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Learning to Fly

January-June 2023

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**In This Issue**

Addressing the sexual abuse of boys, Butterflies rolled out the Blue Umbrella Campaign. To address the increasing number of mental health issues among children, adolescents and young people, Butterflies organised an International Conference on Mental Health. A team of 10 members from British Airways UK visited Butterflies. A recent alumni of BSCC, India's first catering institute for street connected teenagers and young persons shares his experience of working in the Pullman Novotel Hotel. Butterflies organised a reflection workshop on Children's Cooperatives. All this and more in this issue. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.



**Blue Umbrella Day**

Sexual abuse of boys, unfortunately is not spoken about, which Butterflies is committed to spotlight, beyond the in-depth research studies it has conducted. For the third year running we have organised a local sensitisation campaign as part of a global Blue Umbrella Day (BUD) which is a key initiative of Family for Every Child, a global alliance of 41 grassroots NGOs (including Butterflies) from 37 countries that is headquartered in London.

The local Delhi actions that Butterflies convened on April 15, 2023 consisted of a mime show, street theatre, and dance performance at both a bustling railway station and a tourist hotspot. The main purpose of this high-spirited, noisy gathering of children is to motivate adults to play a bigger role in protecting boys

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### International Conference on Mental Health

To address the increasing number of mental health issues among children, adolescents and young people, Butterflies organised an International Conference on Mental Health from 9-11 May 2023 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The chock-full three-day meeting brought together mental health professionals, practitioners, academicians, and media personnel. The result was a truly interdisciplinary discourse to gauge the current state of children's and adolescents' mental health and to suggest that the way forward must include a range of approaches.

On-the-ground practitioners from India, UK, members of Family for Every Child (FFEC, global alliance of local CSOs) from Rwanda, Philippines, Guyana, Cambodia, and Nepal demonstrated a range of therapeutic approaches to support children in crisis, such as social casework, narrative art therapy and psycho-social therapy. The inaugural day of the conference witnessed the release of the action research study on therapeutic approaches of the three FFEC members, CHILDLINK, Guyana, UNV, Rwanda and Butterflies, India by Ms. Roli Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The second day, a Synthesis Report on Boys Affected by Sexual Violence, an empirical study done by First Step, Cambodia, CPTCSA, Philippines, Voice of Children, Nepal and Butterflies, India, was released by Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairperson, Public Service Commission, Uttarakhand.

Signaling the imprimatur that Butterflies has earned for its work was the enthusiastic participation of official representatives at the state, federal, and international level. Addressing the conference participants were key speakers, Smt. Roli Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India; and Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Honourable Chairman, Uttarakhand Public Service Commission, Uttarakhand, Smt. L.S Changsan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Dr Nimesh Desai (Former Director of IHBAS); Dr. Ziaul Matin, Health Specialist, UNICEF India; Dr. Shekhar Seshadhri, NIMHANS, Dr. Manoj Sharma, NIMHANS, Dr. Harish Shetty, Psychiatrist and Visiting Professor at Symbiosis Law School, Dr. Achal Bhagat, Sarthaak,

Valedictory remarks by academician Dr. K. Srinath Reddy (Professor, PHFI) followed by the Poster Presentation Award Ceremony underscore Butterflies' commitment to help prepare the next generation of social work practitioners to bolster the mental health of children in crisis more importantly to place mental health –emotional wellbeing as a fundamental right of children and adolescents.

*To read more about the conference and download the study reports- [Click Here](#)*

*The recordings of the conference can be viewed on our YouTube channel here- [Click Here](#) -*

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### British Airways visit

A team of 10 members from British Airways UK visited Butterflies on June 14, 2023. In the morning they met children at our Jangpura and Nizammuddin Dargah contact points who peppered them with non-stop questions about their work, roles and salary. Next followed a transect walk at Nizammuddin Dargah, through the narrow lanes of the makeshift residential community (which is constructed mostly on graves). The visitors got a glimpse of the challenges and risks that children and their families are exposed to while living there.

