

Dominican Month for Peace 2019

Impacting the lives of the marginalized communities in India

The Dominican Month for Peace for the Dominican Family in India was one of reflection leading to action to reduce and eradicate violence, deprivation and abuse experienced by children, women and indigenous communities in the country. The prayers, solidarity and support from the Dominican Family from all over the world inspired and encouraged many of our communities who live and work in such difficult situations. Unfortunately, the situation of these groups remains unchanged but so also the resolve of the Dominican Family in India to fight to protect their rights.

Funds received from the Dominican Family and its utilization:

Total funds received in Indian Rupees INR 4,952,397.13 – about US\$ 66,032 (@INR75/- exchange rate).

Project Bloom:

The Indian Centre for Integrated Development (ICID), with the support from the Dominican Family, has been able to strengthen the systems of the organization and increase the quality of the program implementation. The funds contributed by the Dominican Family were partly used for the following projects and activities since December 2019:

- Staff strength increased to enhance the project outcomes at grassroots level.
- 165 adolescents were sensitised and trained as Peer Volunteers to protect themselves, identify any form of exploitation among children and adolescents in their respective communities and report to the competent authorities.
- National Girl Child Day was celebrated with the participation of 342 girl children. Rallies were taken out and street theatre enacted to promote rights of the girl child and gender equality.
- Sensitization programs were organized for over 400 women from different slum communities on child protection
- A mass event was organized focusing on the promotion of rights of the girl children and gender equality with the participation of over 500 women from different slum and rural communities on the occasion of International Women's Day.

These events and activities immensely impacted the women and girl children by:

- Increasing sensitivity among them against any form of child rights exploitation and instilled courage towards increased reporting of incidences of exploitation, violence and abuse to the police and accessing legal remedies.
- Protecting girl children from child marriages with the timely intervention of the volunteers. Over 600 girl children educated to uphold reproductive health and menstrual hygiene.

Yuvajyothi, the Children's Home, has undergone a few physical modifications to enhance safety measures. The boundary walls at the ground floor as well as on the terrace have been raised with the cost of about

INR200,000/-. This has ensured extra safe space for children to play and have other physical and recreational activities as they are unable to access public open grounds due to COVID-19.

During COVID-19:

Responding to the humanitarian crisis brought in by the unprecedented times of COVID 19, the ICID made every effort to reach out to the most marginalized and affected with the following support:

- Set up Community Kitchen and provided over 3,000 meals a day for poor people, most of whom were children in disadvantaged situation, for 45 days continuously.
- Distributed groceries/dry ration (sufficient for a week for a family of 5 people) to about 2,500 families.
- Educated and counselled over 1,000 children and their families on COVID-19 prevention and safety measures.

Safe Childhood:

The Indian Dominican Justice and Peace Committee comprising the promoters from all the entities had planned for a workshop on 'protection of children from sexual abuse' in the month of March 2020 for which 62 friars, sisters and the members of Dominican Laity from all over India had registered. It had to be deferred due to COVID-19.

The modules for training for protecting children from sexual exploitation for the Dominican Family in India has already been initiated and would be used in the future training.

Plan for the utilization of remaining funds in the coming months:

1. Project Bloom – i) implementation cost of various activities; ii) renovation of a day care centre for children in begging; iii) purchase of 10 laptops for online/offline education of children in most disadvantaged situations; iv) purchase of android phones/tablets for online education of children in most disadvantaged situations; v) educational sponsorship for children in most disadvantaged situations; vi) masks for about 3,000 children in disadvantaged situations; vii) and medicines for children in disadvantaged situations during COVID-19.
2. Project Safe Childhood –towards the cost of training modules; training videos; workshops for the members of the Dominican Family in India who are working with children.

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As part of both Project Bloom and Project Safe Childhood, ICID team members visit different slums in Nagpur city to raise awareness about Child rights.



Child Rights rally, mainly with children of tribal migrant communities – part of the commemoration of National Girl Child Day (Project Bloom and Project Safe Childhood)



Interaction with tribal migrant girl children in slum communities – Project Safe childhood – empowering girl children against all forms of exploitation and building resilience.



COVID-19 awareness in slums through drawing – as part of Project Safe Childhood



Yuvajyothi - Activity on the Terrace (raised boundary height for safety reasons) – Project Bloom



Street theatre on prevention from child right exploitation in a slum community as part of Project Bloom



Dominican Sisters, Friars and Laity at Month of Peace prayer service at Yuvajyothi, Nagpur



Archbishop of Nagpur with about 500 participants on International Women's Day



Project Bloom and Safe Childhood warriors on International Women's Day