



CENTRE
FOR SOCIAL
ACTION

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOMBAY

IMPACT

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

VOL IX NO. 1 – JUNE 2016

NEWS BULLETIN

Editorial | **Marching with the Community
to a Sustainable Future!**

Centre for Social Action draws a great deal of its inspiration from the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church. This Year of Mercy draws our attention to the great significance of the Jubilee Year which is a proclamation for us to step out of our comfort zones and take that step to reach out and work with a community that can make a difference. This issue of Impact calls into focus a strengthening and a clear direction through new projects, fresh partnerships and a clear strategy towards working with our target groups.

The year end 2015 led us to think globally with the Program Coordinator of Raigad District, Sr. Mary Colaco who was privileged to join 15 young children through a Campaign Nine is Mine to bring visibility and join in the discussion and launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) in New York. The Goals call us to reorient our perception and approach to working for sustainable outcomes through our interventions for e.g. Goal 10 speaks of “Reduced Inequalities”. Through the very selection of the target group of Kathkari Adivasis by our six partners in Raigad we were able to deliberate on our ‘sustainable approach’, we discovered this when we started developing the proposal with 10 other dioceses through a process facilitated by Caritas India. We reflected and worked out the concrete project of “Jeevan – PLE”, which takes on a People Led Empowerment (PLE) approach. PLE emphasizes people’s initiative and leadership in the development process. In the PLE process, people are at the centre of development action in all its stages. This approach bases itself on the principle of “Praxis”, which speaks of interventions at the field level that emerges through interaction “with” the people through a process of “Action-Reflection-Action”. The target group takes charge of their development as they

identify the issues they wish to address as a community. In the process they discover their inner strengths and capacities along with their resources as a community. Working with the Kathkari Adivasis of Raigad who are the most marginalized of all the tribals in Maharashtra is challenging as often it is a mindset that the partners have to battle with. The process of them discovering their own self identity and efforts to preserve their culture, their traditional practices and their livelihood will in effect lead to their survival and development.

Taking on a cue from this approach, CSA is working at applying this PLE approach to all our interventions at the field. This will bring all our target groups to the centre of the development process and enable them to critique their conditions, identify the problems, find solutions, determine their own roles in achieving their collective development objectives and finally to sustain these processes. Thus our communities will be enabled to function as self-propelling engines of development.

The UN SDGs are an opportunity and a platform for us to align our local and small initiatives with the global forum to say that “by 2030, we will have empowered and promoted the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status”

We can stand with our head held high, that though our interventions be but a drop in the ocean, we have joined the ‘Marathon’ to make a difference to the target groups that we reach out to, as we learn to appreciate distinctive local contexts, we appreciate responsible and accountable partnerships along with people at the grass root, who now take the centre-stage in the development process.



- Mr. Cletus Zuzarte

OUR VISION: Facilitators of a just and humane society based on love, equality and harmony with creation.

OUR MISSION: To initiate, empower and sustain non-violent, collaborative, and integral development processes for vulnerable individuals and groups in Mumbai, Thane and Raigad Districts.

INTERVENTION IN DHARAVI ISLAND

a | Balsansad



‘BalSansad’ - through the structure of a Parliament, children learn to take up community issues, and resolve the same through democratic values and framework. It offers children an opportunity to experience democratic decision-making and learn about their rights and powers as citizens, with long-term benefits for society as a whole.

We regularly conduct various events and trainings with children on a number of issues such as financial literacy, democratic rights, community issues etc. After our session on financial literacy with children of the Balsansad group at Gorai, 15 children started to save money every day. They decided to come to the Suryodaya Centre and put money in their own savings box, as the community centre has made and marked the tin-box with the name of each child. Seeing this, other children too got motivated to save their money which they get as gifts from elders.

b | Raising the Voice against Violence

We regularly organize training and capacity building sessions for groups of adolescent girls on reproductive health, financial literacy, skill building and violence etc. One such seminar included awareness regarding sexual violence, abuse, and about how to identify victims and intervene in situation.

After the session, four girls identified one case and discussed with team about the situation. They shared the sexual abuse case from their neighbourhood. One of their friends was being sexually abused by her relative within the family. The group decided to help their friend to deal with from the exploitative situation.

