

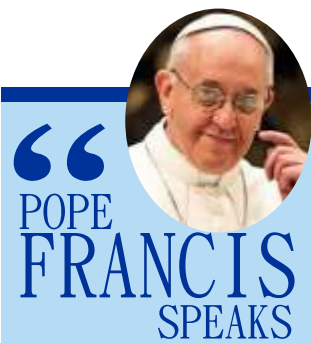
Our Vision: "A just and harmonious society rooted in the gospel values of love, freedom and peace."

Our Mission: "To restore the dignity and potential of marginalized individuals and communities by facilitating access to holistic education, health, livelihood, and stable shelter."

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PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

JULY, 2016



"If something is true, it is good and beautiful; if it is beautiful; it is good and true;... True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life."

In Mercy of God... forming generations

We are in the extraordinary jubilee year of mercy. It is a matter of great joy that parishes are organizing, many activities of mercy during this year. Through them, we are presenting to the world, the face of mercy of the Father in heaven. This grace-filled moment also concerns you, dear people. I encourage you to take an active part in this celebration in your parishes and to realize that each of you is a child of God. Pope Francis in one of his sermons said, "There are three languages: the language of the head, heart and hands; education must go forward by these three ways. He added, "The three languages must be in harmony: that the child, the student think about what he feels and does, feel that

which he thinks and makes, and do that which he thinks and feels." Knowledge in all of its forms is one of the most important factors for individual fulfillment and success in society. Education plays a decisive role in the creation, dissemination and use of knowledge. They form an important foundation for innovation at all levels, which in turn drives the economic, social and cultural development of a country. As part of the Year of Mercy, the Eparchy intends to establish higher education financial fund- "SUVIDHYA". The project aims at helping those students who are unable to pursue their dreams in higher studies, due to financial limitations. Let us remember that when we help one student, we are

forming a generation and through it, building the Church and the nation. SUVIDHYA is under Karunya Trust Social Action Department of our Eparchy. The success of this project vastly depends of the corpus of amount that we gather from your substantial contributions. So I earnestly request you to generously contribute to this project. May the Lord bless your journey towards the Holy Door. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your steps and enlighten you.

I congratulate winners of HSC & SSC examinations and the supporting teams and Karunya Trust for making History. May God bless you all.

Mar Thomas Elavanal
Bishop of Kalyan



EDITORIAL

Be SMART

In the letter writing class, teacher instructed her students of 5 th Std, "Imagine that you are owner of a big company and writing a letter to your manager regarding your future plan". Children began preparation of their letter. But little Sonu was very cool and was looking outside the window. What happened Sonu? Why are you not preparing letter? Teacher asked. "I am waiting for my Secretary" Sonu replied.

We have heard from many that today's children are "SMART". Yes they are. As Kahlil Gibran says "...they have their own thoughts...For life not backward nor carries with yesterday".

Karunya Trust is engaged in leading 3650 "SMART" children from slums and rural tribal villages of Maharashtra towards Good, Beautiful and Truth. And the witnesses are: 17 SMART children from slums of Govandi passed their 10 th Std in June 2016. Most of them are first generation learners. We witnessed their "SMARTNESS" in their struggles, not even having basic

amenities of life, they fought for their goal. Yes it's a HISTORY in the slums of Govandi. 15 children from Project Savli, a project for Children at high risk, too proved their "SMARTNESS" beyond their life situations.

Goodness of so many "SMART" hearts - Karunya Trust team, supporters, volunteers, well wishers, communities and parents brought out SMARTNESS in them. Mahatma Gandhi said, "By education, I mean drawing out the best in child and man in body, mind and spirit". The best in a person, in body, mind and spirit, makes her or him "SMART". Let your SMARTNESS bring best in others...

I dedicate this issue of Karunya News to my friends (staff) at Karunya Trust. I bow my head before their dedication and love to humanity, walking extra miles beyond all obstacles... May the one who began a good work among us bring to completion... In Christ Jesus

Fr. Paul
Kunduparambil
Director



I am because of you...

Heartfelt thanks to one and all... for your prayers, support and encouragement...

