

[View this email in your browser](#)



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022



Kaneez* (10 years) takes care of her 10-month-old brother while her parents are away for work. Seemapuri, Delhi, October 2021. **name change*

Dear Friends,

As we write to you it is hard to say if the Omicron wave is firmly behind us, or the XE Variant is staring at us already!

But what we can certainly share is the joy of seeing little children

Donate to MC

Your donations will go a long way in sustaining MC's programmes during this difficult period

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

operational. Children are receiving an enhanced diet to arrest their faltering growth. And they are fully engaged in a revised *Balwadi* curriculum, complete with new stories, poems, worksheets, and play materials.

Unfortunately, childcare facilities are not a choice available to all working parents. Many women opt to stay out of work due to childcare and household responsibilities. Worse still, in the post pandemic world many girls remain out of school, taking on the burden of caring for their siblings. As you will read in this newsletter.

In these hard-pressed times, our surveys to ascertain need for quality childcare across locations in Karnataka, Haryana, Telangana, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand, Gujarat, and other places has revealed startling results of children in unsafe conditions, and mothers demanding quality childcare facilities. Reach out to us if you want to know more about these insights.

Join us in accelerating access to quality childcare for marginalised young children across India.

Stay well. Stay safe.

Sumitra Mishra
Executive Director

Volunteer with us

MC has a long tradition of volunteer engagement. Join us today for a rewarding and life changing experience!

[Volunteer](#)

Support Us

Whether it is by raising awareness online, or helping to raise funds, there are many ways you can help our cause!

[Learn more](#)

Sibling Care is a Burden

Recently, a photo of a [10-year-old girl from Manipur attending school while babysitting her young sister](#) won the hearts of social media users. The photo, depicting her dedication towards education, amazed the nation.



But does it come as a shock to anybody why this little girl had to carry her baby-sister to school, while her parents were away working? Imagine how many times she attends school with her sister on her lap, or she misses school to care for her younger siblings!

Sibling care is not an act of heroism. It is a burden on young children who are denied opportunities to pursue their education and a happy childhood. Among the poor working families in India, it's often the older children, mostly daughters, stay at home to assist with household chores and take care of younger siblings while the parents are at work.

"I do not go to school every day as I have to look after my younger brother. My teacher does not say anything as she knows why," Sruti, a nine-year old girl whose mother works as a domestic worker in Shahabad Dairy, Delhi tells us.

According to two separate studies by MC, 15 percent in Delhi and 17 percent in Karnataka out of 500 parents, who were interviewed, leave their children at home under the supervision of their older children, especially a girl child.

"My husband and I have to go to work so my older girls take turns to take leave from school to look after

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate

Studies reveal that the limited timings of anganwadi centres, lack of creches and day care centres, distance and quality of services prevent working parents from availing childcare support.

In a state level consultation organised by Neenv Delhi FORCES on 4th March 2022, on the care and protection of marginalised children from the slums of Delhi, Shri Rajendra Pal Gautam, WCD Minister, Government of Delhi guaranteed to deliver childcare facilities for young children and strengthen women empowerment schemes under the Saheli Samanvay Kendra (SSK) programme.

Towards Decentralised Decisions for ECD Provisions



Six Gram Panchayats across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha have allocated 7-10 percent of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) funds for young children of their respective villages. These funds will meet extra diet needs of malnourished children, anganwadi renovations, safe drinking water at anganwadis, ECCE learning materials amongst other identified priorities.

The funding amount appears meagre, and the scale is miniscule. But the shift it signals is momentous. After years of improving understanding on the importance of ECD across Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, for the first time parents of these villages were heard by local decision makers, on what they can really do to ensure young children accessed their rights to survive and develop. Building capacities of local governance systems to plan, budget, implement, and monitor ECD programmes is a work in progress for MC and its partner organisations.

Events and Celebrations



Celebrated MC Founding Day

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

celebrate the journey spanning over five decades, at Pearey Lal Bhawan Amphitheatre ITO, New Delhi. Many more fellow travellers joined in the celebrations through online platforms.