These girls visited the victim’s house to discuss the matter with her mother. They asked her mother to immediately take some action against the male relative for the safety of her daughter.

c | CSA promotes Gorai Youth to run for Mumbai Marathon 2016

Centre for Social Action in collaboration with Gorai CCO – Suryodaya Samaj Kendra, supported by Fr. Sandeep Borges encouraged a young boy of 19 years — Loyvain Henriques from Muddhan Pakadhi, a Gorai village to run for the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon (SCMM) 2016.



Loyvain Henriques is a first year commerce student studying at St. Andrew’s College and had been training barefoot by running on Gorai beach since November. He says he challenged the limits of his physical capability for qualifying to run the 21 km half marathon on behalf of his village. On 17th Jan 2016, seeing him successfully complete the SCMM half marathon in good time, the youth from his neighborhood who came to cheer at the event now feel inspired to take part in the next marathon in Jan 2017.

d | Women Entrepreneurs



As part of our ongoing empowerment of women, we regularly conduct sessions on income generation programmes, government schemes and women rights. One such intervention at Gorai involved our community workers in facilitating a discussion between the local Municipal Corporator and the women from the community, who asked for support to develop income generation opportunities.

With his cooperation five women submitted their applications for sewing machines along with the required documents. Soon Nirmala Kinny, Velencia Gabru, Monica Kinny, Norin Kinny and Natal Gabru received the sewing machines and have already started generating additional income for themselves from it.

e | Income Generation Program at Motagoan



We conducted a session on March 1, 2016, to discuss various possibilities of income generation. One of the participants of the programme Ms. Teresa Colaso, decided to start some small business; she explored various possibilities, discussed the matter with the group members, and others from the community.

Finally four women decided to come together and put up a snacks stall in their own community. They prepared business a plan with roles and responsibilities for each member within the required budget. They contributed 1000 per head as capital for the business. The initiative began with only sale of snacks, but by re-investing their profits they have quickly moved to taking on Meals and Tiffin orders too.

f | Putting Financial Literacy into Action – Subhechya Bachat Gat

In August 2015 we conducted a session on Financial Literacy for women from the Uttan community. Through the session they learnt about the importance of saving and budget and they have started working on same. Ten women from Subhechya Bachat Gat (SHG) from Mothagaon took the initiative of putting their financial literacy into action.

The group members took a decision during the follow up meeting that henceforth they would save Rs.20/- daily, which would amount to Rs. 600 per month per person, and consequently Rs.6000 for the group. After the collection they deposited the said amount into a 'recurring deposit account' in the bank. What is very

significant in this case, is that the group members themselves took the decision and implemented the same with a lot of confidence, without waiting for support from others.

g | Accessing Property Rights

A 54 year old lady from one of the Self-Help Groups of Dharavi Island, who regularly attends CSA programmes, and has been actively involved in the core-committee of their CCO, participated in a session on Property rights, disputes and family issues.

During this session, she was seen asking many questions and trying to minutely understand each component of property law. After the session, she developed a plan for asserting her own rights regarding property issues, fought for it, and finally succeeded in getting her rights!

h | Accessing Right of Food Security



We have been conducting awareness and training programmes on the Food Security Act, rationing system and public distribution system in various communities in the Thane district. As part of a practical experience, we also coordinated field visits of groups of women to ration shops. We have observed that the level of awareness among people about their right to ration has increased due to our interventions.

There were three women who were not getting a monthly ration from their local ration shop, as per the government rule. So, after discussing the matter with community workers, they visited the ration shop and presented the matter to the shop owner. Initially he refused to acknowledge them, denied giving them their monthly stock as per the rule, but these women were firm with their demand, and they argued with him and asked for the complaint book. They explained to him about their rights related to ration and also mentioned

that if he doesn't follow the rules, they would go to the head office for further action.

Finally, the shop owner understood that these women know each and every rule and their rights. So, he gave them their ration stock as per the rule. The knowledge of right to ration empowered them to access their rights and has also motivated other women. Another impact of these women's effort was that it made the shopkeeper aware that now he needs to follow the government's rules and regulations regarding ration distribution.

We are proud of the struggle of right to ration initiated by Mrs. Sandra Gabru, Mrs. Sharila Valles, and Mrs. Carrol Ferreira, who have become role models and an inspiration for the community.

Involving the Men Fisher folk in Financial Literacy Program

Sneh Jyot Samaj Kendra, Uttan and Sahjeevan Samaj Kendra, Pali conducted the initial 3 Financial Literacy Modules with the men fisher folk.

