

EDUCATION

Summer Camps, Learning with Fun and Purpose



The summer camps organized by Gyansaathi and Savli Projects turned the holidays into days filled with creativity, teamwork, and learning.

At Gyansaathi, children explored art and science through a variety of hands-on activities such as Warli painting, science model-making, and group games that encouraged leadership and curiosity. The activities helped participants discover new skills, boost self-confidence, and build friendships.

Project Disha organized a one-day summer camp at Subhedar Farmhouse, filled with creativity, fun, and learning. Children enjoyed activities like drawing, Diwali lantern-making, games, and a quiz competition, with the magic show and rain dance being the highlights of the day.

The camp ended with prize distribution and cheerful smiles all around. The children thanked Karunya Trust for the memorable experience and their continued guidance.

Leadership Skills Session for Children's Parliament



A session on Leadership Skills was organized by the Savli Project on 20th September 2025 for 63 members of the Children's Parliament at the Vikhroli Centre. The session was facilitated by internship students Ms. Abiya Saju and Ms. Seba Lucy Lukose, who discussed how leadership builds confidence, teamwork, and responsibility.

Through role-plays and group activities, children explored qualities like honesty, communication, empathy, and decision-making. The session encouraged them to take initiative, work collaboratively, and lead by example within their schools and communities.

Celebrating Academic Achievements

This year marked several academic milestones across Karunya Trust's education programs.

At Gyansaathi, 36 students successfully cleared their SSC exams, with 19 enrolling in college which is a proud moment for students, parents, and mentors. At Savli, 32 students cleared SSC and 30 passed HSC, achieving their goals through determination and support from teachers and project staff.

These results reflect the steady progress of students from both urban and rural backgrounds who continue to work hard, proving that consistent support and guidance can truly change futures.

Session on the Right to Information Act



A session on the Right to Information (RTI) Act was conducted on 30th August 2025 at the Vikhroli Centre with 29 members of the Children's Parliament. The session was facilitated by Arshad Ansari, CRPC member from the Gyansaathi Project, who explained how RTI promotes transparency, accountability, and good governance.

Children learned about the objectives and uses of the Act, including how citizens can access information on government schemes and public services. The session sparked thoughtful discussions and questions, helping children understand their rights and the importance of civic participation.

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Exploring the Universe with Nehru Planetarium Visit



To make learning more experiential, the Gyansaathi Project organized an educational visit to the Nehru Planetarium for school-going children.

Students watched the Sky Theatre 3D show, which explored planets, stars, and galaxies in vivid detail. They also toured the space gallery, saw rocket and satellite models, and participated in a small quiz on astronomy.

Children Speak 2025 – Empowering Young Voices

Children from the Gyansaathi Project participated in Children Speak 2025 – A Collective Commitment to Empowering Children's Voices, organized by Prerana NGO in collaboration with other child rights NGOs. The interactive program focused on Child Rights and encouraged children to express their views with confidence. Gyansaathi students



discussions, shared experiences, and even delivered short presentations that stood out for their clarity and thoughtfulness.

The event brought together children from diverse communities, giving them a platform to learn from one another and advocate for their rights. It reinforced the idea that children's voices matter and must be heard in every space that shapes

HEALTH



Staying Safe During the Monsoon

Project Savli organized a series of awareness sessions on Care During Monsoon across three weekends in June 2025 at Infant Jesus Church, Vikhroli. Led by Ms. Josna, the sessions reached 193 children and parents with practical tips on road safety, and health precautions during the rainy season. Families learned how to prevent common infections, keep their surroundings clean, and stay alert to risks like manholes and stagnant water. The sessions ended with participants pledging to follow the safety measures shared.



Promoting a Tobacco-Free Generation



On World No Tobacco Day, both Gyansaathi and Savli projects came together to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco. In Shivaji Nagar, Gyansaathi's Child Rights Protection

NGO, spreading the message "Say No to Tobacco, Say Yes to Life." Meanwhile, Savli's Children's Parliament organized a rally from Sion Station to Pilla Bungalow, where 20 interacted carried



young members with the public about quitting tobacco. These initiatives not only spread awareness but also helped children understand their power to influence healthier communities.

Health Awareness and Nutrition for Children

Samya Charitable Trust, in partnership with Gyansaathi, conducted health assessments and awareness sessions for parents of pre-primary and primary school children. The focus was on nutrition, regular check-ups, and active parental involvement.

