



MISSION CONNECT



Central East India Nepal Province



KEY MESSAGE



FROM EDITORIAL BOARD

TOP STORIES

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CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Province of Central East India Nepal



From Editorial Board



Welcome to the 2nd edition of 'Mission Connect' our Quarterly Newsletter! As we embark on another exciting season, we are thrilled to share with you the accomplishments, insights, and initiatives that have shaped our journey over the past three months. This issue highlights various observation days held at different projects sites, Christmas celebration, certificate of appreciation received for our service to marginalised communities, our key achievements, from innovative projects to community collaborations, and offers a glimpse into the exciting things on the horizon. Our team has worked tirelessly to bring you fresh perspectives, valuable updates, and inspiration to help you stay connected and informed.

We hope you find this edition alive, connected, engaged and informative. As always, your feedback is valuable to us, so please don't hesitate to reach out with your thoughts and suggestions. Together, let's continue to grow and create positive change!

"The editorial desk is thankful to all those who contributed to this edition. We hope going through this newsletter is as enjoyable for you as it is for us. A huge thank you to all the persons who contributed writing the wonderful and inspiring articles, without which there wouldn't have been this Newsletter. We look forward to keeping you updated in the months to come.

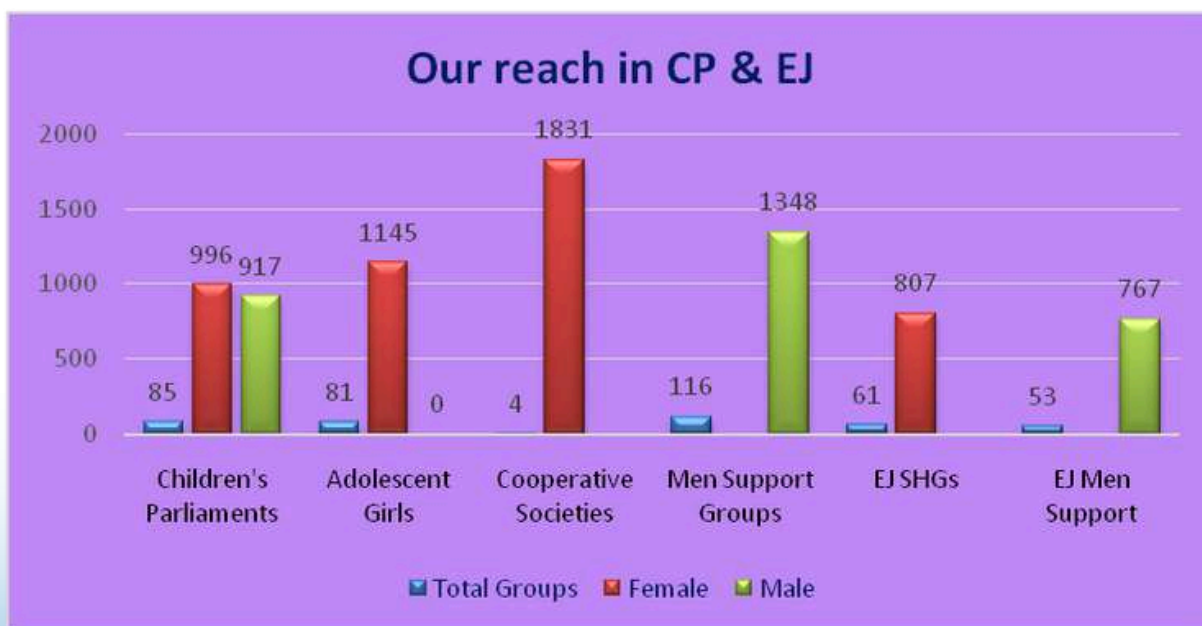
Srs. Kala, Julia & Neticia

FROM MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

>>> The Year 2024...

As we ended the year 2024, we carry a lot of memories and aspirations to the new year 2025, with lot of innovations in community development and our approach to mission effectiveness. We are extremely happy that we have grown as an excellent resource organisation with sufficient resource materials and expertise in various aspects of social development work. First of all, we are happy that we have been able to achieve a great success in implementing the Strategic Plan of CEIN Unit; we have been able to develop various policies: HR Policy and Safeguarding Policy (in practice), After Care Policy, Gender & Inclusive Policy (in process of finalising). We also have been able to build capacity of Mission Partners in effective implementation of the policies.

