

5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

# “9 Weeks of Campaign on the Rights of the Girls”

International day of Girl Child (IDG)2020



No one is you, and that is your Super Power

## Protection of girl child is a Priority, not an option

Good Shepherd Convent, Virar: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020



This year the theme of International Day of the Girl Child is "My voice = our future". The theme focuses on **Protection of girl child is a Priority, not an option**. During this pandemic year, we created awareness on "What is abuse?" from the Congregational documents on 'Safe Guarding Policy' by Sr. Sylvia.

- Child needs to be corrected in a polite way rather than using abusive words.
- Child needs to keep space for its own discoveries and not to tease the child.
- Child need to be taught that their body needs to be respected.
- Child needs to be protected from unhealthy touch.
- Children were able to articulate the concepts in a nutshell.



Children presented a tableau on the importance on Girl children and Girl child to be born because 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 to take up any challenge.

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

- **Right to Survival**
- **Right to Protection**
- **Right to Participation**
- **Right to Development**



**Impact of the Convention of the Child Rights:** 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' has been instrumental in putting all the issues pertaining to children' issues on the global as well as National agenda. In addition to this, it has extensively mobilized actions for the realization of the rights and development of children worldwide. Little children expressed their rights, opinions and views in the form of action songs. Children need protection, Survival, participation and development.

**Conclusion:** By knowing the rights of the children, the children are being empowered. Today was spent for that purpose. With its development interventions that are focused on social welfare of children, at Good Shepherd Mission, Virar has raised those expectations among the high risk children. Also, 100% of the total eligible students are successfully mainstreamed in private schools, which have been working for children's welfare since its inception in the year 2008.

## My Voice= Our Future

Good Shepherd Convent, Karjat celebrated “International Girl Child day” to create awareness and address issues related to girl child in society. All around the world, girls are at a disadvantaged situation — both because they’re young, and they’re females.



Their rights, voices and needs are often get overlooked. They compete for space in international laws and global policies, and often get lost between women’s rights and children’s rights are overlooked. The event was organized

on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at Good Shepherd Convent School hall, with the total of 125 participants, children from villages, school, teachers and social workers from the villagers were present for the programme. Due to the COVID -19 restrictions we could not invite more children and other people.



The celebration started at 11.am with a short prayer service with a dance and lighting of the lamp by chief guest and children. Mrs. Christina Fernandes, one of our Lay Partner welcomed the guest and the participants. Chief Guest for the programme was Mr. Sunil Kumar Soni, President of the Rotary Club, who is a social activist working for the welfare of children. Mr. Santhosh Daund (Block Education Officer), Mr. Vijay Mande (Press Reporter), Mr. Deepak More (Corporator of our area) and Mr. Sandeep (from Police department) were the Guests of Honour.



Mr. Soni, the Chief Guest released the poster on Child Safe guarding. Sr. Resi explained to the participants the main aim of this poster, followed by the message of the Chief Guest.

He in his speech said that every child is a very precious gift from God, whether the child is a boy or a girl. In our society girls are given less privilege, it is our duty to protect every child specially girl child. We need to promote and protect the rights of girls and increase awareness of their needs and potential. He also promised to help the poor and needy children through Rotary Club.



Every speaker stressed on the importance of the girl child and the strength which they have in themselves. Girls are light to our families and without them family is not complete. They said that we need to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls. Every

speaker gave a powerful message.

There were colourful cultural events to mark the day. Children from the village, boarding and school performed dances, drama and sang songs based on the theme.

## Good Shepherd Convent, Salem: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Around 100 girls from 9 villages participated in this program. We commenced our program by invoking God's blessings with a prayer dance. Then we invited the Chief Guest Mr. Durai swamy, Sub Inspector of Veeranam, Sr. Lucy, Staff Perumal and two girls to light the lamp. Sr. Reema honored the chief guest with a shawl.



After the welcome speech Mahalakshmi, one of the participants, the Chief Guest was invited to deliver his speech. He spoke to the girls stressing the importance and preciousness of Girl Child: "The girl is a gift to the family and to the nation. Without girls there is no world. The girls should be courageous and outspoken and not be afraid. Every girl ought to know her rights and taught how to claim them in day to day life. He also explained how to utilize technology, to have courage and confidence to correct the wrong. The girls should know what is good and what is bad. They need to be educated and professionally competent at various levels."



After this inspiring and motivating speech, the program continued with dances and skits around the theme of importance of educating the girls and the evil of practice of child labor. All were full of appreciation for their performance.



Shalini, one of the participants spoke about the Girl Child. She said: "Girls can achieve anything. We are equal to men in many ways. We need to make a concerted effort to change the mind set of people. We need to strive to achieve anything in life". She exhorted her fellow participants not to sit at home passively but be of great courage and speak up. Girls need to be free and responsible.



We conducted competitions in drawing, essay and poem writing. Prizes were distributed to the winners and the rest of the participants got consolation prizes. Sr. Stella proposed the vote of thanks, appreciating the chief guest, the members of the staff, sisters and all the participants. A well prepared and delicious meal was a fitting conclusion for this memorable gathering. We are hopeful that the participants learned many values for life and got some insight to live lives with more meaning and purpose.



## A daughter is one of the most beautiful gifts God gives to this world

**Pallavaram, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020:** We, Sisters of the Good Shepherd at Pallavaram share some glimpses of the celebration on the occasion of International Girl Child Day. We are happy to be part of the entire Congregation to commemorate and dedicate this day's celebration for our Girl Child at the International level and to make known their voice for the future.

**Prior to the celebration:** We requested the Police department of Pallavaram to give permission to release the posters. The first copy of the posters was given to the police officials. They were very appreciative of this initiatives in awareness creation among the people. They



were co-operative while we released and distributed posters at various



places during this time of Pandemic. We distributed the posters to boys who are under Physical training, different Religious communities, St. Sebastian School and Government Hospital, all of them showed interest in doing their part in voicing out to protect the girl children.

**Talents' Exhibition:** We had 7 days' campaign for our coaching class children. Both boys and girls were encouraged to participate in the competitions such as drawing with creative headings, poetry recitation, essay or creative writing and singing. Three days they themselves prepared the colorful posters with inspirational quotations on Girl Child which were displayed on the wall to make the day a memorable one for our Girl Children at large. Here I would like to congratulate the boys who showed more interest in preparing the colorful posters for the International Girl Child Day celebration.



**8<sup>th</sup> December 2020:** 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 of Sisters of Bonsecour for the first time along with our Coaching Class children that added more joy to the occasion. We began the celebration with a short prayer and the lighting of the

lamp. The importance of the day was highlighted by the sisters to the participants followed by



cultural program. Mrs.Celine, our lay Mission Partner who was the chief guest of the day gave an inspiring and motivational talk on “ my voice = our Future “ She also stressed on the Gender equality,how to honour and respect the girl child in every walk life. The children were very euthusiastic and maintained silence to grasp the message . After this we distributed the prizes for the winners also consolation prizes for all the

participants of 7 days compaign with activities such as drawing, creative/ essay writing, singing and colorful posters preparation with the We appreciated the parents and children for their continued co-operation through out the 7 days of campaign, inspite of the uncerinities and the heavy rains. We served cake and a delicious meal for all the participants.



They were very happy and enjoyed the presence of one another and learned some important values through the programme.

We conclude with a quote:“ **I believe that the Rights of women and girls is the unfinished business of the 21<sup>st</sup> century ”-Hillary Clinton**