Parents were guided on balanced meals, hygiene, and preventive care, while children identified as high-risk received extra attention. The initiative strengthened both awareness and community participation for better child health.



Skin Health Camp for the Community

A skin health camp held at the Baba Nagar community benefited 107 residents. Dr. Nazneen Khan from Dr. For You NGO, along with her team, provided consultations and medicines for common skin conditions such as fungal infections and dryness. The camp encouraged residents to healthier habits and emphasized the importance of hygiene and early treatment in preventing long-term issues.



Fighting Drug Abuse Through Awareness

To mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse, Gyansaathi's Youth for Child Rights Protection Committee (Y4CRPC) joined hands with Support NGO for an anti-drug campaign at Govandi Station.



Members distributed pamphlets, shared helpline information, and spoke to people about the risks of addiction. A street play at Baba Nagar reinforced the message with powerful performances and the slogan "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life." The campaign motivated youth and community members alike to make healthier choices.

Awareness Session on Hearing and Speech Impairment

An awareness session conducted by Rochiram Thadani High School, Chembur, helped parents understand the challenges of hearing and speech impairments in children. Experts highlighted the importance of early detection and inclusive education through interactive demonstrations. The session gave parents valuable insight into timely interventions and how to support children's development and confidence more effectively.



LIVELIHOOD



Urmila's Journey to Independence

In the village of Antade, 33-year-old Urmila Umesh Bhoir transformed her life from a housewife burdened by financial challenges into a self-reliant businesswoman. With a family of six depending on her, Urmila longed to contribute but lacked opportunities and skills. Her life changed when Karunya Trust introduced a sewing training program in her village. Determined and supported by her family, Urmila learned stitching, gradually progressing from basic garments to dresses,



blouses, and bags. Her talent soon attracted clients from the community, allowing her to earn steadily and ease her family's financial burden. "I feel proud. I feel independent," she shares. Her success not only improved her household's situation but also inspired other women in Antade to pursue their own opportunities. Today, Urmila continues to grow her home-based tailoring business and dreams of opening a small shop to train other women, spreading empowerment further. Her journey is a testament to the transformative power of opportunity, determination, and support, proving that even small beginnings can lead to meaningful change.

A Ray of Hope for Visually Impaired Students

Under Project Disha, visually impaired students in Badlapur are learning digital skills through the MS-CIT computer course, marking an important step toward inclusion and independence.

The center provides laptops, transportation assistance, and accessible training materials to ensure that no student is left behind. Trainers guide them through typing, internet use, and basic software applications. The initiative has empowered many visually impaired youth to dream bigger and look at education as a bridge to opportunity.



When Awareness Meets Courage



Suvana Gauresh Pawar, a daily wage worker from Taan Chamtoli village, struggled to make ends meet. Joining the Shri Samarth Krupa Self-Help Group changed her life. Through training sessions on savings, government schemes, and self-advocacy, she learned to manage her finances and understand her rights. When pressured by outsiders to give up her home, Suvana stood firm. With the support of her SHG and guidance from Karunya Trust staff, she approached the Gram Panchayat and local authorities, confidently defending her family's home.

"This group taught me to believe in myself and to never give up," Suvana says. Her story reflects the strength that comes from awareness and collective support.

Diwali Stall



This year, special thanks go to Mr. Nilesh Nandoskar, a long-time volunteer who continues to contribute meaningfully across projects. His connection with United Way Mumbai helped facilitate collaboration with Citibank, leading to a successful Diwali stall initiative that showcased candles, diyas, food items and handicrafts made by our beneficiaries.

The stall not only helped raise funds but also gave visibility to the creativity and effort of the communities we work with. We extend heartfelt gratitude to Citibank for hosting the stall, United Way Mumbai for their continued partnership, and Mr. Nilesh for bridging this opportunity.

SHG Women Celebrate Profitable Diwali

Karunya Trust's self-help initiative in Sawarewadi, Badlapur, has once again proven how collective effort can drive empowerment. Formed in 2014, the Aadhar and Mogra women's self-help groups, supported by the Trust, received food



licenses and began producing nutritious laddus, health powders, What started as small-scale sales at the local Bank Panchayat Samiti has now grown into a successful enterprise. With guidance and support from Karunya Trust, the women expanded their market reach to Thane, Andheri, Worli, C.S.T. Fort, and Ambernath, earning a profit of ₹52,000 this Diwali season.