On the second half of the day, the BA Team visited Butterflies office, had interactions with the trainees and staff of Butterflies School of Culinary and Catering (BSCC). They were treated to a vegetarian lunch prepared by the Chef and trainees of BSCC. Post lunch they participated in a typical sports event that Butterflies organises monthly for the children from all the contact points at Lodhi Gardens. Sports as well as creative arts and performance are key Child Health and Sports Cooperative (CHSC) interventions to bolster the physical, social and mental growth of children and youth. Sports as a vehicle to hone the life skills of teamwork, interpersonal communication, and resilience seemed to engage the BA team who joined in playing with children and spent time to interact with the kids despite the scorching heat. Children were enthusiastic in engaging them in their teams and most of all the children found them to be warm, friendly and interested to have conversations with them. The children performed a mime show on mobile addiction for them, which was much appreciated. Both our children and our visitors relished the tasty refreshments prepared by the Butterflies School of Culinary and Catering trainees. (PS- Butterflies individual givers and friends worldwide who flew British Airways mentioned that British Airways regularly promotes Butterflies as one of the charities they support on its international flights.)

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### Butterflies School of Culinary and Catering

*India's first catering institute for street connected teenagers and young persons*

This May the Butterflies School of Culinary & Catering (BSCC) welcomed a cohort of 15 students, the first to fully benefit from the new programme leds-administrators who hail from the hospitality sector, bringing with them innovative approaches, training modules, even uniforms. These optimistic trainees are buoyed by the prospects of employment at five-star hotels. Read one such story narrated by the Hotel Pullman Novotel on one of our trainee who was placed for internship at the hotel- [Click Here](#).



### Workshop on Children's Cooperatives

Butterflies organised a reflection workshop on Children's Cooperatives at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi from July 17, 2023 to July 23, 2023. 121 children participated in the 4-day gathering which this year featured two new interactive methodologies to foster heightened engagement. First, the child representatives debated the topic CDK 'a lifeline for children'. This methodology was

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well as practical recommendations for overall program improvement.

Second, children were tasked to compose parodies of popular Bollywood songs that showcased the pluses of Butterflies' signature CDK and CHSC cooperatives. This exercise drove children to focus on the programmatic elements of cooperatives, such as democratic decision-making, and provided a terrific opportunity to hone and showcase their creativity.

The workshop helped in strengthening the understanding of cooperatives and ownership of Children's Cooperative program.



### Exposure visits of students

As part of our education program, Butterflies organises hands-on learning and exposure visits at the end of the academic year to various sites with historical, scientific, or cultural importance. This year children from our street contact points visited the National Zoological Park, Waste to Wonder Park, and the Museum of Indian Prime ministers.



### National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

76 students appeared in the annual NIOS examinations this year. The annual meeting of NIOS partner agencies (16 representatives from 9 NGOs) addressed the low attendance and performance in the NIOS exam, analysing the results for the last 3 years and chalking out ways to improve attendance and learning outcomes of students.

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### Alliance

#### *Stronger, Together*

- On 30th May 2023, a session was organized with the adolescence children of Delhi child rights club (DCRC), there were 39 adolescence – 20 girls and 19 boys and 16 adult facilitators to share their perspectives on healthy and unhealthy relationships with their peers and their guardians /caregivers.

-On 15th May 2023, Delhi children times editorial board consisting of child reporters, editor and sub editors discussed and selected the design and articles for the next edition of the newspaper to be published.

-On 5th June 2023, members of Delhi Child Rights Club and children from the National Alliance of Grassroot NGO's (NAGN) observed world environment day by participating in a drawing, painting and poetry competition.

-On 12th April 2023 members of NAGN observed International Street Child Day



### Reflection workshop for staff

Butterflies marshalled its resources for an extraordinary staff development event in February, providing all programme managers and front line staff with 3 days of focused discussion and team work in picturesque Jaipur. Staff had the time away from the office and the field to brainstorm, debate, and drill down on ways to improve the reach, delivery, and impact of all Butterflies' programmes. The salutary end result is a set of measurable new goals and strategies for the next three years.

***Thank you for your time and support to Butterflies.***

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