

## The Girl Child

The girl child today has to prove oneself as equal to others. The exploitation and violence that is muted to girl children is much more today than ever before. In India, the girl children are continuously subjected to discrimination, trafficking, feticides, infanticides, child labour, deprivation of development opportunities and many more. It is time for all of us to look at protection of girl children as not an option, but as a priority. As it is said "Charity Begins at Home" let us commit ourselves in words and deeds for the protection of girl children.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Central East India-Nepal (CEIN) Province joined the campaign of "rights of Girl children" started on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and ended on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> October the Sisters and the Mission Development Office joined together to bring out a poster in Hindi and English on child safeguarding. The poster has been distributed in the schools, and religious houses to be displayed.

## My Voice= Our Equal Future

Children presented a beautiful skit which depicted how a girl child is denied of her rights and discriminated in the family, in the community and in the society at large



## International Day of the Girl Child 2020

"My Voice= Our equal Future"

Dec. 03 to De. 10 2020

Good Shepherd  
Central East India-Nepal



CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
CEIN PROVINCE, NAGPUR

We ensure that "NO HARM" is done to any child. A "CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT" is ensured in all our work, programmes, institutions and communities.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**

**WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE ?**

|               |                   |                    |                      |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Child labor   | Child marriage    | Child trafficking  | Child sexual abuse   |
| Child neglect | Child abandonment | Child exploitation | Child discrimination |
| Child labor   | Child marriage    | Child trafficking  | Child sexual abuse   |
| Child neglect | Child abandonment | Child exploitation | Child discrimination |

Our Commitment to children:  
"All children are equal. Zero tolerance to discrimination based on caste, creed, colour or gender"

If anyone treats you not equal please raise your concern to the person.

You are a child till the age of 18  
The Good Shepherd Sisters consider every child, whether boy or girl under the age of 18 as a child who needs protection & care.

- > Nobody should HURT you
- > Nobody should do any HARM to you
- > Nobody should RIDICULE You
- > Nobody should NEGLECT you
- > Nobody should BULLY you
- > Nobody should use ABUSIVE LANGUAGE to you
- > Nobody should engage you in CHILD LABOUR
- > Nobody should deny you the right to: EDUCATION, RECREATION, GOOD ENVIRONMENT, SAFE WATER & FOOD, LOVE & CARE, SPEAK, PLAY & GROW in freedom.

If you realise anybody doing this to you or any other child

Inform immediately

Local Unit: Mobile: +91  
Province: +91  
Province: +91  
Province: +91

# A week's programme 03 to 10 Dec. 2020

*Day-Two: 04/12/2020*

*Good Shepherd, Garratola, MP*

The Campaign on International Girl child day was organised by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Garratola on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The children participated in various activities such as; explaining the child safeguarding poster, awareness on rights of girl child, cultural programme, etc.

Mrs. Antheshiya Kujur explained the importance of October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child. Mrs. Savitha explained, the IDG is not for girls alone, but also for boys to understand and respect girls as equals. Though the exploitation, violence and abuse are experienced by both boys and girls, the girls go through more such violation of rights and the society needs to take steps to protect the girls.

Sr. Manjula explained the ways the girls can protect themselves, especially from sexual abuse. All girls must know about the good touch and bad touch.

## Day-One: 03/12/2020, *Good Shepherd Bahari, Assam*

Bahari, in Assam kick started the programme on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

One day campaign on “Our Responsibility in Safeguarding Children” took place in five government and private schools in Bahari. The key message for the was “The children are the future of our society; at the same time, they are vulnerable”. Therefore, as adults it’s our responsibility to safeguard their rights and give them their due. About 800 children and school staff witnessed the event. The school children realised that they need to speak out and make their voice heard. Unless they speak out they will not realise their rights.

The poster on Child Safeguarding was explained to the participants and the need of protecting the girl children and their rights was stressed.



