

## Paned SHG Success Story

Ganesh Kripa SHG from Paned village which is located in Pen Taluka of Raigad district, started livelihood activities in February 2019 under the guidance of CSA and our partner organization Asha Kiran. They were trained in making various products and the initial investment to start the food enterprise was loaned to them by Asha Kiran. Through the course of six months, from February to July 2019, they have been regular in their operations and have picked up the skill very fast. They inculcated the habit of savings early on and began repaying the loan through monthly instalments. As of August 2019, Ganesh Kripa SHG has become self-sustainable i.e., the initial investment amount loaned has been remitted completely and the SHG now buys raw materials directly from their own profits. This is the first financial milestone of any enterprise.



## Mangaon SHG member's life-changing story

Supriya (name changed to protect identity) is a member of a SHG group facilitated by our partner Amardeep Charitable Trust, Mangaon. Her husband passed away a few years back and being a single parent, it was her responsibility to bring up her children. Though she tried many other daily wage jobs, nothing seemed sustainable. Hence, she got involved in making liquor and selling it in the local market to ensure a regular income.

Supriya got involved in the livelihood initiative from Feb 2019 and under the guidance of the staff from CSA and

Amardeep Charitable Trust she was trained in preparing various food products. She learned the skill of making Ladoo and Chakli very fast and worked hard and took on responsibilities to deliver high-quality products. She realized that this livelihood intervention has dignity as the SHG are the owners of the food business and in addition, it could also provide a sustainable source of income if they were consistent.

Supriya withdrew from selling liquor as she has been getting enough income through the food business and is proud that she is part of such a unique intervention and wishes to scale up the business with new products.

## IEEE Smart Village PROJECT INAUGURATION

IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) has partnered with CSA to create a smart village at Degaon with the aim to provide solar electrification to drive livelihood and digital literacy in the village. A delegation from IEEE led by Mr. Frances Staples & their business partner EBSCO visited Degaon on 11th October 2019 for the inauguration of this project. They were welcomed by the villagers with traditional music and dance. A felicitation program was organized where Mr. Collin of IEEE thanked the villagers for a wonderful welcome and affection. The delegates then performed two activities with great enthusiasm. One was levelling of the proposed site where the solar panels would be erected and the other was painting of the school wall. Towards the end, a group photograph was taken and thanking the villagers once again for their kindness, the delegates proceeded with their return journey.



## Tribal Exhibition at Mangaon

With a view to preserve and showcase the culture and traditions of the Kathkari tribal community of Raigad, Sarv Vikas Deep (SVD), Mangaon, organized a Tribal Exhibition. Students belonging to the Bal Sabhas (Children's Parliament), Supplementary class students and the Gavki Mandal (village committee) helped to carry out the exhibition. The exhibition which was held at Ashok Dada Sable High School was inaugurated by the Block Education Officer in the presence of the SVD



Director, School Principal, School Committee secretary, SVD social workers, and teachers. Altogether 11 schools from Mangaon visited the exhibition.

# MUMBAI

## Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabhag – Phase II

The phase II of the project Maaza Maharashtra Maaza Sahabhag (A Network of Children's Parliament) began with an Advanced Training of Trainers (ToT) for the existing partners of the project followed by a Basic ToT Program for the facilitators of new organizations who wanted to be a part of the network. Two such ToT's were held, one in Mumbai and the other in Amravati. The facilitators were guided on how to link the children with administrative officials as well as the local elected representatives with a view to creating Child-Friendly Panchayats, and how to federate these at block and district levels in order to create opportunities for children's advocacy for Child Rights.

The 1st State Forum of children was represented by 43 children from Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Yavatmal and Chandrapur districts. They were explained the contents of the Children's Manifesto / Charter of Demands and were also trained in 6 different mediums of advocacy, such as Street Play, Jingles, Dance, Clay modelling, Poster Making and Puppet show by resource persons. The children put up exhibition stalls and used different mediums to explain Children's Rights such as the Right to Protection, Right to Education, Right of Participation and Right to Development. Representatives of a political party visited these stalls and interacted with them and they were amazed at the knowledge and confidence level of children. They signed a support pledge assuring the children to look into their issues of concern.

The concept of Bal Sabhas is now been extended to institutions and accordingly, an orientation program has been conducted at St. Mary's School Byculla, where facilitators from 13 schools in South Mumbai participated. A similar session was also conducted for the children of Campion School, Colaba.





