

EVERY VOICE COUNTS



Good Shepherd, Mulakalapalli: The “International Day of the Girl Child” was held at the Good Shepherd Convent, Mulakalapalli in Telangana with the theme “My Voice=Our Future”. 220 girls, staff, sisters and resource persons participated in a rally. Lighting of the lamp was done symbolically; representing the lives of the girl child to be illumined by education and gaining self-confidence. Girls performed a beautiful awareness dance motivating others to think high and work hard towards the achievements like Kalpana Chawla, Mother Theresa and Kiran Bedi.

The resource persons; Mrs. Annamani (Headmistress of the Govt. High School- Mulakalapalli), Mrs. Mehramani (MPTC), Mr. Rammurthy (Police Constable), Fr. Goa Showaraiah (Principal of Jeevan Jyothi E.M. School, Mulakalapalli) were invited at the diocese with the applause of hands by all the participants.

Mr. Ramurthy, oriented on the rights of girls and women. He said that there is a great urgency for shift in our mind sets in order to reduce violence, abuse and indifference on girls in the society. He testified his own life experience of hard work and self- confidence that he is now able to serve in public office as police even at the face of poverty and humiliation. He mentioned about the 33% of Reservation for girls in Police Department. Thus, he advised them to be the daring leaders and to come forward to take up higher tasks in the society.



Mrs. Mehramani MPTC local power holder, insisted on being courageous and tenacity in achieving one’s goal and spoke about the promotion of girls’ empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. The adolescent girls have their rights to safety, education and healthy life. She differentiated past days with present scenario. “In those days Girl children were killed, but now girls are reaching even to the sky without the help of anybody and there is no field without the presence of the girls.

Fr. Goa Showaraiah said, “You girls are privileged to get help and guidance from sisters especially through awareness and educational sponsorship program, so keep your aim focused.” He stressed on the importance of the education and human values.

Mrs. Annamani motivated the girls to study well and to be in a good position by which the girls do not get dominated by the male sector. She said to the girls, “Please do not waste time, money and energy; rather take personal responsibility to read books to enhance your vocabulary, have command on the language and focus on education.” The girl children were happy to get inspirational and motivational knowledge of their rights and self-dignity in the society. And also, she explained that girls should develop in all spheres and stressed on the importance of girl’s role in the society.

Rally with placards on the protection of girls and women’s rights, International day of the Girl Child event telecasted in 6 various state level news television channels.



Click this link:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7Di7dsaBIU&t=19s&pbjreload=101>



Good Shepherd Convent, Goa: One Day campaign on **International Day of Girl Child** was held on 9th December 2020 at Good Shepherd Convent, Carxetta, Velim, Salcete, Goa. The program began at 4pm with a prayer dance by girls from Cotto Fatorpa. Mrs. Ludweena Cardozo the Panch of Velim Panchayat was the Chief Guest of the Day. 20 migrant girls, 2 mission partners and 3 sisters were present for the program. The girls from Cuncolim presented an awareness song based on the importance of the girl child in the society. Sr. Aruna Malkari spoke about the history and importance of International Day of girl child. The result of essay competition was announced. Ms. Reshma A. Kerketta the 1st Prize winner read her essay at the gathering.

A group task was given to the girls to reflect and to present their answer to these questions:

1. Write down the contributions of the girl child in the society.
2. List out the challenges and differences faced by you since you are a girl in the Family, School and society.
3. What changes do you want to see in the life of the girls in the future?

Well-articulated response came out from the group. The girls wanted to see the world where all girls are respected, a world free from rape, a world where girls enjoy good educational, health, recreational facilities, a world where boy and girls are treated equally, a society where girls have freedom to make choice and to take decisions etc. The active participation by the girls was the best part of the program.

The program ended with a song “We shall overcome” at 6pm. The girls were served refreshments after the program. Due to COVID-19 restriction the sisters were not able to gather a big number of girls and carry out the submitted list of programs.



Maria Droste- Pre-Novitiate: we began the campaign since 11th October 2020, through various activities, desiring to be part of this voice for our future. we had exposure to different talukas encouraging and motivating people in the villages as we participated in the releasing of posters on safeguarding children, human rights day and children's day. Online IDG celebrations and the panel discussions awakened us to campaign more zealously in creating awareness among our friends and family.

As part of the campaign we prepared ourselves to understand the context by listening to the sharing's of our sisters on the significance of IDG for us as Good Shepherds and our approach towards children, women and girls in our care. It enlightened us, boosted our energy, created curiosity to know more about our involvement in reaching out to the unreached. We as a community studied the Good Shepherd Position Paper on Girl Child. We were propagated to shift our mind-set to be a change maker wherever we are to co-create a better world.

The Online Sharing of my story with inter-formation house opened up new pathways to feel blessed and privileged that we have been cared and loved by our family. The quiz helped us update our knowledge on various courageous women who were and are voicing individually for a better tomorrow.

While doing the collage, drawing and debate it opened our minds to a creative way of expressing our voice in solidarity with young girls, women and children out there who go through night mares due to the abuses and atrocities done by their own, friends, kith and kins'. We were also able to appreciate and acknowledge the hard work and efforts made by individuals and likeminded groups who raise voice with courage to be heard by the deafened world the value of a girl child.