The girls should have the freedom to resist the bad touch. Today the crimes against girl children have increased and everyday we read news on crimes. The children themselves must learn to identify the safe and unsafe environments so that they can protect themselves. At the same time, they should raise their voice against any violence of their rights

*“The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls’ empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights,”*

*“International Day of the Girls Child reminds us that it is our responsibility to give them the importance they deserve and work together for their equal future”*

Day- Three: 05/12/2020

Provincial House, Nagpur

Shelter Home, Virar



## *Good Shepherd, Nagpur, MH*

Cyber Crimes in India is one of the most challenging issues in contemporary times. It has posed several questions to our traditional legal jurisprudence. The issue has also received national and worldwide attention with emergence of newer technologies. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Nagpur made deliberations to have deep insight about the problems, issues and challenges of the cyber laws and online abuses.



legal education educated more than 40 youth and children on safety usage of internet and enacted cyber laws.

## *Good Shepherd, Virar, MH*

The Sisters and the staff created awareness on “What is child abuse”? as per the Congregational documents on Safe Guarding Policy. The following aspects were explained

- Child needs to be corrected in a polite way rather than using abusive words.
- Child needs space for its own discoveries
- No one should tease a child.
- Child need to be taught that their body need to respected.
- Child needs to be protected from unhealthy touch.

Mrs. Kalpana explained about the Rights of the Child. These rights encompass freedom of children and their civil rights, family environment, necessary healthcare and welfare, education, leisure and cultural activities and special protection measures.



Children presented a tableau on the importance on girl children as they are assets and not liabilities for the families. Teenage girls are the new leaders of our time, creating global movements for change. They are ready for the challenge



Day-Four: 06/12/2020

Andheri Karjat



*Good Shepherd Karjat, MH*

*Good Shepherd Andheri, MH*

A short cultural program was participated by 40 children, which included drawing competition; speeches on girl child and dances. On this happy occasion there was so much of learning, happiness, laughter and fun.

The chief guest of the program was Mrs. Indira Jenna, who is a well-known teacher for the under privileged children and besides her profession she is also a great social worker. She spoke from her heart to the gathering 'to dream big' and achieve their goal by investing in a lot of hard work. She stressed to discover the power within to empower oneself, family and society. She appreciated the theme "my voice= our future"; she encouraged the girls to voice their opinion at any cost and not suffer silently. She also motivated each and every one in the gathering to take risk and face challenges by being courageous and strong to fight for their rights.



The main focus of the programme was to create awareness and address issues related to girl children. The event was participated by 125 children, school teachers and social workers from the villages.

The Chief Guest Mr. Sunil Kumar Soni, President of the Rotary Club, who is also a social activist released the poster on Child safe guarding. Sr.Resi explained the main message of the poster. The other guests were Mr. Santhosh Daund (BEO), Mr. Vijay Mande (Press Reporter), Mr. Deepak More (Corporator) and Mr. Sandeep ( Police Off) were the Guests of Honour.

Mr. Soni in his address highlighted that every child is very precious gift from God, whether the child is boy or girl. In our society girls are given less privileges, it is our duty to protect every child. We need to promote and protect the rights of girls and increase awareness of their needs and potentials.

All speakers stressed on Girls are the light to our families and society, without them family is not complete. We need to eliminate all forms of discrimination against our girls and eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls, which affect the future of our society.





## Good Shepherd, Chennai

On October 4, all the schools and social services of GS Central East India Nepal came together as “Good Shepherd One Voice” breaking the barriers of language, caste and creed to celebrate the power of ONE VOICE

A healthy sense of competition in designing the logo and posters added great flavour. The students, teachers and parents (specially dads and brothers) were educated through sessions on *online safety for children*, especially during this pandemic, apart from sensitizing them on their role in redesigning the future of girls in their homes and society. One of the video entries made it to the IDG Summit.

The energized young students decided to step up the campaign by reaching out to their peers. “Put a period to the period taboo” camp to demystify menstruation opened the doors for more voices to join in.



The Intra and Inter School cultural events – IDG PHOENIX’20 provided a platform for the Phoenix within them to rise from their ashes and voice their thoughts and redefine themselves as change makers of the Future. Fifteen schools across Chennai participated in a 3- day program, stirring the participants to voice out. During the valedictory ceremony, our Principal Sr. Mercy George challenged each one of us to step up and dare to redesign the future.

