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Special Issue of Learning to Fly

July-December 2021

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Reflections and Hopes

Dear Friends,

As another challenging year draws to a close, we also reflect on what the last year gave us and hope for better times in 2022. We take a moment to reflect on what 2021 has meant for our children and thank you for the invaluable support you gave us during the year.

Our amazing colleagues have continued to deliver incredible work in difficult times, and we want to acknowledge the resilience the children and staff of Butterflies has shown in continuing to provide services and advocate for street-connected children despite the many challenges we have faced. Over the year Butterflies has been able to continue our work with our children. Classes were held under strict adherence to covid norms while ensuring children caught up with what they missed. At the recently announced board results, five of our children scored above 90 percent marks and are ready for their university studies. Children shared their hopes and fears of the future in the new world. Our new website was launched among several other new initiatives aimed at preparing children and parents for any possible third wave.

I would conclude by sharing with you a drawing made by our children, which they have named it Happiness Chai (tea) made during the pandemic, when most children were anxious about the future especially if they will be able to go back to school. Children were also afraid and unhappy listening to news about COVID-19 pandemic, number of cases infected and hospitalised. One of the Buddies came up with a brilliant idea to take their minds off COVID-19. She had conversations with the child members and asked them how about drawing a cup of chai (tea) as that is something all love to sip. The children decided they would draw a 'Happiness Cup of Chai". The cup of chai will have ingredients that will make them happy. Each child drew their own happiness chai that had ingredients that make them happy!! This activity really brought in cheer to the children.

As we conclude this year, India is facing a threat of a third wave due to the Omicron variant of the Coronavirus. We can only hope and pray that this new variant will not be as dangerous as the second wave this year. Wishing and praying for a safer, healthier and happy new year and peaceful end to the year.

- The Butterflies Family.

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Education and Sensitisation

Our colleagues continued to visit the contact points, and conduct education classes, yoga, sports and life skills education sessions with children to help them cope up with the backlog of studies they missed out and prepare them both for their examinations and for any third wave of the pandemic as well. In addition children were also taken on exposure visits to historical places in Delhi and participated in art and drawing competitions on special days like Independence Day, World Environment Day. Our colleagues also lobbied with local government representatives for setting up vaccination camps in the communities..

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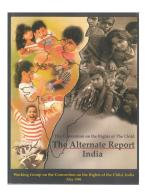






Capacity Building of Parents and Care Givers

Meetings were held with parents and community members, sensitising them on topics like importance of mental health, healthy diet, maintaining covid precautions, vaccination against COVID-19, managing diabetes and childhood diabetes, etc. Read more about it here and here.



Hopes & Fears

In November this year 52 children came together to discuss and write their lived experiences of the pandemic. The children wrote narratives, poems and pictorially expressed their feelings and experiences. Children wrote of their fears which spoke of what they went through and continue to experience. Children also wrote of their hopes for the future. With the consent of children, whatever the children shared will be brought out in the form of a publication. In the meantime catch a glimpse of what they wrote in this post here shared on World Childrens Day, which also has India's first alternate report brought out by Butterflies in the year 1989.



The Podcast Newsletter

from BBC (India's first radio show by children, for children)

Taking a cue from the popularity of podcasts, after consultation with the children of BBC (Butterflies Broadcasting Children), we decided to convert our radio programs into podcasts, in order to have a wider reach and let more children join our show. The podcast newsletter consists of all the radio shows aired in the month and also select publications/newspaper which children would like to share with their readers. Click here to read one of our issues.



Delhi Childrens Times

The Delhi Children's Times (a newspaper for children, by children brought out since 1996) was redesigned and is now being shared online too. Take a look at the opinions expressed by children which took the form of articles, poems and drawings. <u>Click here</u>

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New Website

This year we also launched our new website. With a new url (aimed at synchrosnising our online presence including social media accounts) the feature rich website, is built in accordance to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and also has a special corner for children, consisting of resources for children like comic books, newspapers, films and more. In addition, all our publications over the years can also be found here. We welcome you to visit our programmes, read our approach, explore our resources, and support us by sharing our work at - www.butterfliesngo.org











Drawings made by children at Butterflies' Resilience Centre

Annual Report

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firstname@butterfliesngo.org, eg. If the name is Sujay Joseph, the email id will be sujay@butterfliesngo.org

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