The women expressed joy and gratitude for the opportunity, sharing that the initiative not only boosted their income but also strengthened their confidence and community spirit.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Karunya Trust continues to grow stronger through the support and dedication of its volunteers, who bring fresh ideas and energy to every initiative. From education sessions to community development programs, volunteers play a key role in connecting people and possibilities.

Guiding the Next Generation



Volunteers also continue to support our education programs by guiding students through interactive sessions on goal setting, communication skills, and personal development.

At the Gyansaathi Project, Mr. Nilesh Nandoskar conducted a Goal Setting Workshop for 9th and 10th graders, helping them identify personal and academic goals using the SMART framework. Students shared that the session motivated them to plan their studies better and take ownership of their dreams.

Internships and Field Works

To make the day even more special, the volunteers distributed health kits and snacks to all students from Classes 5 to 10, promoting both fun and well-being. It was a simple afternoon that left lasting smiles and memories for everyone.

A Fun-Filled Afternoon with KORA Volunteers

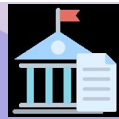
Karunya Trust hosted social work interns from several reputed institutions across India. Students from BCM College, Kottayam contributed at the Savli project, while those from NMIMS, College of Social Work Nirmala Niketan, Marian College Kuttikkanam, Bharat Mata College, Christ College, and K.J. Somaiya gained hands-on experience at Gyansaathi. Their involvement



added great value to the ongoing programs, bringing fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to community development. The Gyansaathi Centre came alive with excitement as seven volunteers from KORA joined students for an afternoon of games, laughter, and learning. From carrom and chess to a lively color race, students of Classes 8 and 9 enjoyed every moment of teamwork and friendly competition. The volunteers didn't just organize the activities, they played alongside the children, sharing genuine moments of connection and joy.

Visit and Support to our Projects

Karunya Trust's rural and urban projects recently received generous support and engagement from various institutions and visitors. Carmel Convent School distributed 115 school bags and education kits to children, motivating them to continue their education. Canara Bank, represented by Ms. Pranali Joshi, provided grocery kits to 12 families, while the Dream Team from Mumbai donated 30 blankets and 35 sets of plates, bottles, and bowls, bringing comfort to several households.



Clean Water, Collective Action – The Story of Konawadi

“Clean drinking water is the top priority for us,” said Mrs. Lata Waghe, a women leader from Konawadi. This small tribal village, located 20 km from Kalyan, is home to 167 people from the Katkari community, most of whom depend on daily wage labor. The village struggled with several issues like lack of clean drinking water, poor roads, and no community hall. Health concerns were increasing due to unsafe water. With support from Karunya Trust, a journey of change began. Staff engaged the community through home visits and group meetings, identifying key issues and building trust. Women were encouraged to participate actively in workshops on application writing and Gram Sabha awareness.

Gradually, villagers started raising their concerns confidently in Gram Sabha meetings. Through persistent follow-up and coordination, they succeeded in resolving the drinking water issue. The village now has access to clean and safe water, reducing health problems and improving daily life. The process also strengthened the community’s ability to write applications, advocate for their needs, and work collectively, marking the beginning of self-led development in Konawadi.



Standing Strong for Housing Rights in Ghodakhadak

In Ghodakhadak village, 21 Katkari families lived in unsafe homes made of mud and tin. Despite multiple appeals, their applications for Indira Awas Yojana (now Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin) were ignored.



Through Project Disha, Karunya Trust staff encouraged the community to raise their voices collectively. The families began attending Gram Sabhas and met officials to present their case. After continued follow-up, the proposal was finally approved.