**Seize every platform:** Good Shepherd Ideas Worth Spreading (GSIWS) is a *Sampoorna* initiative which was started by a group of students and teachers who believe in vertical literacy with the main goal of providing a safe forum for students to express their thoughts, views and ideas on various topics including issues grappling today’s society such as racism, rights of the LGBTQ+ community, cyber bullying, mental health etc. Through GSIWS, the students collaborated across GS schools in India to bridge the gap with their brothers and sisters across Good Shepherd communities in Central East India/ Nepal. GSIWS aims for students to achieve a combination of mental complexity, emotional intelligence and transformed world view, so that they can be active change makers and advocates in today’s society.



**If not now, when, if not you, who?** Act upon your thought! “Rethink, Rework and Redefine” - a panel discussion on December 7, 2020 marks the onset of new beginnings. Good Shepherd School took the next concrete step to collaborate with ePratYek, an organization of Edmond Rice Foundation in India and invited the boys and girls from various schools to come together to raise their voice for an equitable world. The participants have agreed on pursuing one or more areas of advocacy that they wish to lobby for and spearhead a movement of change in 2021.



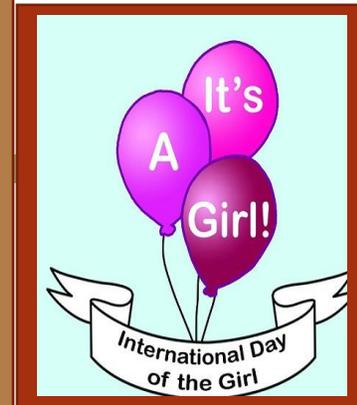


## Good Shepherd, Salem

We commenced our program by invoking the God's blessings with prayer dance. The Chief Guest Durai swamy, Sub Inspector of Veeranam, Sr. Lucy, Staff Perumal and two girls came forward for lighting the lamp. Sr. Reema honored the chief guest with a shawl.

The girls came from 9 villages, around 100 of them. The welcome speech was given by one of the girls named Mahalakshmi. The Chief Guest spoke to the girls saying "Girl Child is a gift to the family and to the nation. Without girls there is no world. The girls should not get afraid. Girl should fight for their rights. He also stressed on how to utilize technology, to have courage and confidence to express their convictions. The girls should know what is good and bad. They need to be educated in various levels."

The girls performed cultural programmes and presented kits on education and child labor. The participants, including Chief Guest of the day appreciated them.



One of the girls named Shalini spoke on Girl Child. The girls can achieve anything. We are equal to men. We need to stand above and change the mind set of people. We need to strive to achieve anything in life. Don't be the person only to sit in the house, but rise up and speak. The girl needs to experience freedom. This is our Country in which we are born, we belong to it.

Drawing, essay and poem competitions were conducted and winners were given prizes. consolation prize were given to all the participants who took part in competitions



Day Six: 08/12/2020

## Mulakalapalli & Pallavaram

### 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 other children 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 present on the dais.

Mr. Ramurthy, oriented the participants on girls and women’s rights. He said human transformation is needed to reduce violence and abuse of girls. He gave his personal examples of working hard, undergoing humiliation of poverty and how he became the police officer. He mentioned about the 33% 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 persistent in achieving the goal in life 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 olden days with present scenario. “In olden 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 girls.

Fr. Goa Showaraiah said, “You girls are privileged to get help and guidance, especially through awareness and educational sponsorship programs; 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 are not dominated by the male sector. She advised; “Please do not waste time, money and energy; rather take personal responsibility to read books to enhance your knowledge and information.

## Good Shepherd, Pallavaram

Pallavaram organised 7 days campaign for coaching class children. Both boys and girls took part in competition such as drawing, poetry recitation, essay & Creative writing and singing competition. The boys and girls prepared colorful posters with inspirational quotes on Girl Child which were displayed on the wall to make the day memorable for our Girl Children.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December we had the combined celebration of International Girl child and Human rights day. We invited the girls from St.Joseph’s Arul home to join our Coaching centre children who added more joy and happiness. We began the celebration with the short prayer and the lighting of the lamp. The importance of the day was highlighted to the children. They were invited to exhibit the talents in honour of the event of the day. Mrs.Celine our lay Mission Partner who was the chief guest of the day, gave very inspiring and motivational talk on “Our voice = our Future.” She also stressed on Gender equality, how to honour and respect the girl child in every walk of their life.