Karunya Trust - Project Gyansaathi SSC Passed Children 2016



Project GYANSAATHI began in 2011 to support 100 children at High Risk from Govandi slums. Today the project supports 325 children. In five years time there are few unforgettable mile stones - 17 students passed their 10th std Exam under National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in June 2016 and four of them are appointed at Gyansaathi as Teachers. In five years 451 drop out children are admitted to regular schooling, 213 students provided with various skill development courses, 105 mothers learned to read and write under the project.

Karunya Trust - Project Savli HSC Passed Children 2016



SSC Passed Children 2016



Project SAVLI began in 2013 with 100 children at high risk. Out of which 12 students from the project passed their SSC board exam in March 2016 and 3 of them passed HSC. Today the project supports 800 children from S, M East and T ward of Bombay Municipal Corporation. The objective of the project is to empower children at High Risk by availing opportunities to access better quality life.

Our Board Members: Bp. Thomas Elavanal, Msgr. Immanuel Kadankavil, Msgr. Jacob Porathur, Lion Dr. Ashok Mehta, Mr. Babu Joseph, Dr. Vatsala Trivedi, Mr. Thomas Mathew, Dr. Nilufer Ahmed, Dr. Joseph Aprain, Fr. Justin Kallely, Fr. Lijo Mullonkal, Mrs. Rose Joseph, Fr. Paul Kunduparambil

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Layout & Design: Roy Thomas



URBAN

Thank you to all the amazing staff at Karunya Trust & Gyansaathi for your extraordinary hard work, dedication and commitment. Your work is making such significant difference to so many lives, and each & everyone of you are such inspirational people & the best role models. I can't thank you enough!

Roxanne Furnell, Australia
(Volunteer from, Atma)



Gyansaathi Premier League (GPL)



Gyansaathi Premier League was conducted at RBK Ground, Shivaji Nagar. GPL was organized with the objective of team building & team work among children. 120 children participated in the event. Students showed keen interest to play this cricket tournament. Gyansaathi

team was amazed by the sporting talent that some of the children exhibited. There were 4 eliminating rounds, semi finals and finals. It was a pleasing experience to see some of the young members of the school giving a tough fight to the seniors. The day ended with Prize distribution ceremony. Children enjoyed themselves playing with

their team mates and the opponent team. Such sports activities make children physically and mentally active. It plays a vital role in reducing stress and bringing optimism in life.

Volunteer sports Coaches are welcome to Gyansaathi
Interested volunteers may write to:
karunyatrustkdsa@gmail.com.

A dream came true



My name is Kismat Jahan. I am studying at Gyansaathi since 2 years. I have studied in Urdu medium till 9th std and then I dropped out of school. I was passionate about studies since the beginning. However, I was unable to fulfill my dream to be educated due to financial crisis at home. Then, I joined Gyansaathi. Initially,

everything was so new to me. After clearing Level C exams of NIOS (National Institute Of Open Schooling), I got promoted to 10th std. This was the most awaited time for me. There were 8 students in my batch. When we got our text books, we all were so shocked to see that we had so much to study in such less time. We doubted our capability to grasp all this. Teachers boosted our confidence and motivated all of us. Time passed away so soon and then it was time for our 10th std exams. I will never forget the painstaking efforts it took to reach this level.

After completion of exams, I felt extremely happy and relaxed. We managed to study the whole portion in a matter of 6 months. That is something I feel proud of. Teachers had put lot of efforts in teaching us the whole portion. With blessings of Almighty and our teachers, our 10th std exams went well and I passed in 10th Std.

I joined Gyansaathi as a teaching faculty after 2 months. I never thought I would be a teacher here. I wish that I could be a good teacher and friend for children like me. I truly relish the time I spend at Gyansaathi as a teacher.

I was on top of the world...