Our projects during 2025, mainly focused on Economic Justice, Child Protection, Adolescent Girls, Human Rights and Inclusive Community. Though we had very limited funds during the year, the cost effectiveness was very high as we had many children’s parliaments and adolescents’ groups formed and functioning effectively to witness high level of participation from children and adolescent girls for social change. Indeed our Economic Justice Project has taken great strides towards building economic stability among rural women and our work has been recognised by government and non-government organisations with rewards and recognitions. The year 2025 would witness some new cooperative societies emerging out of Economic Justice Project.



As we step into the year 2025, we are counting on the Blessings of God's Providence; two new projects would help us strengthen our mission effectiveness. We are grateful to all our Partners in Mission, staff and volunteers for their commitment in realising the mission come true.

The MDO manager and team express their heartfelt gratitude to all the sisters and the staff who relentlessly commit themselves to the mission.

➤➤➤ Looking back for looking forward: Annual Review Meetings



The MDO Organised three review meetings at the end of 2024. The first one was at Velim Goa for two sites of Child protection project- Virar and Goa; followed by the second one for four Economic Justice Project sites- Balaghat, Chainpur, Karjat and Salem at Nagpur and the third for Child Protection project Amaravathi and Mangalagiri Sites at Mangalagiri where the staff of three cooperative societies- Amaravathi, Mangalagiri and Mulakalapalli also joined the review meeting.

The experiences of the project staff and the sisters were extremely encouraging; some of the learnings and good practices have been shared in order to improve our performance in coming year. The project staff have grown in their capacity and competence to make the mission effectiveness more meaningful.



HARVEST FROM THE MISSION FIELDS

»»» Child Protection Committee (CPC) becomes proactive in rescuing begging children

Though it is mandated by the Government that every village should have a Child Protection Committee, often they are not formed; even if formed, not active in their roles and responsibilities. Good Shepherd sisters in Amaravathi are working in three mandals, have formed 13 Child Protection Committees (CPCs) with 675 members. Regular training is organised to motivate the committee members to be proactive in responding to child rights violations.

In Amaravathi village, child begging is found during the temple festivals. The CPC of Amaravathi village decided to conduct a drive and their decision was reported in local newspaper which awakened the District Child Protection (DCP) Officer who decided to conduct the drive to rescue the begging children.

Good Shepherd sisters, staff, district task force for protection of children and CPC took active part in this drive and rescued 4 children.

The parents and children were produced before the CWC (Child Welfare Committee) and were counselled. The children were sent back to school. Noting the success of this programme, the DCP Unit informed the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) units to form committees in their villages. The DCP Unit desires to replicate this programme and reach out to as many villages as possible and form CPCs with the support of the Good Shepherd Sisters. We appreciate this as an excellent initiative for systemic change.



➤➤➤ Observation of Orange Day at Chainpur site

Good Shepherd Sisters from Chainpur organised five events in five different rural schools in November 2024 with the support of the local power holders, NGOs, school teachers, students and partners in mission with a specific focus on ending gender based violence against girls and women. The Economic Justice project staff explained the purpose of observing orange day.

The resource person Ms. Priyanka Tirkey, Sub Inspector of Chainpur Police station recounted that violence against women is an everyday reality. All forms of violence against women affect women's safety, their physical and psychological health, their dignity and rights. Mr. Chandresh Oraon from Forest Department expressed that women's rights are human rights. This event was attended 215 participants.



On this day the participants tied the orange ribbon on their wrists and acknowledged that it is the responsibility of each one to create a safe environment.

This social event created boundless impact on all the participants to have a great hope to work towards elimination of all forms of violence against girls and women.



➤➤➤ May Tranquillity Reign and Love Abound- Parents Day Celebration at Chennai



Parents Day 2024-2025 was a grand event celebrated on 7th December 2024 at Good Shepherd Matriculation School Chennai, centered on the theme “May Tranquillity Reign and Love Abound.” Rev. Dr. Joe Arun SJ, Chairman of the State Minorities Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu and Professor and Director of Loyola Institute of Business Administration was the chief guest presided over the function.

The Guest of Honour, Fr. Raj Maria Soosai SDB, Member of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, whose inspiring words motivated and encouraged the gathering.

The Annual Report, titled ‘Progress in Perspective’, highlighted the school’s significant achievements and milestones of the year, reflecting the dedication and hard work of the school community. Adding to the joy, the especially, composed IDG song, penned and performed by the talented Class 11 students, celebrated themes of empowerment and unity, deeply resonating with the audience.



The chief guest delivered a captivating keynote address, imparting invaluable wisdom that highlighted the significance of harmony, unity, and education in fostering a peaceful society.

