

LIFE Changes

LIFE's new programs have begun this month starting with meetings between BMC school administrators, HMs and LIFE. We all met in the LIFE office on the 28th of March. At this meeting we were able to explain to them LIFE's new approach and each individual's role in the upcoming plans. These meetings allowed for us to get the input of all important BMC players allowing us to further edit and revise our planning. All participants in the meeting were very pleased and came away promising full cooperation.

April 3rd, 4th and 5th LIFE is hosting meetings with Math, English and Social Studies Teachers from the 13 schools. From these meetings we will gather input and move forward with the design of the digital classroom modules.



BMC officials at LIFE offices for meeting on digital classroom and LIFE's other new initiatives.



Newsletter Contents:

LIFE Changes	p.1
EOW	p.1
LIFE Cycleat Worli Sea-Face School	p.2
Education Column	p.3
Anganwadi Update	p.3
Exams are Fun	p.3
Chennai Update	p.4
Coming Events	p.5
Contact Information	p.5

Education on Wheels

LIFE's Education on Wheels (EOW) project has undergone a makeover and is ready to hit the streets this month with new and more creative film offerings. This project which brings the movie theatre experience to children while giving an educational experience now offers a wider variety of films set for specific target groups. Keep an eye on your mailbox for the new EOW brochure.



•Mumbai•

LIFE Cycle at Worli Sea-Face School

LIFE was able to collaborate with Worli Sea-Face again this month for an important information session with the young women of that school. On the 25th of March LIFE in collaboration with the BMC and the Great Indian Dream Foundation hosted a session on sexual health. Now a mandatory session by the BMC. The session is meant to provide the girls with knowledge that will empower them and give them control over their own sexuality.

During the sessions the girls were asked to write a response to two questions. The first question "I am happy I am a girl because..." and a second question "I am not happy I am a girl because..."

Here are some of their responses:

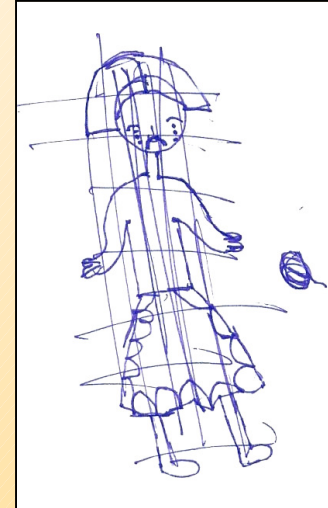
★ मी खुश आहे कारण मला माझ्या वडिलांसारखे बुद्धिमान वारस्ये आहे. कारण ते नष्ट आहेत.

I am not happy because I could not dance or sing ~~in my village~~ in my village

I don't like my hair

I can cook food.
I can be a good daughter or sister.

★ All mother not loves her ~~day~~ daughters.
★ My when I am playing outside my mummy shouted for me.
★ My mummy loves only my brother ~~to~~ she did not love me.



•Mumbai• Anganwadis: Positive Feedback

Over the past month follow up sessions have been held with all Bandra Anganwadi teachers and assistants. These sessions were held to help judge the effect the previous two sessions: "child rights" and "understanding the needs of children" have had on the Anganwadi system.

During the follow up the teachers expressed a certain understanding of the topics which had been presented to them and the importance to their work. This follow up session also gave them the time to review and openly discuss the topics, allowing them to further develop the ideas.

Teachers, assistants and supervisors gave positive review of the sessions. Supervisors believe there has been small but significant changes in the functioning of the anganwadis overall. Classes are being taken more regularly, with more regular timings which has in turn allowed more students to attend more regularly leading to an increase in class sizes.

Also this month LIFE distributed toys in the communities of Walmiki Nagar and Dnyaneshwar Nagar.



Children in Walmiki Nagar eating the Anganwadi supplied lunch.

Education Column: Identifying Student Needs

Recently expert educator Shubhangi Wadekar was interviewed by DNA concerning her recent essay "Identification of Learners' Need and Capacity". In this essay she discusses the need to fill the gap between "what is" and "what should be" in education.

LIFE's newest programs are also working to do this, and are employing several of Wadekar's techniques. LIFE will achieve this by identifying the needs of the learner through diagnostic testing. By identifying the specific needs of the students teachers can address each child's needs more appropriately.

Applying another of Wadekar's techniques LIFE will be working with BMC schools to get parents more involved in the education of their children. LIFE will be doing this by facilitating Parent Teacher Associations to create a greater dialogue between parents and teachers.

Wadekar's words are particularly meaningful to us here at LIFE as we work to close the gap between what is and what should be in BMC education.

Exams are Fun!

Exams are Fun continued this month with LIFE staff helping in the supervision of tenth standard exams.

Thanks to LIFE staff for helping with this activity and best of luck to all those who have written their standard ten exams.

•Chennai•

The children of Our Home are hard at work on their exams currently after which they will be returning to their native places for until school begins again in June. We wish the children of Our Home the best of luck on their exams.

A special thanks from all the LIFE staff and the children of Our Home for donations and volunteers this past month.

These special contributors include:



<p>MRS. BHUVANA ACHARYA MR. SESHADRI MR. RAJAGOPAL DR. BALAMBAL MR. CHARY MR. MAHADEVAN MRS. LALITHA MS. SATHYA SADHANA MRS. JAYALAKSHMI MRS. ANNIE BINNY LIFESTYLE MRS. UMARANI MAHESWARI AMMA BAGHAVAN ALAYAM MR. B. MOHAN MRS. ARCHANA ARUL MR. N. K. PHILIPOSE MRS. SHANTHI S. MR SELVA VEDAGIRI</p>	<p>MR. VIVEK SUKUMARAN MR. SESHADRI MR. VIVEKANANDAN.N MRS. KIRAN NICHANI MRS. SONIA DEVARAJAN MR. REDDY CHADA MR.A.MAHADEVAN CHANDRA MOULEESWARAR TEMPLE MRS. SAROJA ESWARAN MRS. SWETHA MR. M. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN MR SUDHAKAR MRS SHANTHI S MS GANDHIMATHI. S MRS SAI SUDHA MR LOGANATHAN</p>
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Thank You!

Coming Events:

Summer Camp

This April and May LIFE Mumbai will be hosting a summer camp in the Worli area. Please contact us if you would like to contribute.

Website

A new website will be operating this March so keep visiting lifetrustindia.org

Stay Tuned

for more exciting developments
from LIFE Trust.

Contact **LIFE** at:

LIFE Trust Mumbai BB 1 Neelam Centre, SK Ahire Marg, Worli Mumbai 400025 Tel: 022-24910287/88	LIFE Trust Chennai Our Home Plot No. 64, New No. 12 2 nd Street, AD Block, Anna Nagar Chennai 600040 Tel: 044-42612325	LIFE Trust Bangalore Shivla Saksena Lifestyle International Pvt. Ltd. 3 rd Floor- Delta tower, Sigma Softech Park, Whitefield Main Road, Varthurkodi, Bangalore 560066 Tel: 98-80135869
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