Our children kickstarted the celebrations with their perky dance, followed by an extraordinary fancy dress show. Many MC team members channelled their creative energies through songs, dance, theatre, poetry and many other items that took us to diverse corners of India. The venue was flawlessly decorated with MC's trademark handmade paper mobiles, puppets and colourful festoons blowing merrily in the spring breeze. Wide smiles, loud laughter, warm embraces, and cheery eyes transcended the face masks and social distances to lock everyone in a circle of support.



Republic Day celebration

The 73rd Republic Day was celebrated across all the centres in a hybrid mode, during the middle of the third phase of COVID-19 resurgence. Parents shared videos of their children reciting poems and patriotic songs etc. The flag was unfurled by the community leaders.



Annual Sports Day

On welcoming children back to the centres in February, MC celebrated its annual Sports Day. From



International Women's Day Celebration

More than 100 women from VP Singh Camp and Shababad Dairy of Delhi participated in the International Women's day event. They performed cultural activities to create awareness about issues around child marriage, domestic violence, health & sanitation, and gender equality.

Snippets:

- 5 new creches were inaugurated in Noida, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Ahmedabad and Bangalore reaching 250 children. 4 amongst them are supported by developer partner, ATS Infrastructure.
- 65 participants were trained as creche workers in Delhi and Hyderabad. Two new NGO partners, Mahita and MV Foundation, from Telangana joined the training.
- 120 community women from 4 locations of Delhi learnt about their rights and entitlements under the Building and Other Construction Act and how to register for a labour card during an awareness drive organised by MC in partnership with Trade Unions.
- A-two-days capacity building workshop of community members on social security schemes was conducted on 17th and 18th February to develop a common understanding on the importance of ECD and social security schemes related to women and children (ICDS, PMMVY, and construction workers welfare), so that maximum citizens can be linked to available public benefits.
- Continuing with our efforts to strengthen the urban community level planning and implementation systems, MC conducted a workshop for members of the Mukhyamantri Anganwadi Monitoring Committee(MAMC) on 10th March 2022. 35 participants from 10 wards from Delhi attended the training. Ms. Manju Varshney, Deputy Director, DWCD Govt. of NCT Delhi Development, shared about the roles & responsibilities of MAMC members.
- MC is running a volunteer driven 'English Learning Programme' (ELP) for its frontline teams to improve their English language skills. This will enable them in turn to support children's language development and school readiness skills. The course is designed in 12 modules for 12 weeks. We welcome volunteers to join this initiative.

Sandeep Blossoms From The Nurturing Care He Receives

A four-year-old, Sandeep*, from New Town, Kolkata lives with his grandparents. He was introduced to the Phuljhuri creche, run by SPAN, and supported by Mobile Creches, six months ago, with complaints about his behaviour and poor speaking skills.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

abandoned him when he was 2 years, and his father had migrated to another city for work. The creche team discovered Sandeep on a day he was locked and left alone at home. Since then he is regularly attending the creche. With the love, care and responsiveness of crèche workers, he slowly started interacting with children, became playful and started speaking. His speech and language skills improved dramatically. His grandparents are overjoyed seeing their grandchild. They cannot wait to proudly show him off to their neighbours!

*name changed



AECED and MC - Early Years Virtual World Conference

Mobile Creches in association with Association for Early Childhood Education and Development is organising an Early Years Virtual World Conference on "Reimagining and Reshaping Early Childhood Care and Education in the 'New' Normal" from 2nd to 4th June 2022.

We have a stunning array of ~60 distinguished speakers from across the world, representing all continents: thought leaders, innovators and committed education professionals will present about policies, programmes, research and practices to reimagine and transform ECCE in the COVID-19 altered world!

The conference will be illuminating for students, practitioners, teacher trainers, programme designers, policy planners, researchers, and those interested in the early childhood movement across the world!

Don't miss it!!

[Register here](#)

[Discounts and offers here](#)

You have the power to play a part in rewriting the story for the future of India's children.

[Please Donate here.](#)



Copyright © 2019 Mobile Creches. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in receiving updates about Mobile Creches.

Our mailing address is:

Mobile Creches
DIZ Area, Raja Bazaar, Sector IV
New Delhi 110001
India

[Add us to your address book](#)

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Mobile Creches · DIZ Area, Raja Bazaar, Sector IV · New Delhi, 110001 · India