

Learning to Fly

January-April 2022

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In This Issue

Butterflies and members of the National Alliance of Grassroots NGOs (NAGN) in India rolled out the Blue Umbrella Campaign to highlight the growing and too-long ignored issue of the sexual abuse of boys. This year's Gerry Pinto Memorial Annual Lecture was themed on "Social Work Education and Practice - Looking back, Looking Ahead". Observing International Social Work Month, Butterflies' convened a first-of-its-kind webinar on the importance of Nurturing Childhood. Children and mothers went out for their first picnic since the pandemic. All this and more in this issue. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.



Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence against Boys

Butterflies and members of NAGN in India rolled out the Blue Umbrella Day Campaign to highlight the growing and too-long ignored issue of the sexual abuse of boys. The Blue Umbrella Campaign comprised

throughout March and April on both social media platforms and traditional media channels to highlight the release of Butterflies' study on the sexual violence against boys and a synthesis report of the research studies conducted by four members of Family for Every Child - VOC Nepal, First Step Cambodia, CPTCSA Philippines and Butterflies, India. These research studies were undertaken by FFEC as part of their initiative to sensitise the policy makers and general public (including parents) that child abuse is experienced by both girls and boys. These lead-up activities culminated on April 16, 2022, recognised internationally as Blue Umbrella Day (BUD), designed to raise awareness of sexual violence against boys and to impel adults to play a bigger role in protecting boys from harm and caring for them in ways that best support their wellbeing. The BUD campaign is organised by Family for Every Child (FFEC), UK, a global alliance of 41 CSOs from 37 countries.

[Click here](#) for more information on this campaign and Butterflies' study.



Gerry Pinto Memorial Annual Lecture

"Social Work Education and Practice - Looking back, Looking Ahead" was the theme of the 2022 Gerry Pinto Memorial Annual Lecture held on April 30 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. More than 110 participants from 30 grassroots organisations, colleges, research institutes and practitioners across India participated in the event which was organised as a tribute to three eminent social work educators whom we lost in the last year: Professors R. R. Singh, Delhi University, Professor H Y Siddiqui, Jamia Millia Islamia and Dr. Olinda Pereira, Mysore University..

The purpose of the occasion was to galvanise professional social work educators and practitioners nationwide to reflect on social work education and practice and to set a roadmap for the 21st century. The panel, which featured both academicians and practitioners was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Sanjai Bhatt, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi. The speakers at the lecture were Prof. (Dr.) S. M. Sajid, Department of Social Work (Former Registrar and Pro-Vice-Chancellor) Jamia Millia Islamia University, Dr. Digambar Narzary, Chairperson, Nedan Foundation, and Prof. (Dr.) Kalpana Sarathy, Deputy Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Campus who shared their thoughts on the topic. [Click here](#) to read what the speakers shared.

Webinar on International Social Work Month Nurturing Childhood

Butterflies' core belief is that children have a basic human right to live in a safe, protective family and within a community environment that fosters their physical, emotional and social wellbeing. Observing International Social Work Month, Butterflies' convened a first-of-its-kind webinar on Nurturing Childhood, which witnessed experts like Dr. Achal Bhagat, Chairperson, Saarthak, Ms. Amanda Griffith, CEO, Family for Every Child, UK and Dr. Digambar Narzary, Chairperson, Nedan Foundation share their knowledge on the subject. The webinar was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Kalpana Sarathy, Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Campus. [Click here](#) to read the panelists' focused discussion on three areas of social work practice. Click here to watch a replay of the webinar - <https://youtu.be/PFQb6FghVOQ>

Butterflies Broadcasting Children (India's first radio show by children)

Butterflies Broadcasting Children aired several shows on All India Radio discussing pertinent topics such as the need for COVID Vaccination, the Blue Umbrella Day Campaign, the connection

Street Education Programme

Excursion for Children Blends History and Recycling- March 2022 brought Butterflies' first excursion for students since the pandemic. Children from two of its eight contact points were escorted to "Bharat Darshan Park" situated at Punjabi Bagh to learn about a range of Indian monuments fashioned with an innovative twist. Using a "waste to wealth" model, the Park featured replicas of 22 historical monuments from 14 states, all built from recycled waste and scrap material and showcased in an environment powered by solar energy. "We cannot visit the whole of India, but this visit brought the whole of India to us" was the way several of the appreciative children characterised the outing.

Outing for Mothers- When the Butterflies' Child Development Officer conducting the monthly meeting at our Chandni Chowk contact point heard mothers lament that they had little leisure time for themselves, the result was an outing organised for a Sunday when their husbands could fill in at home. A local park provided a relaxing venue for games, conviviality, and sharing snacks that the women brought from home. This ladies 'day off', all agreed, was a boon to their emotional well-being. How's this for attentive listening?

Assisting Families with Applications for Government Assistance- With the support of local government representative Mr. Devender Tanwar, staff at Butterflies' Okhla Mandi Child Development Centre organised two hands-on camps where migrant family members learned how to gather the documentation to apply for the Aadhar and Voter ID cards required for accessing government benefits.

Nutrition on the go- Packed nutritious snacks are being regularly served to children in eight contact points, five days a week. The children look forward to their snacks and during this hot summer, fruit juices and buttermilk are also part of the kit.

Relief Material Distribution- Since January 2022, Butterflies has been distributing dry food ration kits to 785 families and individuals.

Together We Are Stronger Alliance

Observing the 74th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death, 68 children participated in an online Poetry and Drawing competition.

Letter to the Deputy Chief Minister- 166 DCRC members composed a letter to the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Mr. Manish Sisodia to share their concern about their transition from online classes to in-person instruction after a gap of 2 years. Their collective anxiety stemmed from the fact that most of them have been promoted to higher standards without sitting for examinations. The students requested help to bridge this preparation gap and offered an innovative action plan to prepare for the advanced syllabus.

Louder Together- On 16th April 2022, children from organizations across India observed Blue Umbrella Day (BUD) to raise awareness of the widespread yet hidden epidemic of sexual violence against boys.

Learning Exchange- On 29th April 2022, directors and programme heads of 15 partner grassroots organizations participated in a learning exchange on Masculinity and Sexuality.

Butterflies School of Culinary and Catering

After several semesters when COVID constraints impacted the curriculum and reduced the size of trainee cohorts, the BSCC has gradually resumed its hands-on instruction by experienced representatives from the hospitality sector in New Delhi. Recent highlights include:

- IHM PUSA Chef Kunal offered two classes for trainees: Preparing Various Stocks and Italian Basics, i.e. sauces, pizza and pasta. Colleagues oversaw practicums on a variety of food products from baked goods to entrees, including Muffins, Cookies, Pizza, Curd Sandwich, Aloo Parwal, Laccha Parantha, Aloo stew and coconut Chatni
- BSCC alumni Shubhash Bhagat delivered a session on food hazards
- Current BSCC trainee Nagina secured an internship at the Pullman Hotel
- BSCC representatives made a presentation of the course at two Child Care Institutions (CCIs), Salam Baalak Trust and a government CCI, Lajpat Nagar.



Drawings made by children at Butterflies' Resilience Centre

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