At Sneh Jyot Samaj Kendra, Uttan, a total of 50 participants attended the session. Sr. Martha Manorkar from CSA along with Uttan CCO staff Mrs. Velenciya Mervi and Ms. Sanjina Bhandari conducted the session at Bal Yeshu Samaj Mandir, Uttan. At Our Lady of Loudes Church, Pali, 199 participants attended the session which was conducted by Ms. Sheetal Palande and Mr. Dayanand Patil from CSA, for the community people.

Both sessions were very informative and the participants decided to take the initiative to follow up on the same.

During the program we covered the following topics:

- Need and Importance of Saving
- Need for Budget
- Identification and understanding of current spending habits
- Analysing daily expenditure
- Understanding the difference between needs and wants
- Understanding the relation between Budget and Saving
- Essential and non-essential Expenses
- How to reduce the expenses
- Working on Financial Planning



After the programme the fisher folk expressed that they wanted to learn about basic banking procedures like how to fill up different types of slips and forms, how to use a debit card, various bank insurance and schemes, banking functions and system etc.

Articles contributed by: Ms. Nasim Kasughar and Mrs. Natal Gabru, Suryodaya Samaj Kendra, CCO, Gorai and Sr. Mrs. Velencia Marvi, Ms. Sanjina Bhandari, Snehjyot Samaj Kendra, CCO, Uttan and Sr. Martha Manorkar, Christle Tuscano, and Ms. Sheetal Palande, CSA

INTERVENTION IN MUMBAI

a | Rescue and Rehabilitation of a Battered Minor Girl

A girl child from Simdega District, Jharkhand, was employed as a house maid in an affluent part of Mumbai. She was a minor and very often she was cruelly beaten up by her employers. She was deprived of rest, and lacked sufficient food, clothes and medicine. There were restrictions on calling or meeting family members or people from her village. While the employer had promised to give her a salary of Rs.8000 per month, she wasn't given a single rupee in hand.

This case was brought to the attention of a Parish CCO. A social worker from CSA and the staff member of the CCO took responsibility of the case and collected facts about it. They both met the girl to provide her with emotional support, and assured her about her rescue.

Then with the help of staff from Parish office, they contacted the police, rescued the girl from her employers' home, and put pressure on the employer to pay her salary for the last eight months. Meanwhile they informed the girl's parents about the violence and

requested them to come and take her back home. Thus the girl was successfully rescued and rehabilitated.

b | Confident and Financially Independent

Mrs. Anita Rajesh Gaikwad, from Santacruz (E) had studied only up to the 12th std. But now her confidence levels have significantly increased after she completed CSA's 'Basic Capacity Building Programme for Community Animators', from the 2014-15 batch. She came to know about this course from Mrs. Seema Hajare who had completed the same course in the previous year.

Mrs. Anita Gaikwad expressed that she gained a lot of information related to the field of social work. She learned from course about, how to work at the grassroots with various groups of marginalised people and how to use different interventions for community empowerment. After completing the course she received a certificate which has helped her to get full time employment.

Previously, she was helping at the Asha Kiran Community Centre for various tasks such as forming of self-help groups, coordinating the registration of domestic workers with the Domestic Workers Welfare Board and working with adolescent girls on family life education and career guidance. With the Certificate of Capacity Building Programme, she got an opportunity to work as a full time community worker with Dev Kripa Mandal, Mahim. She expressed her gratitude to CSA Team and also to the Dev Kripa Team for providing guidance and support to become confident and financially independent.

c | Celebration of Saheli Din



Most women from the communities we work with are vulnerable to discrimination and violence from the family and society. However among them there are certain groups like singles and destitute women, who are more vulnerable to all types of violence and get discriminated in their day-to-day lives.

We are always conscious of this while organizing any programmes. Through our interventions, we have created space where all women can come together, irrespective of their marital status and get an opportunity to share their feelings and opinions without any discrimination. With the support of CCO's and local women groups we organise and celebrate programme every year for women named Saheli Din (Saheli means friend in Hindi).

The main objective of this activity is

- To create a platform for women to share their feelings and experiences
- To strengthen women groups and their leadership
- To learn and acquire skills and knowledge for self and community development

d | Issue of Right and Dignity

As part of Saheli Din activity, a Health Workshop for Women was organized on February 18, 2016 at Our lady of Health Church, Sahar, by Jeevan Dai Community Centre and CSA.