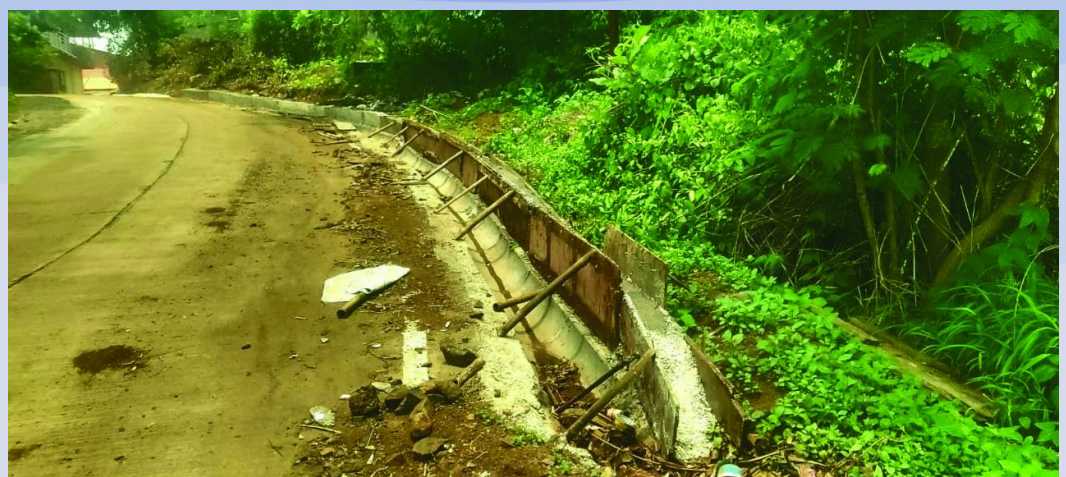
Each of the 21 families received funds to build their own pucca houses, a long-awaited dream come true. Today, they live with dignity and security, proud of their united effort and newfound confidence in engaging with the system.



Women Lead the Way in Antade’s Drainage Transformation

For years, untreated wastewater flowing through the streets of Antade caused foul smells, mosquito breeding, and the spread of disease. Women from the village, supported by Karunya Trust under Project Jeevan, decided to take action.

They raised the issue during the Gram Sabha and met with Gram Panchayat officials. The Gram Sevak and Sarpanch surveyed the problem, prepared a budget, and submitted a proposal for funding.



Thanks to the women’s persistence and teamwork, the project was approved, and 12 new drainage lines were constructed across the village. Wastewater is now properly managed, and the village environment has improved significantly. The women of Antade proudly say this effort taught them the power of unity and collective leadership in bringing change to their community.





CRPC Leaders Drive Change in Nirankari Nagar

Two young members of Gyansaathi's Child Rights Protection Committee proved what leadership really looks like.

When the monsoon rains left gutters overflowing and the streets filled with stagnant water, most people complained and moved on. These young members didn't. They filed official complaints through the BMC M-East Ward online portal, kept following up with local authorities, and refused to give up until something was done.

Their persistence worked. The BMC Sanitation Department finally cleared the drains, bringing back cleanliness and relief to the entire neighbourhood. It proved that when young people take ownership of their surroundings, real change follows.



Van Mahotsav

Karunya Trust, with support from Deutsche Bank, marked Van Mahotsav 2025 by planting 1,000 trees with the help of 88 Deutsche Bank volunteers. The volunteers brought genuine enthusiasm and teamwork, helping make the day productive and enjoyable. The Forest Department played a key role in guiding the drive with special thanks to Raju Shinde (Round Forest Officer) and Mahadev Sawant and Sanjay Sabale (Beat Forest Officers) for their support and coordination on site.



Staff and beneficiaries of Karunya Trust also joined in, contributing to smooth organisation and a great team spirit. The day ended with smiles all around and a shared sense of pride in doing something good for the environment. Adding to the collective effort, St. Joseph's Forane Church also contributed to the cause by planting 100 saplings at Raitye, Kalyan, on 31st August 2025, with the participation of 16 volunteers.

Public Awareness Program by Children's Parliament on World Environment Day

On 5th June 2025, on the occasion of World Environment Day, 27 members of the Savli Children's Parliament (CP) organized a public awareness program at Mulund Station from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. As part of the event, the children held a poster exhibition with powerful environmental messages and creative drawings aimed at raising public awareness on the importance of protecting nature. By engaging in this activity, the CP members inspired passersby to take action such as planting trees and adopting eco-friendly habits for a better and greener future. Many members of the public stopped to interact with the children, offering positive feedback and encouragement. The program not only promoted environmental consciousness but also helped the CP children build confidence, civic sense, and a sense of responsibility as future citizens.



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING



Building Confidence and Awareness through Self-Defense Training for Girls

To help girls build confidence and ensure personal safety, Gyansaathi Project organized a Self-Defense Training Program in Shivaji Nagar. The session was led by a trained karate instructor, who demonstrated practical techniques that the girls could use to protect themselves in unsafe situations.

The training not only taught physical defense skills but also emphasized mental strength and presence of mind. By the end, participants shared that they felt more aware, confident, and capable, ready to stand up for themselves with courage.



Protecting Childhood with Awareness on Child Marriage

Parents from the Gyansaathi Project took part in an awareness session on Preventing Child Marriage, led by Ms. Sharon Rodrigues.