Prizes were distributed to the winners and consolation prizes were given to all the participants in various activities. we appreciated the parents and thanked them for supporting children in their participation in the campaign.



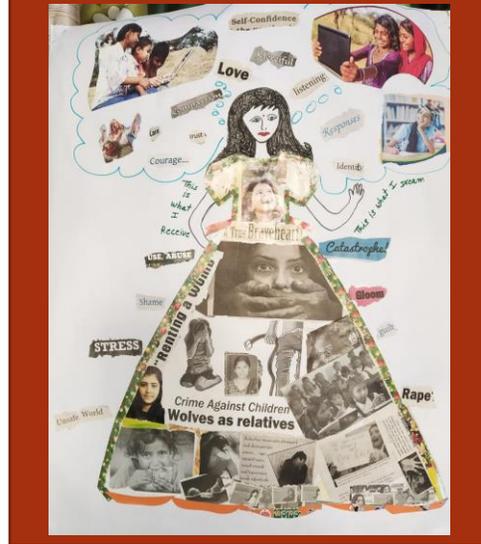


## Good Shepherd, Velim, Goa

The campaign on International Day of Girl Child was held on 9th December 2020 at Good Shepherd Convent, Carxetta, Velim, Salcete, Goa. The program began with 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 winner of the competition read her essay at the gathering.



## María Droste, Formation House, Mangalagiri



A group task was given to the girls to reflect and to present their views on the following:

- The contributions of the girl child in the society;
- The challenges and differences faced by you as a girl in the family, school and in society;
- The changes you want to see in the life of the girls in the future.

Well-articulated response came from the group. The girls want to see the world where all girls are respected, a world free from rape, a world where girls enjoy good education, health and recreation facilities, a world where boys and girls are treated equally, a society where girls have freedom to make choice and to take decisions, etc.

The program ended with a song “We shall overcome”.

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 under 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 challenged to shift our mind-set to be a change maker wherever we are and contribute in co-creation of a better world.

The Online Sharing of “my story” with inter-formation houses opened up new pathways to feel blessed and privileged that we have been cared and loved by our family. A quiz helped us update our knowledge on various courageous women who 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 our sisters 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 to be heard by the 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 fact of being 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 small ways.



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

## *Kripalaya, Formation House, Nagpur*

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

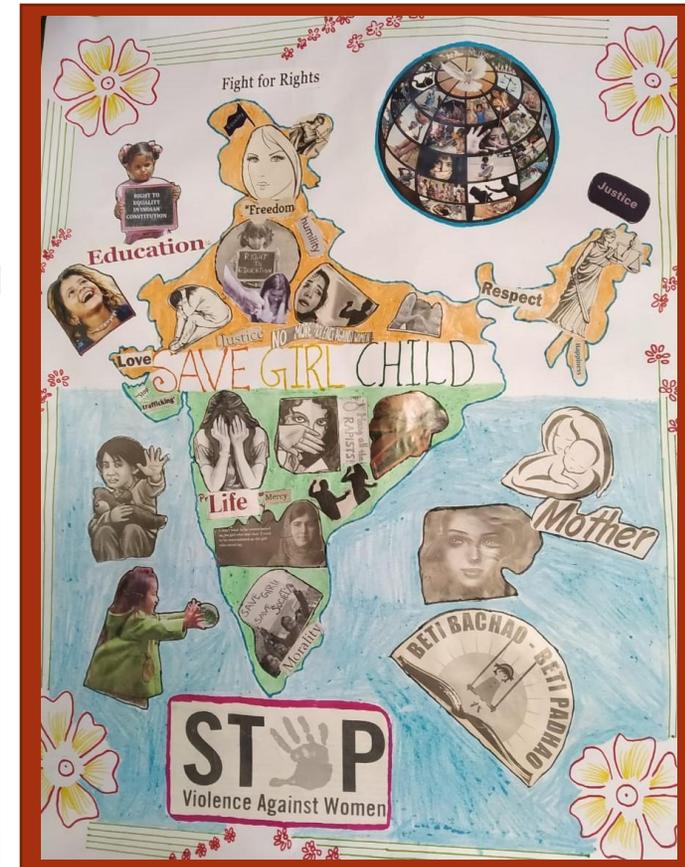
The chief guest Sr. Rani Paulose spoke on the importance of the girl in the family and the society. The girls should to study well and come up in life. She also said that when we see in the history there were many women and girls who came forward to fight against the gender equality.