Mumataz Sheikh, leader and activist of Right to Pee campaign in Mumbai, was the resource person for the programme. She initiated the 'Right to Pee' campaign to fight for women's rights to basic sanitation facilities. The campaign is asking for safe, clean, free and public toilets for women. During this session she focused on the basic rights of women, issues of health and dignity. She also expressed the need for all social organizations and women's groups to come together to access these rights.

She shared, "I want basic dignity for all my sisters in the city who go out in fear every day, wondering how they will relieve themselves if the need arises." Women end up going to railway tracks or the fields to attend to nature's call. She pointed out that it can be incredibly dangerous in the city for women to go to secluded places when nature calls, and that there is a serious need for women to have a safe place to go to.

As part of the follow up event, women formed a group to initiate this issue in their respective communities and decided to be a part of the Right to Pee campaign. CCO committee members, Sr.Nirmal, Sr.Anmolloy, Fr.Suren and Fr.Evan have provided support to make the workshop successful.

e | Leadership of Community Women

Roshani Grah, CCO Poincur and Prayas Foundation have jointly started a capacity building programme for

domestic workers, to create awareness on their rights and to a start empowerment process. Mishal Dabre from CSA guided them on various issues and rights. She also conducted community mapping and leadership sessions for the women's group as part of community intervention.

One of the participants of the programme, Ms.A. Selvi had taken the initiative to solve the sanitation issue in her community. She clicked pictures of toilets that were there, collected all the facts and information regarding the same, and mobilised the community members. The condition of these toilets was very bad, just like dumping ground, which is why people were suffering. Initially nobody from the community was ready to complain. She motivated people to be a part of the process, she herself wrote an application and collected the signatures and formed a CBO for the cause.

With the help of CCO staff Ms.Sushilla Pallichha and the support from the community members, she met the corporator and BMC officers to discuss the issue. After a lot of follow up and many meetings the BMC finally started renovating the toilets. Now, they have built eight toilets in the community. Selvi had taken the leadership to solve this issue and become a role model for others. Her leadership has motivated other community members and now all have decided to take up other community issues under her leadership.

f | A Vision Unfolds...Becoming Home Managers!



‘Visualising a change from being mere ‘Domestic Workers’ to becoming ‘Home Managers’, is the dream that this programme seeks to achieve and I want to see this change and also measure this change’ is the challenge that Mr. Vinayak Dalvi, the CSR Regional Head of Crompton Greaves, put to the 18 domestic workers and the organisers. The eyes of the 18 registered participants of the ‘Domestic Workers Skills Enhancement Training Programme’ literally lit up with a hope as they looked towards the organisers — Centre

for Social Action (CSA) along with St. Pius X CCO the implementing partner. Looking at the potential that this group held he promised that once they completed this basic course they could look towards specialising their skills with further advanced courses and CG would be happy to extend their support further to making this a reality.

An inauguration to this training programme was held on December 16, 2015 at St. Pius X School Mini Hall at 3.30pm. The programme began with an introduction and the lighting of the lamp signifying a light that will enlighten the lives of the domestic workers as they seek to transform their lives through sharpening their current skills. The chief guests of the Inauguration of the Domestic Workers Skills Enhancement Training Programme – Mr.Vinayak Dalvi and Ms.Bhawna Solanki from Crompton Greaves along with Fr. Cleophas Fernandes lit the lamp and inaugurated the Programme.

Mr. Cletus Zuzarte of CSA gave a brief of the organisation and explained the objectives of the Training Programme. The training seeks to enhance the current skills of the women through a basic comprehensive course on hospitality and care and thereby gain self esteem and an identity.

Sr. Alison the energetic Director of St. Pius X CCO along with a Social Worker from CSA regularly visited the various local bastis of Indira Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Salfadevi, Nahur Village, Gavnipada, Gaushala and Ramgadhd and have developed a good rapport with the community. The domestic workers who meet regularly on one Thursday of the month were briefed on this proposed training programme.



20 women from the group registered themselves for the training programme. Fr. Cleophas Fernandes the Parish Priest and Managing Trustee of St. Pius X CCO encouraged the women present to attend the training

and gain from the opportunity placed before them and wished them the very best. The inauguration ended with a word of thanks by Sr. Alison to the organisers and the support organisations. She urged the women to continue to attend with the same enthusiasm and learn in such a way that change is visible and their employers themselves communicate to the parish that this course has made a difference.

