

CHIT CHAT

A NEWSLETTER ON CHILDREN'S COOPERATIVES

March – August 2024



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Children's Cooperatives are owned and managed by children, it is a life skill, that educates and supports children to lead healthy, sustainable and financially safe lives

Sensitization session with Parents in Delhi

A sensitization session with 40 parents was organized at Indian Social Institute on 30th March 2024. This was an occasion where parents were refreshed on Butterflies programmes especially cooperatives, and how it helps children. Parents were happy to know that Butterflies would be focusing on adolescents and their health concerns.



Blue Umbrella Day

On April 16th every year, Blue Umbrella Day draws attention to the need to provide appropriate protection to boys to safeguard them from sexual violence. Butterflies organised Blue Umbrella Day campaign at 'Dilli Haat', which is an open-air market conceived on the model of village fairs which attract huge number of visitors. This year was special as Children had posted a letter box to collect feedback from visitors and there were "two child postmen" proudly wearing the postman's uniform. They handed over postcards to visitors to write their thoughts on the issue of *caring for boys and drop it in the post box*.



Health Camp for Children and Parents

We held a health camp for children and families in collaboration with Asian Medical Student Association of India (AMSA). More than 200 children and their parents attended the camp and consulted the doctors about their health issues. Families were appreciative that medical doctors were available for medical consultations at their doorstep.



Cooperatives Reflection Workshop

Butterflies utilized the schools summer break (vacation) to hold reflection workshops with children on various aspects of its Cooperatives Programme. The 6 days participatory approach of the workshop proved to be a great success as children got the opportunity to participate whole-heartedly and share their experiences identifying challenges and coming up with solutions. It was truly a reflection workshop. **‘For many this was the first time they set foot in country’s capital’**. During the Workshop, Children from Uttarakhand were given the opportunity to go for exposure visit. For many this was the first time they set foot in country’s capital. 8 children from Dehradun, 6 from Haridwar and 6 from Uddham Singh Nagar district visited India Gate, Red Fort and Qutab Minar. Later, children spent time at the National Science Centre, which was interactive, thought provoking and informative. All of them were surprised and astonished by the representation of complex scientific concepts in a simple and entertaining way which made them more curious about the things surrounding us. Children also visited Butterflies’ Office as they all wanted to have a look at the office. This exposure to Delhi helped children broaden their horizon and expanded their cultural understanding.



Cooperatives training at Rudrapur, Uttarakhand

Child leaders/facilitators who got elected by child members of the Child Health and Sports Cooperatives and Children Development Khazana participated in a workshop at Rudrapur, Uttarakhand on 20th and 21st of July 2024. A total of 78 child leaders were trained on their roles and responsibilities and Child Health Educators were provided with the First Aid Kits and the log book and Child Sports Educators with the sports Materials and the log book. Red Cross Society of Rudrapur trained all the child Health Educators on First Aid.



Media and Mental Health

Understanding frequently used apps and social media platforms

Butterflies as part its child safeguarding and mental health programme, we are focusing on adolescents to understand their engagement with social media and its effect on their emotional wellbeing. To have a more in-depth understanding of the issues, a focus group discussion was organized with boys within the age groups of 13 years to 15 years, separately on 13th of July 2024. The discussion was held with the consent of the children in a safe environment with confidentiality maintained. The discussions gave us an insight into the most popular apps used, social media engagement and influencers, as well as the time they spend on their mobiles. The focus group discussions will continue, these discussions will help both the adolescents and us to co create specific life skills education intervention for children and adolescents. We are building a case for comprehensive intervention.

Sports for Development

Delhi Children's Football league

In the months of July and August 2024, Delhi Children's Football league (Boys) was organized to provide opportunities for children to come out and play for fun and emotional wellbeing. Five Junior teams and six adolescents' teams vied for the Football trophy. Football was used as a medium to engage children in sports and reinforce the spirit of inclusiveness, fair play, social bonding/ relationships. In fact, the league made them come out and practice, every day for two months, reducing the time spent on their mobiles. The teams who did not make it to the semifinals and finals were positive of the outcome and are already planning for the next tournaments which will be organised in November. 165 players participated in the league while 300 plus children participated in watching the matches and cheering for their teams.



Collective action at Kashmere Gate, Delhi

As per 'The Hindu' newspaper report, there are increasing number of cases of mosquito breeding in Delhi. This becomes extremely dangerous for families living in street situations. To tackle this, children of Kashmere Gate contact point decided to undertake an awareness drive. They made hand drawn posters with slogans. With the help of Programme officers, they put the posters in the prominent market areas for the people to see and become careful.



When children do things collectively, it reaches miles. When children do things cooperatively, it touches hearts. The simple gesture was noticed by people and they were surprised to see children doing what the authorities are supposed to do.



National Alliance of Grassroot Practitioners turns 20

Butterflies' initiative of National Alliance of Grassroot Practitioners (erstwhile National Alliance of Grassroot NGO) completed 20 years in August 2024. This has been a platform driven by grassroots voluntary organisations for the benefit of children. To mark its two decades, NAGP had a two-day (24th and 25th July 2024) consultation with its 17 member organisations on a number of issues. It energised everyone with a common plan of action.



Children's Cooperatives present in-

National	International
Jharkhand- Pratigya	Sri Lanka- Kantha Shakthi Forum & Rural Women's Front
Rajasthan- Jan Kala Sahitya Manch Sanstha	Kyrgyzstan- Children's Centre Putnik
Bihar- Mahila Development Centre, Purnia and Muzaffarpur	Afghanistan- Aschiana
Maharashtra- Centre for the Study of Social Change, Salaam Baalak Trust, Hamara Foundation	Nepal- Voice of Children, Child Welfare Scheme Nepal and Youth Society Nepal
Orissa- Open Learning Systems and UNNAYAN	Madagascar- ONG Manda
Kerala- SHREYAS Social Service Centre and ACMI Devamatha	Tajikistan- Munis
Delhi- Butterflies	Ghana- Challenging Heights

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

Do write to us at-

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Protecting and empowering children since 1989