The stage was ablaze with energy and rhythm as a high-octane Western dance performance electrified the audience, amplifying the festive atmosphere. A poignant musical skit conveyed powerful messages of forgiveness, harmony, and love, leaving the crowd spellbound. Meanwhile, a stunning state dance performance showcased India's rich cultural heritage, bringing vibrant colours and traditions to life, highlighting the country's incredible diversity.



The prize distribution ceremony was a proud moment, recognizing and honouring the achievers for their dedication and accomplishments in academics and co-curricular activities.

The event concluded with a heartfelt group song. This memorable celebration truly embodied the theme, spreading a powerful message of peace, love, and togetherness, leaving a lasting impression on all.



Children's Parliament Ministers take Oath- Balaghat Site

The Children's Parliament (CP), is an innovative child-friendly program for the children in rural and urban areas to open up their minds to new possibilities and for using their voices to achieve change in themselves and in their surroundings.

Good Shepherd sisters at Balaghat along with the project team have formed 10 children's parliaments with 302 children. After the election of the ministers, the oath taking ceremony was organized publicly in the village to create a positive influence and impetus among children to commit themselves publicly to take up their roles and responsibilities and the village community to accept children as responsible citizens to help in the development of their communities.

Ektara Children's Parliament from Jarera village had the swearing in ceremony on 10th December 2024 in the presence of the local residents. The local president and Cyber Crime Branch Officers presided over the event.

The following ministers took their oath: Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Parliament Secretary, Education Minister, Health Minister, Child Safe Guarding Minister, Cultural Minister, Food Minister, Child welfare Minister, External Affairs Minister, Environment Minister, Sports Minister, Leadership & Personality Development Minister, Cleanliness Minister and Conflict Resolution Minister.



The Presiding Officers and the public were amused to witness this ceremony which is first time of its kind. The Local President promised that she would listen and support the children when issues are brought to her notice. She encouraged and appreciated the children and wished them well for their future.



➤➤➤ Girl's vision for the future- IDG celebration in Goa

Good Shepherd Sisters from Goa organized a programme on the occasion of International Day of Girl Child at Good Shepherd Convent, Velim, Goa on 13th October 2024 to mark the importance of girls' rights and their dreams to achieve. The distinguished guests of the programme were Mrs. Veena Cardozo, Velim local president and Ms. Christel Dias, a young budding girl.



The key objective of this programme was to inspire girls by sharing their stories. It was more of celebrating "HER", by keeping in mind the theme of the year, "Girls' Vision for the Future".

Mrs. Veena in her key address said that each girl needs to have an equal opportunity to realize and live her future to the fullest. It is an opportunity that brings the best from her. Ms. Christel addressed the girls and said, "It is the way forward that the girls need to walk. Each girl needs to believe in oneself and step forward towards a brighter future".

Sr. Neticia the project coordinator encouraged the girls to have a dream and achieve it with full dedication. She also said that each girl needs to move forward with courage to pursue her future. Children from Good Shepherd motivational center performed a dance on the situation of girls and their empowerment; an awareness song on the responsible freedom of the girls and a mime on the empowerment of girls added the colour to this event.



➤➤➤ Every girl has the opportunity to thrive, lead and shape her own future: International Day of Girl Child- Karjat



International Day of Girl Child was observed at Good Shepherd Convent, Karjat on the theme “Girls’ Vision for the Future” on 28th October 2024. 105 girls from 12 villages participated in the event. This observation was aimed to bring attention on various issues faced by girl children, such as; lack of access to education, ending child marriage, promoting girl’s health and ensuring girls’ voices are heard & respected.

In the welcome address Mrs. Christina and Swapna, the mission partners emphasized the significance of the day. Children from the residential care performed the prayer dance and invoked the presence of God.

The keynote address was delivered by Mrs. Suhsma Purda a prominent social worker for girl’s rights, who shared her insights on ending the child marriage and requesting the girls to study and have the vision for the future. She encouraged and appreciated all the girls for coming to celebrate their day. Children from the villages showcased their talents through meaningful skits and lively dance exhibiting the strength and resilience of girls.

The performance was intended at celebrating girlhood and empowering young girls to believe in their potentials.

The closing remarks were delivered by Sr. Resi the project coordinator of EJ project, who encouraged the children to continue advocating for their rights and to be proactive in their communities to support girls' empowerment. She also motivated the girls to have a vision, which will reach them to great heights. The event was efficacious in raising awareness about the importance of girls' education and their empowerment.

Participants left with a renewed commitment to create an environment where girls can reach their full potential. The International Girl Child Day celebration is a powerful reminder of the great treasure that lies within every girl. By working together with all segments like education, health, and community a world can be created where every girl has the opportunity to thrive, lead and shape her own future.