Shilpa Kashelkar, the resource person for the first session on Personality Development led the women

through action songs and interactive games enabling them to develop a healthy self-respect, coupled with etiquette and manners that would help them in their daily interaction within the homes that they visit for work. The women left the hall with a sense of gratitude and expectancy towards all that they would learn in the coming four months.

Articles contributed by: Premlata Kumari Thakur, Mrs. Manjula Choughule, Ms. Sheetal Palande, Mishal Dabre, Mr. Cletus Zuzarte, CSA

INTERVENTION IN RAIGAD

a | Facilitation of Filing of Gaotian Land Claims

Sarva Vikas Deep (SVD) as one of the partners in the People Led Empowerment (PLE) Project in Raigad has been initiating village site (Gaotan) claims over the past few months. In two villages viz. Bhale and Vave Divali, the process is taking a momentum. The concept of claiming a Gaotan or village site is the basic rights of the tribals. According to the government policy all Gram Panchayats in the rural areas should have some open spaces for common and public utilisation like grazing land, village site for the people whose population increases year-by-year etc.

In the backdrop of government's policy, Sarva Vikas Deep (SVD) under its right base approach for the tribal land rights claims introduced the village site land claims. The process of claiming the village site was given in the awareness programme in the villages. Having done this, the village panch committee (formed by SVD), has been empowered to submit the gaotan documents in the Tashildar office. It has worked and the government has accepted the claims and the future course of action is going on. The tribals have realised that the claims for the land is their fundamental right because they identify themselves with jal (water), jungle (forest) and zameen (land).

b | Shashan Aplya Dari

Paansai village selected for this project was under Caritas India Project during the first phase (2012) which had worked on empowering the Kathkari Tribals towards obtaining their rightful entitlements. The Sarva Vikas Deep partner in Mangaon has been working with this village and has been able to mobilise the villagers to reflect their current situation.

The group gram panchayat sarpanch along with the people took a decision in their village meeting that

they need to make the government accountable and ensure that people obtain their documentation. The strategy suggested was to get the concerned decision making government officials into the village and on the same day the required forms and documentation would be completed and they would get their approved entitlements the same day.



On December 16, 2015 there were more than 1000 people present including the various government and non-government officers in Pansai Village, Mangaon Block. They were there for one full day to interact with the villagers and to respond to the official requests of the people. Government officials — Tehsildar, SDO, Circle Officer, Talathi, Panchayat Samiti, Bank Officer, Sarpanch, Gram Sevak, Police Patil, Rationing Officer from all the 3 villages, Tehsil Food Supply Officer, Aadhar Card Officer and even a photographer were present. The results are evident in the chart attached.

Govt. Entitlements	Adivasis	Other Villagers	Total
Ration Cards – Changing torn or defaced cards	16	84	100
Ration Cards – Orange Cards given BPL Status	20	0	20
Orange Cards for Maratha Community	0	25	25
Sanjay Gandhi Widow's Pension Scheme	10	9	19
SharavanBalYojana	0	10	10
Indira Gandhi Senior Citizen Pension Scheme	4	9	13
Indira Gandhi Niradhar Pension Yojana	0	7	7



c | People Raised a Voice at the Gram Sabha

The animators of Roha, Sr. Suvarna and Ms. Ashwini Pawle mobilised community members and initiated a dialogue on their basic issues and rights at the Zolambe hamlet of Roha. After the discussion, the tribals were so motivated and decided to raise the issues of water, road construction etc. at the Gram Sabha on January 26, 2016.

The Kathkari tribals attended the Gram Sabha in large numbers and raised their voices to demand for their rights. The Sarpanch and the panchayat members took up the issues and promised to undertake and resolve the issues of water and road construction. The people from the hamlet of Bathasai also raised their issues related to road construction.

The enthusiasm of the tribals was evident as despite the fact that the Gram Sabha was not in their village but at Warwada which is approximately 4 to 5kms away, despite the fact that there is poor transportation, yet they walked to the village to attend the Gram Sabha and presented their issues confidently.

d | Case Study on PDS, Khardi – Mangaon



Karadi village hamlet is a part of the Dekahane Grampanchayat. On the visit of Mr. Melvin the State Officer from Caritas India, the issue of ration was raised by one Kathkari Adivasi. Ration is a key issue in the village as the supplier expects the Adhar card or bank saving account number. Without an Adhar card they do not get the ration due. Few people have not received their regular ration quota but still an entry was made in their cards, while others have kept the card with the suppliers. Not a single person receives receipts of the ration.