Through real examples and open discussion, she explained how child marriage affects a child's health, education, and future, and clarified the legal age limits that is 18 for girls and 21 for boys. The session also highlighted the roles of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the police in protecting children.

Parents left with a stronger understanding of the law and the importance of keeping children in school to build safer, brighter futures.



Formation of Women for Child Rights Protection Committee

The Women for Child Rights Protection Committee (W4CRPC) was formed under the Gyansaathi Project with active participation from community women to promote child rights and address local issues like waste management, gutter cleaning, and clean drinking water.



During the elections, 40 women participated and six were elected to leadership roles. Members attended sessions on School Management Committee laws, parental roles, and child protection, followed by two meetings to define responsibilities and plan community actions.

"During my internship, I found the experience to be very fruitful. I took on the responsibilities of an educator, which included creating monthly plans for students. Along with students, I gained valuable knowledge while preparing for teaching. Although the Marathi language was a barrier, the staff's assistance made it manageable. I was able to develop strong relationships with the staff, students, and non-teaching staff. I was also able to observe and assist the counsellor with client intervention tasks. Overall, the experience and insights I gained from the Gyansaathi project in this short time were valuable and so on. Thank you to Gyansaathi team and Karunya Trust members for the support and for giving these experiences."

-Feedback from an Intern

Improving Rural Sanitation

A total of fifteen sanitation units were successfully constructed, under Project Swachh, across the villages of Chavare, Mhasrundi, and Rayte in the Kalyan block, under a collaborative initiative with Fugro India.



The beneficiaries, selected from the tribal community based on specific eligibility criteria, entered into a mutual agreement with the contractor to maintain construction quality and ensure long-term sustainability.

Each unit, measuring 5 x 4 ft, was supported with a sanctioned amount of ₹31,000, disbursed in three installments directly to the contractor's account. Regular follow-up visits and monitoring ensured timely completion and adherence to standards. By August 2025, all fifteen sanitation units stood completed, marking another meaningful step toward improved hygiene and dignity in rural communities.

CELEBRATIONS



A Celebration of Freedom and Unity



Independence Day was celebrated with pride and enthusiasm across Gyansaathi and Savli Projects.

At Gyansaathi, children came together for flag hoisting, patriotic songs, and performances that celebrated the nation's journey. Parents and volunteers joined in, turning it into a joyful community event.

At Savli, events were held at Vikhroli and Dharavi centers, graced by Ms. Manisha Rahatte

(Corporator), Mr. Nitin Dhumal (Rationing Officer), Mr. Sandesh Lokare (Rationing Inspector), Fr. Joseph (Parish Priest, St. Sebastian Church), and Ms. Madhuri Karvekar (Police Inspector, Shahul Nagar Police Station). More than 150 children participated across both projects, performing songs, dances, and speeches. SSC and HSC toppers were also felicitated for their academic achievements.

Karunya Dosti 2025 - A Day of Togetherness



Karunya Dosti 2025 was held on October 5, 2025, at Canossa Convent High School Auditorium, Andheri, bringing together more than 500 beneficiaries from all projects. Children

and youth performed songs, dances, and skits celebrating the diversity and unity of the Karunya family. The program was marked by the presence of Mar Thomas Elavanal, Founding Chairman of Karunya Trust, who was given a short farewell as he attended his last annual day with the Trust. The event was filled with joy, gratitude, and a sense of unity, showcasing the talents and spirit of the beneficiaries while celebrating the legacy of the Trust's journey so far.



Celebrating Raksha Bandhan

CRPC members from the Gyansaathi Project celebrated Raksha Bandhan by visiting the Beggar's Home, where they tied handmade rakhis to the residents as a gesture of love and friendship. They also shared sweets and spent time interacting with the people there. The visit helped them understand the spirit of the festival, spreading care and happiness beyond their own families.



Onam Celebration



Onam was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the students. The festivities began with the creation of a beautiful Pookalam, crafted by the children with the help of Kerala interns. Bright, colorful flowers were used to make intricate patterns, encouraging teamwork and creativity.

A traditional Onam meal was served on banana leaves, featuring a variety of vegetarian dishes that everyone enjoyed together, fostering a strong sense of community and togetherness.

The celebration offered children a joyful experience while helping them appreciate the cultural richness and spirit of unity that Onam represents.

"We had a great time and felt inspired by the enthusiasm of kids in spite of all the odds that they face. We will come back soon. Lots of love to the kids."

-Nikhil and Team (KORA Management)

