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### *In This Issue*

We are delighted to share with you some of the **highlights** and **achievements** of our organization and our children in the last few months. **50 newly elected Child Health Educators** received **specialized training** to promote health and hygiene among their peers. **Delhi Child Rights Club** marked **World Mental Health Day** with the theme "**Emotions Matter**" and raised awareness about mental health issues among children. We hosted **guests** from **British Airways, Members of the Australian Parliament** and **Australian High Commission** who visited our **Butterflies** program and interacted with our children and adolescents from BSCC. Our artistic children **excelled** at the **painting competition** organized by the **Ministry of Urban Affairs, Government of India**. **Positive Parenting** sessions helped parents **understand** the challenges faced by their children and **support** them better. And much more!

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and learning more about our work and our impact. We are grateful for your continued support and feedback. We wish you a very happy and healthy new year! 🎉



### **Children's Cooperatives**

In October 2023, a cohort of **50** newly elected child leaders underwent specialized training sessions tailored to their specific roles. The Child Health Educators received training sessions focused on **log bookkeeping techniques** and **comprehensive first aid protocols**. Buddies, on the other hand, underwent training sessions geared towards enhancing their basic **communication skills** and equipping them to provide effective peer support. Notably, Dr. Bhaskar Sharma, a dentist and PhD Scholar from AIIMS, New Delhi, conducted first aid practicums for Child Health Educators.

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### British Airways visit

Marking a significant engagement, two teams of overseas-based British Airways (BA) staff from the US and the UK each spent a chock-full day with Butterflies on November 21 and 23, 2023 respectively. Mornings were out in the field at contact points, the sites near markets and transit hubs where Butterflies delivers its street education programme.

After a luncheon prepared and served by Butterflies School of Culinary and Catering students, the afternoons featured a **collaborative art project**. Each BA rep worked on a painting with 4 child artists who collectively determined the artwork's theme, execution, and presentation. The creative art session with children left all **25** BA employees impressed by the children's creativity, imagination, and talent. The British Airways staff recognized how Butterflies' consistent, long-term commitment to children's full participation in decision-making is evident in the children's enthusiastic sense of aspiration, expectation, positivity and potential despite their challenging lives.

*(Butterflies donors and friends worldwide who fly British Airways mention that British Airways regularly promotes Butterflies as one of the charities it supports on its international flights.)*



### Guests from Australia at Butterflies School of Culinary and Catering

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

Butterflies School of Culinary & Catering (BSCC), through its partnership with the Australian High Commission, is delivering skills and livelihood opportunities to underprivileged youth in professional culinary & catering services. BSCC, India's first catering institute for street-connected youth offers more than vocational education and livelihood skills. BSCC also



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Since 'the proof is in the pudding', this fall the Commission invited visiting Members of the Australian Parliament to visit BSCC, meet the students and faculty and be hosted by BSCC for a lunch prepared by the students. For the students it was an honour and privilege to host Members of the Parliament.

The students are trained to be chefs, who at the end of their culinary course must complete industry internships in the hospitality sector. [Learn more](#) about BSCC which is now headed by an alum of Delhi's prestigious Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa.



### Positive Parenting

To help adults better cope with children's changing needs and behaviours, Butterflies staff have been conducting 'Parenting Skills' training. Sessions on the often uncomfortable topic of 'Sexuality Education' impart knowledge and enable open dialogue between parents and children. These exchanges ultimately foster a more informed approach to crucial aspects of child-rearing.



### Street Education Programme

Children from Butterflies won both the **first** and consolation prize at the National Inter-NGO Painting Competition organized by HUDCO and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

**65** children passed secondary and senior secondary exams, with some achieving up to **80%** marks in senior secondary exams. **29** of these successful students have enrolled in universities, pursuing higher education.



Ensuring a strong rapport with schools is crucial for children's development. Regular visits to formal schools allow us to foster relationships, address attendance issues, facilitate admissions, and monitor children's progress. In **36** recent school visits, the primary focus was on facilitating admissions for children without proper documentation and ensuring their placement in age-appropriate classes. As a result, **18** children gained admission, positively impacting attendance rates.

Schools often invite Butterflies to conduct valuable **life skills sessions on topics like personal hygiene**. The principal at a municipal primary school near Okhla Mandi noted the program's impact on our children's cleanliness.



**39** Bal Sabhas (Children's Councils) were held across all contact points, supplemented by four Central Council meetings attended by representatives from all locations. Children deliberated on various issues including water and sanitation problems, limited spaces for sports and play, community safety concerns, and school-related challenges like bullying. Through collaborative

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[discussions, children devised action plans to address these issues at their contact points.](#)
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Butterflies is actively engaged in the Vidyanjali initiative by the Ministry of Education, collaborating with two registered schools to strengthen community involvement and support educational initiatives. Additionally, we help parents who serve on school management committees, enhancing their roles within the community.

**Seven students** were enrolled in professional paramedical and ITI courses facilitated by Tech-Mahindra. These courses will equip these adolescents with skills for employment in the health and technology sector.

In October 2023, children accompanied by Butterflies staff, visited Jim Corbett Park in Uttarakhand. This was a much needed break-cum-study tour for students who had just completed their exams. They were so excited to see the animals they only read about in books that none of them felt the need for any smart phone or television.

Followed by the trip was the much awaited Human Rights Day on December 10, 2023. **Volunteer employees from Sapient**, a multinational technology company, joined the children in the games and sports competition.



### Alliance

#### *Stronger, Together*

On 25th August 2023, a vibrant Delhi Child Rights Club (DCRC) event 'India - Flavours of Culture and Traditions' showcased the nation's diverse cultural tapestry. Children from 21 DCRC member organisations presented folk dances, songs, poems, and dramas from various Indian states. This colourful mosaic of India's traditions attracted **790 attendees**.

On 30th September 2023, a bimonthly DCRC meeting featured 'Cyber Safety' to emphasize the need to safeguard oneself from cybercrime, recognize potential cyber threats, and safeguard social media accounts. Additionally, the session shed light on how online gaming can pose risks to their parents' bank accounts. **95 participants** from 20 DCRC Partner organisations attended.



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Emotions Matter

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On 10th October 2023, Butterflies celebrated



World Mental Health Day at Central Park, Connaught Place. 800 children from 17 DCRC Partner organisations actively participated, attracting a large crowd of onlookers which helped to spread awareness of this important issue.



On November 29th, 2023, the DCRC hosted a 'Adolescent Life Skills for Health' to sensitise adolescents how to comprehend, value, and manage the changes that come with growing up. The child representatives and adult facilitators from each organisation were encouraged to conduct similar sessions for other adolescents within their organisations.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



**Butterflies Annual Report**

Butterflies' audited Annual Report was released, which documents the activities conducted during the period 1 April 2022- 31 March 2023. Read about Butterflies' key achievements in 2022 in the report available for [download](#) on our website.

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