

Society of the Helpers of Mary

Shraddha Vihar, Veera Desai Road, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400058, India

Dear friends,

December 2020

Loving greetings from the sisters of Prem Seva, Vakola!!

Kevin Krux says, "Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being."

With the heart full of joy and gratitude, I pen these few words of appreciation to you for all your generous contribution towards the well-being of our people. Yes dear friends, because of your giving and sharing attitude we can reach out to many, especially those who are on the periphery of the society. Your thoughtfulness will be always treasured in our hearts especially in the minds of children and women who are the beneficiaries of this programme. The people whom we serve hail from the poor slum area, where they have no proper basic facilities, no proper sanitization, and no proper job opportunities. Moreover, most of the populations living in this slum are migrants. We organize various programmes to provide platform to try to find ways and means to make them aware of their rights to live a dignified life in the society. The year 2020 affected whole world creating a global destruction. It has played a great havoc with our life, in our physical health, economy and very prominently affected is our mental health. Many People are under depression, anxiety that has created panic in their lives.



June 2019, onwards we have organized different activities for our children, which encouraged and boosted them to come to our school wholeheartedly.

- Coaching classes both in Hindi and in Tamil with hundred and sixty children.
- Nursery thirty eight children
- Tailoring thirty-four young girls and women.

July: Nursery and Sponsorship Children Parents Meeting: During the parents meeting, instructions were given to them to send their children neat and tidy to the school with proper nutritious snacks for the tiffin prepared at home. We also held a meeting for the sponsorship children and parents. Children are given awareness about the money that they get for their studies is somebody's generosity and hard work. We asked the children to be serious in their studies and do well in school. The children prepared beautiful greetings cards and we celebrated parent's day. The children presented the cards to their parents as a token of love for them.



August: Independence Day:



With lots of enthusiasm and gusto, the **Independence Day** was celebrated. After the flag hoisting and national Anthem our children staged a beautiful cultural programme. This renewed patriotism and reminded the brave people who fought for our countries independence.

September: Teacher's day: 5th September is **Teacher's day**. Our children wished and thanked the teachers by showing their affection and love through the greeting cards given to each teacher. For our nursery children we have every month color day where they are dressed in a particular color and all activities are conducted according to those colors so that the child remembers the color. We have children parliament this helps them to be responsible. Meetings and workshops were conducted by networking with the NGO.



Exposure visit:

The children were taken for an exposure visit to a mall where they saw characters of the movie named 'Avengers' were portrayed. It was a huge exhibition. The children were very curious to see it and were excited. They enjoyed the trip.

October: Gandhi Jayanti / cleanliness drive: On 2nd of October we remember the father of our nation **Mahatma Gandhi** who was a non violent warrior. This day is marked to keep our nation clean therefore, with our children cleaned the surroundings of our balwadi school and made known cleanliness is important.





Distribution of the cheque: Talk on family values: This day we invited Sr. Lavina SHM, a counselor and who has experience of working with the children at school and in our homes of the Helpers of Mary. She enlightened the parents about the values they need to instill in their children and on the use and abuse of modern gadgets. After the talk, the cheque's were distributed to the children, which helps them to pay their school

fees.

December 2019: Christmas celebration: we celebrate the Christmas with great devotion conveying the message of love and peace to the children and neighborhood people. The sisters took trouble to train the children in acting and dancing. The children were happy.



Sports day: According to the standard wise we kept the games so that all the children could participate. They enjoyed and had great fun. We too were filled with enthusiasm as they were on the ground participating in the games.

Career guidance: We had career guidance seminar for our students who have enrolled in the high schools. We arranged an expert Mr. Joe Montero who conducts career guidance courses in many schools, colleges and even in the institution for the aspirants. Children were encouraged.

We could not have our graduation day of our nursery children and tailoring students because of the lockdown due to Covid-19 Pandemic neither could begin our balwadi and activities for the academic year 2020-21 on time because of increasing infections.

Relief work in the Slums of Gaondevi – Vakola, Mumbai November 2020

The cases of Covid-19 are increasing in Mumbai day by day. In this difficult situation of rising cases and lockdown, people were locked in their houses and were not able to come out even to purchase necessities for survival. Recently the norms of lockdown have been relaxed and gradually the businesses are opening up. Through our frequent visits and interactions with the slum dwellers, we realized that most of the people are daily laborers and still jobless. Almost in all the families, the earning members are without job or without any form of income. Several children have left schools since they do not possess the android mobile phones to attend the online classes. Many parents are unable to pay the school fees and thus have forced their children to leave school. Many elderly and sick people are unable to buy the medicines.



Taking note of their situation and dire need, we the sisters along with our staff have been distributing grocery kits to needy families. On 21st and 26th November 2020, Covid-19 food relief campaign was conducted for our sponsored children's families. The kit contained wheat flour; pluses, sugar, tea-powder, masala packets, oil and house hold items like Colgate, toothbrush, bath and washing soaps etc. The corporater in his address to the beneficiaries thanked the sisters for the generosity and thoughtfulness in these trying times. He also congratulated the social outreach staff for their commendable work in bringing up the standard of the slum dwellers

under the guidance and leadership of the sisters. The slum dwellers are grateful for the food assistance. A big thank to you from the poor families of the slum for all the support and help that they received. We look ahead; to reach out to more affected once in the slum with all the possible help and relief.

Dear friends, because of your generous giving we could do much for our children. You make a difference in their lives. They are touched with your generosity and are always praying for you. Once again, we the sisters appreciate you and thank you for your kindness. We ask God's blessings on all that you do and bless your families.

Thanking you,

Yours gratefully,

Sr. Pushpy (Priya) Alappadan
Superior General