The guest of Honor Sr. Pushpa Louis the province leader of CEIN explained in details about the rights of children and how to enhance their dignity in the society. She also spoke on dignity and respect of girl children and the importance of their education. She said that the atrocities that are going on against the girl children in different states is a concern for all of us. We must raise our voice and speak out. She encouraged the children to use their hidden talents and be courageous to fight against the atrocities.



The children also created awareness on “SAVE THE GIRL CHILD”, through a drama which depicted the importance of the rights of the children. The documentary movie on “Beti Padoo Beti Bachao” was helpful to create awareness that each and every girl child is precious and important; there is no difference between the boy and the girl in the family.

Maria Droste





Day Eight: 10/12/2020  
Amaravathi &  
Mangalagiri



*Good Shepherd, Amaravathi*

This day was marked by triple observations by the Sisters, Mission Partners and the Program Participants of Amaravathi namely, Human Rights Day 2020, Nine weeks of Activism to promote the Rights of Girl Child and 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls. 473 people took part in the event.

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

The girls expressed through motivational dances and awareness songs that its their right and their freedom and called upon the gathering to stand up for the rights. They said “ Lets stand up for our rights, for equality, justice and human dignity”

**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 rebuilding human lives after the pandemic.

**Nine weeks of activism to promote Rights of Girl Child** began on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020 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 demands as changes makers before the gathering. Two parents came forward and shared their commitment to respect girl child as equal to boys.

16 days of activism against Gender based violence (GVB): The Campaign started on 25<sup>th</sup> November and ended on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Two women came forward to share their experience about their own early marriage and the pain and struggle they underwent. They called on all the parents to educate their daughters and to respect their opinion in their marriage.

*Good Shepherd, Mangalagiri*

The International Girl Child Day and International Human Rights Day were celebrated together at Atmakuru in Mangalagiri Mandal and Anji Reddy colony in Tadepalli Mandal. The programs were participated by 930 people. Poster Inauguration was done by Kancharla Kasayya who is the District Forum Leader Prajanatyamandali. He in his address mentioned 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 and fulfil their basic Human Rights.*

Karumanchi Ramarao, the State General secretary & Secretary SC-ST Acts said that the Nation has to encourage Equality in education, professional work, legal rights, medical care and protection of girl children. It has to pay attention to issues like; violence against women and girl children and prohibit forced Child Marriages. Karunalayam children performed Street play to make the gathering aware about the reality of abuse taking place. They pasted a few wall posters so that people read and become aware. At the end of the program the children, sisters and staff took out a rally by holding placards and raise their voices for their rights especially as “MY VOICE EQUAL TO OUR EQUAL FUTURE”





The Good Shepherd community from the CEIN Provicialte, and National Domestic Workers Movement, Nagpur used this day as an opportunity to reaffirm and spread the importance of Human Rights for all human beings. They also expressed solidarity with farmers' protest in Delhi. Four busy traffic squares in Nagpur were chosen and each square was covered by 5 members of the National Domestic Workers Movement and a Good Shepherd Sister. They stood with posters on Human Rights, for the public with following eye-catching quotes;

- **“Farmer’s rights are human rights”**
- **“Human rights must work to uplift human dignity”**
- **“A right delayed is a right denied”**
- **“Human rights should be protected”**



More than two thousand commuters had a look at the posters and the messages displayed at four locations within an hour (2.30pm-3.30pm). The message carried the importance Human Rights. The traffic police, Nagpur had given the permission to carry out the public awareness activity. The media persons and NGOs appreciated the good effort of the Good Shepherd Sisters and members of National Domestic Workers” Movement. They also expressed their commitment for the promotion of Human Rights.



**Together we made the event a wonderful and memorable.... Just the beginning... much more to be done... Kudos to all...**