The special prayer service brought us close to those young girls, women and children who have become victims of abuse and violence for the very nature of being born as a female.

The Movie on Beti bachao beti padhao stirred our hearts to commit ourselves to work for the empowerment of women and girls. We ended the day with grateful heart for being a girl and having awakened through this campaign to work more fervently and be a change maker in our environment.

All are born with a purpose but we girls are born as the PURPOSE to create a Safe World.... Let's Realize our Worth.!



9-12-2020 @ Nagpur

9 weeks Campaign on the Rights of the girl children was organized on 9th December 2020 at Good Shepherd Convent, Mecosabagh, Nagpur. The Theme was My Voice = Our Future. 120 participants were present for the program which included the children, youth, mission partners and the sisters.

The chief guest Sr. Rani Paulose spoke on the importance of the girl in the family and the society. The girls should to study well and come up in life. She also said that when we see in the history there were many women and girls who came forward to fight against the gender equality.

The guest of Honor Sr. Pushpa Louis the provincial leader of CEIN explained in details about the rights of the children and how to enhance their dignity in the society. She also spoke on dignity and respect for girl children and the importance of education for their bright future. The current issues of atrocities on the girls in different states. She concluded by encouraging the children to use their hidden talents and be courageous worriers to fight against the atrocities.

The children also participated in creating awareness through a role play on SAVE THE GIRL CHILD. The drama which depicted on the importance of the rights of the children. The documentary movie on Beti Padao Beti Bachao was screened through which awareness was generated that each girl child is precious and important. There should not be a difference between the boy and the girl in the family.



Good Shepherd Sisters, Amaravathi: 10th December 2020

This day was marked by triple observations by the Sisters, Mission Partners and the Program Participants of Amaravathi namely, Human Rights Day 2020, 9 weeks of Activism to promote the Rights of Girl Child and 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls.

The Chief Guest for the program was Mrs. Indira ICDS Sector Coordinator of Tadikonda and other Guests of Honour Mr. Ravindra Babu, the Sub-Inspector of Police, Amaravathi Mandal and Mr. Ravi Shekar- Assistant Engineer, Electrical Department of Amaravathi Mandal.

9 weeks of Activism to promote the Rights of Girl Child: from 11th October on the International Day of the Girl with the theme, “My Voice = Our Future” the 9 weeks Activism began with various programs seizing the opportunity for reimagining a better world inspired by girls – energized and recognized, counted and invested in. On this day the girls asserted their power and their demands as change-makers before the gathering:

- ❖ Eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls.
- ❖ Promote and protect the rights of girls and increase awareness of their needs and potential.
- ❖ Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training.
- ❖ Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work.
- ❖ End violence against girls.
- ❖ Promote girls’ awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life.

As part of the promotion of the rights of girl children two families came forward to share about the importance of their daughters along with their sons in their families. It was such a motivating experience for all the participants.





16 Days of Activism' against Gender-Based Violence (GVB): The campaign started on 25th November and ends on 10th December.

As part of this campaign there were two women who came forward to share about their early marriage and the pain and struggle they underwent because of early marriage and called on all the parents to educate their daughters and to respect their opinion in their marriage.

The girls expressed through motivational dances and awareness songs that it's our rights and our freedom and today we strongly say "Stand up for someone's rights. Let's stand up for our own rights, for equality, justice and human dignity.

Around 473 people (girls, women, boys and men) took part in this programme and were motivated to respect and bring dignity to girls and women and 'know your rights and fight for your own rights as human beings and as citizens of this country'.

Human Rights Day 2020: The program and speeches were focused on the theme of the day "Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights" Its aim was to involve the people and push for the transformative action.

The speakers called on the underprivileged people, children especially girl children and women for the need to encourage, to create equal opportunities for all and address the issues of inequality, exclusion and discrimination. This day is a great opportunity to spread awareness about the importance of human rights in our communities and worldwide solidarity in re-building human lives after the pandemic they said.





Good Shepherd, Mangalagiri

On 10th December 2020 the Good Shepherd Sisters organized the International Girl Child Day and International Human Rights Day at Atmakuru in Mangalagiri Mandal and Anji reddy colony in Tadepalli Mandal. In this program total 930 children, young girls, women, men and youth participated following the COVID-19 instructions. Poster Inauguration was done by Kancharla Kasayya who is a Prajanatyamandali District Forum Leader.

The resource person Kancharla Kasayya addresses that *International Girl Child Day is celebrated to raise awareness about girls being equal in the society and need to pay attention to challenges girls face in the society and fulfilling their basic Human Rights.*

Karumanchi Ramarao who is SC-ST Acts & State General secretary said that the Nation have to encourage Equality in education, Job equality, legal rights, medical care, protection and safety. He strongly spoke that we need combat every kind of violence against women and girl child and prohibit the forced Child Marriages.

Karunalayam children performed Street play to propagate awareness to the public the realities of abuses happening in the society and also pasted a few wall posters on Girl Child Day

. At the end of the program girl children, sisters and staff went on a rally by holding placards and raising their voices for the rights girl child and human rights especially **“MY VOICE EQUAL TO OUR FUTURE”**

The beneficiaries were grateful and felt fortunate to participate in this celebration of the two significant International programs in one day and showed their gratitude for arranging these awareness meetings.