International Girl Child Day



➤➤➤ Human Rights to be practiced from home: Garratola

Observation of human rights day is a reminder for a call to action, imploring governments, institutions and people everywhere to strive for equality, justice and the defense of human dignity. Human Rights Day was observed on 12th December 2024 by Deendayal Antyodaya Mahila Bahu Uddeshiya Sahakari Samiti Maryadit cooperative society at Garratola. The aim was to create awareness on human rights to all those who are deprived of their basic rights.



The Chief Guest was Ms. Rachana Chowdhary from Women and Child Development Department, Balaghat District, and the guest of honour Ms. Kamar Sultana from Balaghat, a Para Legal Volunteer and Ms. Preethi from One Stop (Help Line 181).

The guests were welcomed by the cooperative board members. One of the staff shared the activities of the cooperative society. The Chief Guest enabled the women to understand their rights through an interactive session.

She emphasized that the human rights should be practiced from home. There need to be love & respect at home and equal treatment to both the genders. She explained the procedures to be followed in case of any human rights violations, legal rights of women, cybercrimes and ways to be protected from these abuses.

She insisted that every woman has to build her self-confidence and become economically sustainable which will enable the women to take decisions in their own families.



Few questions were raised by the participants, specially, a lady who is physically challenged and another woman who lost her only son in an accident, requested the chief guest to help them out to get their rights.

She promised to help them out and asked them to submit necessary documents immediately. The children performed a motivating dance which captivated the participants' attention.

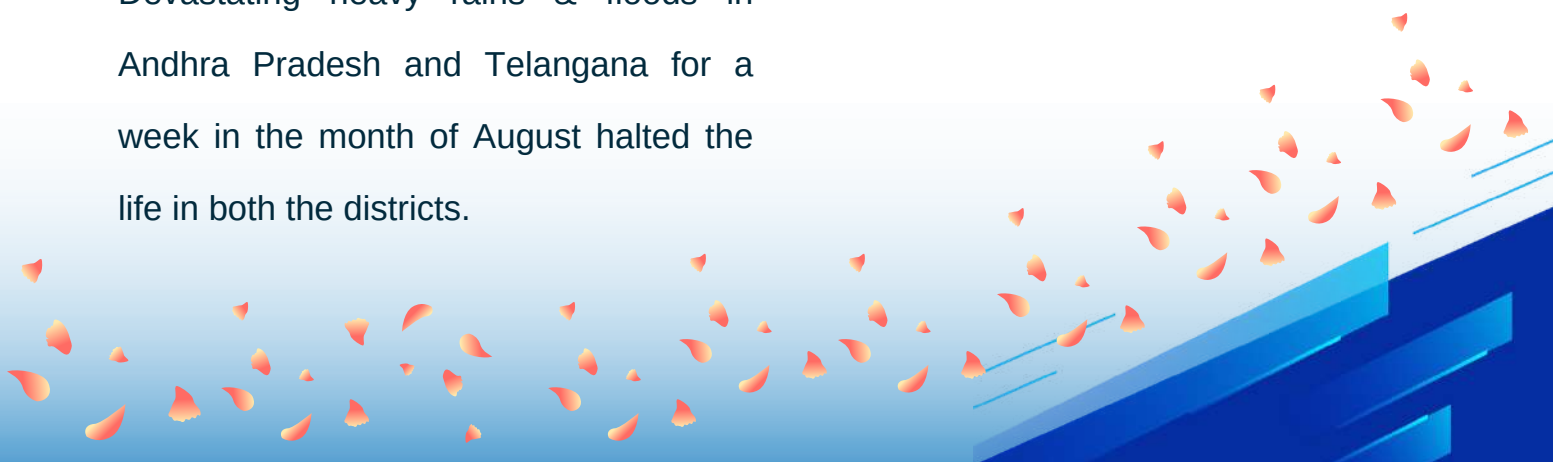


➤➤➤ Humanitarian Support to the flood victims of Mangalagiri & Khammam



The relentless rainfall and swelling rivers caused widespread damage, submerging large areas of land, destroying infrastructure, and severely disrupting daily life. Homes, roads, and agricultural fields were submerged, leaving residents without access to basic needs such as food, clean water, and clothing. Children and vulnerable groups were hit the hardest, as their families struggled to survive in the aftermath of the disaster.

Devastating heavy rains & floods in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for a week in the month of August halted the life in both the districts.



➤➤➤ Intervention by Good Shepherd Sisters

The Mission Development Office was quick to plan the response to the situation and requested the sisters from Mangalagiri and Mulakalapalli to do a rapid appraisal of the situation of the flood victims. A small Humanitarian Project proposal was made and submitted to the CLT (Congregational Leadership team) through the province leader. The CLT was quick in extending their support of Euro 20,000 for immediate relief work.