Sarva Vikas Deep Animator, Mr. Mahesh More facilitated the process by assisting the tribals to get clarity about the PDS system and people decided to go to the suppliers and ask for clarification on the same. The people were mobilised to go the next day itself with the supplementary class teacher – Ms. Sanchita Khandtar and registered this complaint against them.

On January 14, 11 villagers went and registered their complaint. He immediately supplied the grain as per the quota and in fact supplied them rice and wheat for the complete three months. The tribals realised that they need not keep their cards with the shopkeeper. The villagers now boldly approach the shopkeeper for their rightful ration entitlements and have regularly monitored the supply of food grains and have ensured that all the tribal families regularly receive their entitlements as per their quota, on time.

Articles Contributed By Fr. Richard SVD: Sr. Suvarna and Ms. Ashwini Pawle, Snehvardhini Centre, Roha and Mr. Cletus Zuzarte, CSA

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

a | Basic Certificate Course for Community Animators



CSA organized the 9th Batch of the Basic Certificate Course for Community Animators. This batch began in July 2015 and ends in April 2016. The training aims at developing the understanding of community animators and workers on social work methods, social issues and their role and responsibilities as community animators, workers and leaders. There are 30 participants in this batch and majority of the participants who participated in the training programme are community workers, self help group members and community leaders from Mumbai and Thane districts. They are connected with the Centre for Community Organisations (CCOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and are associated with CSA.

For the Basic Certificate Course, we have developed the following syllabus:

- Social Work methods, values and role of community animators and workers in various settings
- Gender, understanding self, leader and leadership qualities, personality development
- Communication and documentation skills
- Legal Literacy - Legal system in India and human and women rights
- Child Rights and Balsansad
- Communal Harmony and Peace
- Governance and Government Schemes
- Case Work through CCO/CBO
- Financial Literacy
- Networking and Media

We have received support from various experts and resource persons for this program which includes, Adv. Reshma Jagtap, Sarika Salunke, Virochan Raote, Mishal Dabre, Adv. Sandeep Dhoble, Machanzay Dabre, Gargi Raote, Sheetal Palande and Shilpa Kashelkar. Our team of experts conducted interactive sessions on the above mentioned topics and explained

each subject in detail with field examples. During the training programmes, the resource people explain all theories, legal terms and complex issues in very simple language for participants. We used a number of programme media such as songs, games and film. Also, we conducted various participative and group activities such as group discussion, role play, poster making and group presentations for effective understanding of each subject.

After conversations with the participants from previous batches and our local partners CCOs and CBOs, we all developed the following plan for future intervention related to Capacity Building Program:

1. To conduct an advanced training programme for participants of previous batches.
2. To organise new batches of the certificate course for community animators and leaders, self-help group members.

b | Spreading Awareness and Effective Implementation of the Food Security Act



Picture from a | Basic Certificate Course for Community Animators

Centre for Social Action (CSA) and Rationing Kruti Samiti (RKS), jointly organized a 3 day certificate course, from 14th to 16th January 2016, on Spreading Awareness and Effective Implementation of the Food Security Act.

The training intended at building the understanding of the community workers and activists on the Food Security Act and Rationing System. The training programme aimed at increasing their awareness on how to analyse and handle community rationing issues by involving community people, how to create awareness among community groups about their own rights and how to strengthen community efforts towards accessing ration and food rights.

28 participants participated in this training program. Most of the participants who attended the training programme are community workers, social workers and activists from Mumbai and Thane districts. They are

connected with the Centre for Community Organisations (CCOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and are associated with CSA & RKS.

During the 3 days training programme we covered the following topics:

- Meaning and history of ration system
- Types of ration cards and its relevance to income criteria
- Food Security Act
- Challenges in rationing and food security issues
- How to identify and handle problems at the community level regarding rationing issues
- Importance and use of Right to Information Act (RTI)
- How to report, document and analyse issues at the community level
- People and community involvement for the cause
- Role and responsibilities of community workers and social workers and CCO, CBO and NGO
- Creation of action groups and understanding its roles and responsibilities
- Field Work — visits to ration shops, success models and meeting with action groups and community people.