## CRC 30

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child), Unicef, Maharashtra has decided to felicitate 30 children from Maharashtra who courageously stood up for their rights and that of other children. We are happy and proud to announce that three children viz, Rohini Marvi, Ganesh Kathkari and Sameer Hiram belonging to the Bal Sabhas facilitated by our partner organizations have been chosen. Ganesh Kathkari and Sameer Hiram are from Raigad whereas Rohini Marvi is from Dharavi Island. A short video highlighting the work done by these children is available on our channel on YouTube (<http://bit.ly/CSA-YouTube>).



unicef  | for every child

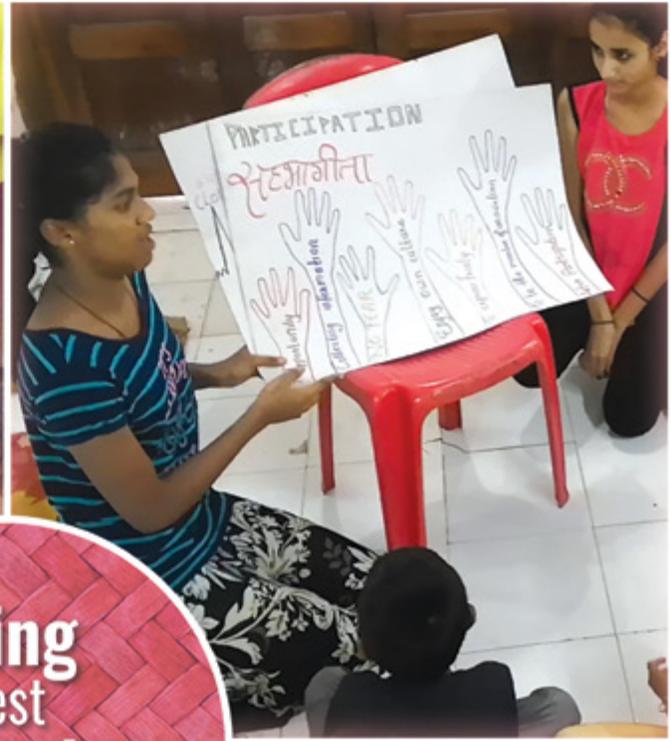
## Vocational Skills Development

CSA coordinated with Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) and Head Held High Foundation (HHH) to provide employment opportunities to the poor and the marginalized youth from Mumbai, Thane and Raigad Districts in hospitality industry.

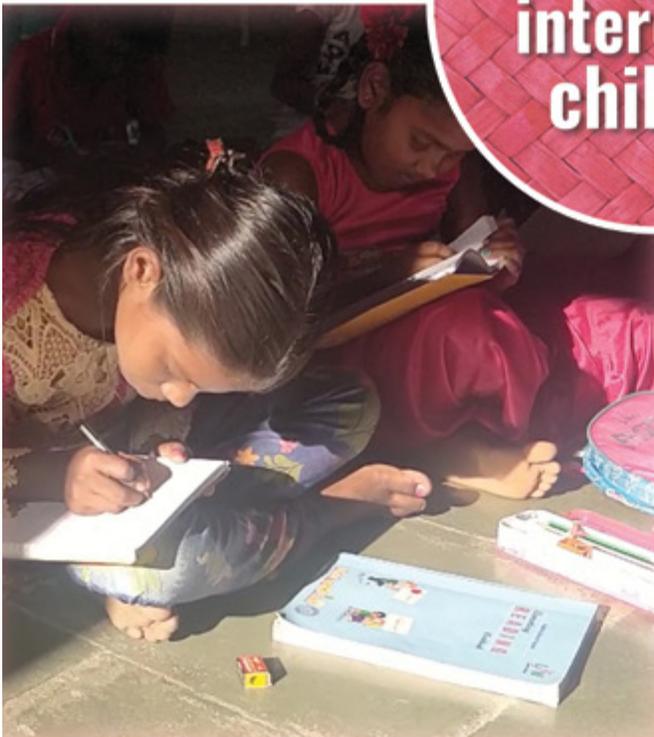
A 45-day bridge course was held from 1st April 2019 to 17th May 2019 at Sarvodaya, Centre for Capacity Building, Goregaon. During this period the youth honed their communication skills, spoken English, grooming etiquettes, personality development, basic computer skills & mathematics. Through group discussions, debates, presentations, and various activities and games, the children build their confidence



level. A total of 30 youth completed the 45-day course and were awarded a certificate of completion.



Serving the best interest of children



Donate online: [www.csamumbai.in](http://www.csamumbai.in) or through envelopes available in your parish. Cheques to be drawn in favour of **Centre for Social Action**. Donations are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G.



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# CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER AND DISEASE