In Khammam District the distribution process was carefully organized on 23rd & 24th October 2024, to ensure fairness and transparency. A detailed list of 1,000 families who were to receive the relief materials was prepared.

Local volunteers played a crucial role in assisting with the distribution of relief material.

Each family was supported with two cotton towels and two small-sized cotton bed sheets along with two large sized

cotton bed sheets to ensure basic health and hygiene for the victims.



In Mangalagiri the distribution was on October 26th. 900 families received 10 kg bags of rice, 1 kg of dhal, 1 kg of wheat flour, 250 grams of turmeric powder, and hygiene supplies (4 bathing soaps and 4 washing soaps) each.

The distribution event not only provided essential supplies but also became a moment of unity for the community.

The relief effort transcended differences, promoting harmony and collective responsibility during a time of crisis. The commitment to humanitarian relief made it possible to assist 1900 families in the aftermath of the floods.

The road to full recovery is expected to be long, especially for the most vulnerable populations, but the immediate relief was a breather blessing.

➤➤➤ The migrants of Nagpur and Mumbai Celebrated Christmas

A special Christmas program was organised for migrant workers by the Nagpur Archdiocesan commission for migrants at St. Martin De Porres Church in Martin Nagar facilitated by Good Shepherd sisters on 27th December 2024. Around 250 participants witnessed this celebration.

The event aimed to bring the migrant community together, spread the joy of Christmas, and provide valuable information for their well-being. The program commenced with the Holy Eucharist, marked by a traditional tribal welcome dance. His grace most Rev. Bishop Elias Gonsalves, the Archbishop of Nagpur was the main celebrant.

During his homily, bishop reflected on the story of Mother Mary and Joseph fleeing to Egypt with baby Jesus, highlighting their experience as migrants in a foreign land. Holy family is the strength while facing challenges and difficulties in the life of migrants. A motivating message by bishop on the importance of obtaining their entitlements enriched the participants.



Women and children showcased their talents through lively carol singing and dance performances. The culmination of the programme was partaking in the fraternal meal which brought much enthusiasm and a sense of belonging to the migrant community.

The Christmas program was a memorable celebration that combined with spiritual enrichment, cultural expressions, and practical guidance for the migrant community. The event fostered a sense of unity and joy, leaving a lasting impact in their lives.

**JOY
JOY
SHARING**



On 25 December 2024, Good Shepherd Sisters, Mumbai organised Christmas celebration for the migrants who live in Mumbai city. Fr. Sunil Tirkey was the main celebrant who shared a beautiful message reminding that the birth of a child brings unity, love, and peace into a family.



He encouraged the participants to stay united in Jesus' name and to show kindness through words and actions. The entrance dance added a vibrant and joyful touch to the celebration. It was truly wonderful to see over eight hundred people gathered from different parts of Mumbai, all coming together with great devotion and love to celebrate Christmas. The celebration continued as all joined in a community dance, sharing the joy of Christmas together. It was a day filled with happiness, peace, and a deep sense of unity.

On 28th December, the Day of Holy Innocents, Christmas gathering was organised for 55 slum children who attend the coaching class at Good Shepherd Convent, Mumbai. All the children arrived elegantly dressed for the occasion, radiating a festive spirit. The event featured delightful performances by the children, including captivating dances, melodious carol singing, and a series of exciting games.

The winners of these games were awarded gifts, adding to their happiness and enthusiasm. Additionally, as a special Christmas gift, each student received a school bag at the end of the program. The entire expenses were generously sponsored by one of the benefactors, Genevieve Rodricks, in loving memory of her father. The mission partners, teachers, and benefactors worked in perfect coordination, ensuring the event was a grand success. Their efforts made the day truly joyful and unforgettable for the children.



➤➤➤ Christmas is for all: Salem

Interfaith celebrations in India hold profound relevance, especially in the current climate of rising communal tensions. India is home to a diverse array of religions, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and others.

These celebrations serve as vital platforms for fostering mutual respect, understanding, and tolerance among different faith communities. By coming together to celebrate shared values, such as peace, love, and humanity, the interfaith events create spaces for dialogue that transcend religious differences.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Salem, Tamil Nadu, are dedicated to fostering unity among people of different faiths, cultures, and backgrounds. Through this work, they nurture a culture of mutual respect and collective growth, advancing the well-being of humanity and contributing to peace and harmony.



"Religion is a pathway for the peaceful coexistence of people of all natures and faiths, and this should not be misinterpreted," says Sr. Brahma Kumari Mageshwari, Director of Brahma Kumari Eswariya Vishva Vidhayalaya, Salem.