During the sessions the participants shared their issues of community work like problems related to the ration system, issues of corruption, lack of support from shopkeepers etc. and also talked about their expectations

from the training. Our experts, Mrs. Taruna Kumbhar, Mr. Suresh Sawant, Mr. Bheem Raskar, Mr. Maxwell Rose and Mr. Ajay Dhotre conducted sessions on the above mentioned topics and explained each subject in detail. During the sessions they clarified all doubts and issues of participants and also motivated participants to explore strategies to deal with challenges on the field.



At the end of the training programme, participants expressed that now they can handle field issues more confidently and can work effectively with community people. Most of the participants shared the need to meet regularly to discuss new challenges, field issues and to identify and learn strategies from each other. The participants also discussed that there is a need for more community/social workers to work on this issue and there is a need to replicate this type of field based training programme for community/ social workers.

CSA & RKS both have taken the responsibility to support participants in their follow up plans and also decided to conduct a new batch of capacity building programme on the Food Security Act soon, as per the need expressed by participants.

Articles Contributed By: Sheetal Palande and Shilpa Kashelkar, CSA

CSA AT THE MUMBAI MARATHON 2016



The 2016 Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon (SCMM) saw hundreds of people running the race, and many more cheering them on. From corporates groups

to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) almost everyone in Mumbai intending to support a social cause was out on or around the race tracks in the wee hours of Sunday, January 17, 2016.

As an organisation that focuses on supporting the development of women, children and tribal people, the Centre for Social Action (CSA) was out in full force. The decision to run the Mumbai Marathon was made only two years ago; the main aim, through the marathon, is to shed light on CSA's activities to empower disadvantaged communities and bring them into the main stream.

Starting off with just 12 runners in 2015, the number of runners this year went up to 51, thanks to our volunteer-

consultant Benison Vaz. He ensured that CSA wasn't working alone. It was supported by two corporates Crompton Greaves and Redi Port Limited (Earnest John Group of Companies), and other sponsors. As the main aim of running at a marathon is to create awareness, such a drastic increase in numbers only goes to show how the aim is being achieved.

Kargil war veteran Royden D'souza was the front-runner, completing the full marathon and finishing it in good time. This was not the first time he ran a marathon but it was the first time he ran for CSA, pledging his support to a cause dear to his heart. He said, "Over the years there has been an improvement in women's rights but there's still a long way to go."

There were seven half-marathon runners (from Crompton Greaves and other individual runners) and 43 dream runners from Crompton Greaves, Redi Port and other individuals, including two students from St. Anthony's Home & High School, Mazgaon. Samuel Chettiar, a cancer survivor, running for CSA, was a pacer for the half marathon. Loyvain Henriques, a youth from Gorai did amazingly well for a first time runner at the half marathon. Nancy Pinto is an inspiration to all women, age and motherhood didn't

stop her from running marathons. She started training only six months ago but has started on a winning streak. She has won many prizes in all the marathons in which she has participated.

The presence of a good number of half marathon runners brought awareness to the cause of CSA, but 43 participants for the dream run was really a dream run. The awareness generated is also seen through corporate associations and investments. The significant number of runners from corporates like Redi Port and Crompton Greaves shows the growing partnership reach of CSA.

Eliciting people's participation and supporting community based organisations are the approaches followed by CSA. This year's response was a great achievement not only in terms of runner's participation but also in terms of the number of people who had come to support CSA and cheer the participants.

The hope for the future is that the next stage will see double the number of runners, double the number of cheerers and double the amount of awareness. To make that a reality we look forward to the support from the youth of Mumbai. Together we say YES to empowering those in need.



Article Contributed By: Janice Fernandes - Junior feature writer and copy editor for a leading magazine at the times group

“ We are thankful to our faithful collaborators, donors, well-wishers & volunteers for your help and donations towards the Campaign Against Hunger and Disease.

Your Contribution makes a difference! ”



Support Us In Fulfilling Our Vision & Mission By

Collaborating with us - Joining our network of CBOs and other civil society organizations, approaching us for joint ventures on social development and empowerment projects or sharing resources and information.

Donating to us - Cheques / DDs to be drawn in favour of "Centre for Social Action". Kindly note donations of Rs. 10,000/- & above requires the donor to mention the PAN number. Also, all donations made to CSA are tax exempt under section 80-G.

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Picture from: a | Basic Certificate Course for Community Animators

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