"Christ's birth teaches us divinity and simplicity, and His purpose for coming is nothing but peace," says Sr. Rajakumari, Director of Community Development Programmes, Good Shepherd Convent, Salem.

As part of the ongoing efforts to promote inclusivity, the sisters, in collaboration with Partners-in-Mission, joined forces with the 'Amaithi Sangamam' (Peace Collective) and the parishioners of Udayapatty parish to celebrate Christmas on December 22nd at the Parish Community Hall. This joyous occasion brought together over 200 participants from various religious traditions, including religious leaders and followers from different faiths, uniting them in the spirit of celebration, respect, and togetherness. The celebration featured inspiring Christmas messages from religious leaders of various faiths, cultural performances by children conveying the spirit of Christmas, the exchange of gifts and the sharing of a community meal.

CHALICE- CAPITAL PROJECT

>>> Inauguration & blessing of newly constructed houses at GSP Khammam

Chalice programme was initiated at Good Shepherd Convent, Mulakalapalli, Telegana in 2006 with 36 tribal children and now the number has grown up to 273 and above. The sponsorship programme supports to educate the children, meet their health needs and provide them with nutritious food through direct family fund.



Apart from DFF support, the sponsorship programme has some additional component to sustain the families, like community programmes, critical need, WASH, HDP, CP and gift Catalogue.

Chalice Canada supported 12 families to construct new houses through Community Programme Project. Many of the programme participants from Mulakalapalli lack a proper shelter.

Their pain was unheard during heavy rains, floods and it was very challenging to protect the children from disease. Having heard the cry of these poor, Chalice Canada initiated housing project for 12 families in 2024 and it was completed successfully by 18th December 2024 and the houses were handed over to the families.

A small programme was held at Good Shepherd Convent, Mulakalapalli to mark the handing over of these 12 houses. The guests of honour were Rev. Dr. Prakash Sagili, Bishop of Khammam, Sr. Pushpa Louis Province Leader of Central East India/Nepal, Sr. Maria Rose Chinnappan the former Chalice Mangalagiri Site Director, Sr. Latha present Site Director of Chalice Mangalagiri Site, Mr. Ravi the site accountant, GSP sub-site staff and community sisters were present for this programme.





The bishop thanked Chalice Canada for their unwavering support to the marginalized community and for the Good Shepherd sisters who do immense service in his diocese.

»»» Testimonies from the program participants

Some of the programme participants had really felt the need to express their gratitude to Chalice Canada. Mrs. Ratna Kumari said “Chalice Programme is like a womb where we feel safety, comfort and nourishment, not even our own families would support us like Chalice”.

Mrs. Indira Anavarapu, another programme participant expressed “I belong to chalice family and my every need is met by Chalice. I have been living for 15 years in a rented house, as a single parent, I was finding it difficult to manage the family and educate my two girl children.

Today my elder daughter completed DMLT and settled in life and second one doing her graduation. Chalice gifted me a house now. Till the end of my life, I am very much indebted to Chalice”.

Mrs. Nagamani expressed “I am speechless and my heart is full of gratitude and my eyes are filled with tears of joy. I had been staying in a shelter covered with sarees. Now I have a building with strong walls.” We always remember all the sponsors who have been a great support.



»»» Fund raising visit to DK Austria

The Good Shepherd Mission in Nepal, (OVN) particularly the Anti-Human Trafficking Project in Pokhara, has been supported by DKA Austria since 2016. This collaboration addresses critical issues such as human trafficking, child labour, and unsafe migration.

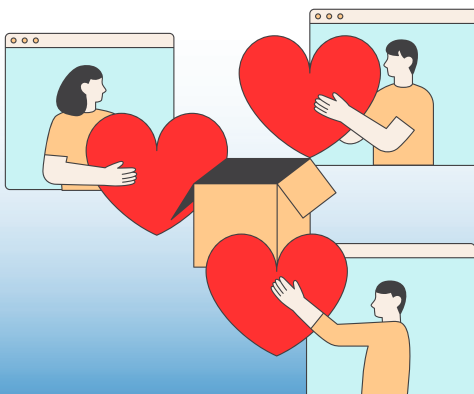


In November 2024, Sr. Anthonia and Babita visited Lower Austria (Vienna, Graz, St. Pölten), while Govinda Bhattarai (GSIF) and Nirutha BK visited Upper Austria (Linz, Carinthia). During the visit, they met school children, parish youth, parents, and parishioners, sharing insights about the Nepal project and engaging in meaningful discussions that fostered a deeper understanding of the issues.

A significant highlight was meeting the Governor of Lower Austria, who was deeply moved by the mission work and contributed to the DKA Austria for Nepal project, commending the team with, "Oh, brave ladies have come from Nepal". Bishop William in Graz expressed his appreciation for the impactful work being carried out.

The project was selected as a model initiative for the Carol Singing Campaign in Austria, with the selection announced in late 2023 and confirmed in early 2024.

A visit from 12 members representing 9 Austrian provinces of DKA took place in April 2024, followed by a team of journalists visiting the project in Nepal in November 2024 and a documentary film was made to raise funds for Nepal. The key activities carried out were, workshops at schools and parishes, Press Conference, Media Interviews, and Networking Meetings. Narration of success story by a former programme participant.





The team presented the project at Weltpfad, a fair trade organisation's 10th anniversary, and engaged with Missio Austria to discuss cross-border trafficking prevention. Beyond the advocacy work, the team also explored Austria's cultural richness, visiting historical sites, museums, and concerts, making the journey both impactful and memorable.

The visit also imparted valuable lessons such as time management, punctuality, balancing personal and professional life, speaking slowly, being flexible. There was a realization that the people there donate not because they are rich, but because they want to make a positive difference in others' lives.

The Good Shepherd Mission, Nepal expresses heartfelt gratitude to DKA Austria for their continued support in making this transformative collaboration possible.



VOICES FROM CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENTS

➤➤➤ I am Sagar Nagpure studying 9th grade, belong to Ektara Children's parliament from Jarera village Balaghat site, Madhya Pradesh. I joined the Children's parliament group in the year 2023. I regularly attend the meeting conducted by EJ project team Balaghat. The staff enthuse the children by conducting creative games, and teach us on child rights and other issues related to the children.

During election of the Children's Parliament Leaders, I was elected as Prime Minister and am excited to be elected to the post. I shared this information in the school and many of my friends were happy and expressed their desire to join the group. We had a very meaningful swearing in ceremony in the presence of our local leader and the whole village. The local leader encouraged us and assured her support. We are looking forward in dealing with issues affecting children and community.



I am M. Stalin, 16 years old, studying Inter 1st year. I am the Prime Minister of Nehru Children's Parliament in Nidamaru village of Mangalagiri Mandal, Andhra Pradesh. Our parliament started in 2021. We have regular meetings where all of us motivated to be proactive in dealing with issues pertaining to children and the community.

We identified a mentally challenged woman aged 35 wandering in our village, she could not communicate either.

This issue was discussed in our meeting and informed to Child Protection Committee of our village, the Committee with support of the project staff, after completing all the legal procedures, placed her in a safe home where the mentally challenged women are taken care. I feel happy that we could restore her to a safe place free from abuse.



I am G. Vanitha, studying in 8th grade, Prime Minister of Surya Kanthi (Sun Flower) Children's Parliament, Ottapatti village, Salem District, Tamil Nadu, which was started in the year 2022. I am proud to say that our children's parliament has been a catalyst to motivate the local administration to equip the unused toilet building with water facilities for the benefit of the community, recognizing the community's need for proper sanitation facilities.

We had discussed this issue in our regular meeting and an application was submitted to the local elected leader.

After two months the unused toilet building was inaugurated with the facilities we requested. I stood alongside the Panchayat President (local leader) during the inauguration. The local leader and the community appreciated the power of collective effort and youthful leadership. Our intervention reveals even the smallest voices can echo loud enough to bring about significant change in our community. Our actions remind us all the change starts from within, no matter how young or small the hands that begin it.



VOICES FROM ADOLESCENT GIRLS

➤➤➤ I am Thanvi Dnyaneshwar, 20 years old from Jamuna adolescent girl's group Palasdari village, Karjat site, Maharashtra. Our group consists of 18 girls. Regular monthly meetings on different topics on health & hygiene, child marriage, reproductive health education, girl's rights and life skill education enhance our knowledge. One girl dropped out from school and our group motivated her and joined her back to school. 43 of us got an opportunity to have an exposure to PAHAL NGO, Khalapur, Maharashtra on 2nd December 2024.

Different courses like, tailoring, computer, nursing and electrician are taught for the youth. We were motivated by the success stories narrated by the organisation. After our exposure programme we have requested them to start a tailoring unit at our site in Karjat, 25 girls are interested to learn this skill. They have agreed to start this center at their expense. Being in the group encourages us to continue our formal education and to openly discuss our issues.

➤➤➤ "Now I learnt that I Can Change My Future"

My name is Sowmya, I am 17-year-old from Narukullapadu, a small village in Andhra Pradesh. Growing up in a financially struggling family; I had to drop out of college to support my family. My dreams of continuing my education seemed impossible and I felt stuck in poverty, unable to escape. Facing societal expectations, the challenges I faced were not just personal but also rooted in my community's expectations.

In my village, girls were expected to focus on household chores instead of education. I felt isolated while my peers continued their studies. Everything changed when I joined a skill development program conducted by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Amaravathi. The program offered training in computer skills, spoken English, and life skills, empowering me to change my life. I now feel capable of shaping my own future and inspiring others to do the same.

➤➤➤ "I take care of my studies myself"

My name is Ms. Priyadharshini, and I live in Sundararajan Colony in Valaseiyur village Salem District, Tamil Nadu. While I was studying Diploma in Nursing, I attended training on sewing & dress making course organised by the Good Shepherd Sisters during my holidays.

I received the training through their programme, and with their assistance, I was able to receive a sewing machine.

Now I am able to earn an income of Rs 3,000/- per month, which I use to cover my expenses for higher studies. And now I am continuing my studies in B.Sc. Nursing and doing tailoring during my free time. I feel proud that I take care of my studies myself.



AWARDS/ RECOGNITIONS

➤➤➤ Good Shepherd Convent Balaghat receives award for their social service in the District

16 days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children was organized by the Balaghat District Women and Child department from 25th November to 10th December 2024.



Different activities for the children and women were initiated by the One Stop Centre which caters to women and girl children.

The staff team used to invite various resource persons from the department to the villages to provide trainings to the girls & women and they were very much appreciative of the dedication with which the team is empowering the girls and the women in the rural areas.

On International day of the Human Rights 10th December 2024, Balaghat EJ team was invited by Ms. Rachna Chowdhari the project director of Women & Child Welfare Department to the district Collectorate

and the Collector honored the team with an appreciation certificate for their committed social service. This event was witnessed by NGOs and Government officials who are working for the welfare of the people.



➤➤➤ Recognition for Excellence in Infrastructure- Good Shepherd School, Karjat

Recognition serves as a powerful motivator, inspiring individuals and institutions to continually strive for excellence. It is a reward in itself, acknowledging the hard work, Dedication and relentless efforts of the Manager, Principal, Teachers, Support Staff, and all well-wishers who contribute to the success of an Institution.

The Good Shepherd Convent School, Karjat stand as a beacon of excellence, particularly in providing state-of-the-art infrastructure to foster holistic education.

It is with immense pride and joy that we announce that our school has been honored with the prestigious Award for Excellence in Best Infrastructure – School Category, Raigad, at the EFSA Star Education Awards held on 26th November 2024, at the Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai.



It was acknowledged by Principal Sr. Amala and Assistant Teacher Mr. Husain Jamali.



This achievement is a testimony to our unwavering commitment to providing the best facilities and learning environment for our students.

The award highlights the school's dedication to creating a space where education and growth are nurtured with care and innovation.

Good Shepherd Convent School:
Where Excellence Meets Commitment!

“Appreciation goes a long way. The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness.”



➤➤➤ A Proud Moment for OVN (Good Shepherd Sisters Mission in Nepal)



On the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the National Women Commission Hotline, Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) proudly celebrates its recognition for outstanding contributions to the rehabilitation of survivors of gender-based violence.

OVN's strong network partnership with the Women's Commission in Nepal has enabled the referral and support of numerous cases, showcasing our shared commitment protecting and uplifting vulnerable individuals.

This proud milestone coincides with the ongoing 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign dedicated to eliminating violence and fostering gender equality.

The recognition was bestowed by the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nepal, symbolizing OVN's impactful efforts in this critical mission. We are deeply honoured and motivated to continue working toward a safe and just society for all. Together, let us unite to end gender-based violence. Mrs Ranjana Sharma Received the Award on behalf of OVN.



Token of Appreciation received from the Olympic committee



The Pre-School Olympic 2024 Day was successfully organized on 22nd December by the Olympic Committee. A total of 12 schools participated in this joyful event.

Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) played a vital role in supporting underprivileged children who would have otherwise been unable to participate in sports activities.

Responding to a request from the Sports Committee, OVN extended assistance to ensure these children could join and experience the joy of sports. Mrs. Sanu Amaya, the President of OVN, who is also a member of the Olympic Committee, was present at the event. In recognition of OVN's invaluable support and contribution, the Olympic Committee of Nepal presented a token of appreciation to the organization.

Congratulations



MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
PROVINCE OF CENTRAL EAST INDIA/NEPAL

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For any queries/clarifications

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