My name is Rabiya Sultana. I had a deep interest to study, however I was helpless. I didn't know to read nor write. I used to remain at home whole day and help my mother in household chores. Once it so happened that, a teacher from Gyansaathi came to my door step and asked

me to join Gyansaathi, a center that teaches children who are dropouts. I thought to myself that it would be a great loss if I missed this opportunity to build my future. So, I joined Gyansaathi. Initially, everything was so new for me that I used to feel uncomfortable. I was put in Swar Group. I fell, I rose, I made mistakes, I learnt. Teachers were truly motivating and patient with me. I liked coming to Gyansaathi. Due to my progress in learning, I was put in Level C under NIOS. I cleared my C Level exams, and then I was admitted in 9th std. I had a

hard time understanding Maths. Then, I cracked my 9th std exams. Finally, I was promoted to 10th std. Deepak sir was our tutor in 10th std. We all studied hard for our 10th std board exams. After appearing my 10th std exams, I joined as a teacher at Gyansaathi. I never thought in my dreams that I could be a teacher. When I was appointed as a teacher, I was on top of the world. I always wished to be a teacher and I am happy that I am appointed as a teacher. I enjoy teaching children. I am trying my level best to be a good guide and hope to never disappoint my teachers.

Karunya Trust- Transforming Lives.

I have worked with Karunya trust for the past one year in a project called Gyansaathi. It has been a turning point of my life. The journey began as a part time volunteer and then turned as a full time employee. In the beginning, it was hard for me to accept the children as they were dressed in tattered clothes. However, that was not a barrier for me to get close to them as the children were warm hearted and ever loving. While going for community visits, I could see the pathetic living conditions of the children. They do not have houses of their own, no toilets, and no potable water etc. In addition to this, they

belong to M- Ward which has received much publicity for criminal records. Despite the hard knocks of life, the children are filled with talent like singing, dancing, sketching, making toran, applying mehendi, candle, diya, lamp making, tailoring etc. They have big dreams. They are like the flower-Lotus, the most beautiful flower, whose petals open one by one and only grow in the mud. They just need a hand to be stretched out to lift them up from their murky conditions. Gyansaathi has been working hard to give them a better life through provision of Supplementary nutrition, Education,

Health camps, Vocational-guidance, Psycho-social care etc. I feel proud to have been associated with Karunya Trust and serve people. The best thing that happened to me was that I decided to listen to the voice of my heart and take up Masters in Social work (MSW) as my career. Though I have resigned from work due to this reason, I earnestly wish that the good work of Karunya trust continues. Kudos to Gyansaathi and Karunya aTrust.



Report by
Joshiya Joseph

Learning through leisure... Leisure in learning



A 3 day fun camp called Gyansaathi Got Talent was organized for all Gyansaathi children. Around 150 kids took part in this vacation camp. Activities like one minute to fame, collage making, solo and group dance, solo singing, action songs, games etc were conducted at the

center. Fr. Shaiju Kattayath inaugurated this event.

During this camp, kids showed curiosity and deep interest to participate in each activity. On the 3rd day, prizes were distributed to the winners of all events by KNH donor Mr. Jurgen & Fr. Paul Kunduparambil. This

program gave a platform to our Gyansaathi children to exhibit their talents.

Pope Francis said, "Do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you. Do not be afraid to dream of great things".

Reported by
Somnath Rout

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS:

Corporates:- Deutsche Bank, HCDI, PHFI,GEAH, Future Children, O.N.G.C, Rashmika, Habitat,(Samsung,Woi,DOW,TATA), CARITAS INDIA,KNH.

Agencies/Association:- Miss.Kamalika, United Way Of Mumbai, St. Michael Medical Trust-Mahim,Basilica of our Lady of the Mount- Bandra,Fr.Jeeson,Reetha Die Works, Fr. Jomet Vazhayil, Fr Paul Thiruvannamala Memorial, Department of Social Works Vimala College-Trissur,NIELSEN INDIA- Vikhroli, St Thomas Catholic Church- Virar, Citytech Marine Pvt .Ltd., Amala Matha Church -Mulund, St. Joseph's Church- Powai,

Individuals:- Ajay Thomas - Kalyan W,Francis- Worli, Rosy Paul- Thilak Nagar, Rose Joseph- Vikhroli, Rita Sijo- Powai,K.D. Jose-Mulund W,Vigi John- Dombivli, Reena John- Goregaon, Sherin Ukkar- Antophill, Rosiline C Thomas, Roopesh, P V Jose-Mulund W, Binoy Thomas-Shree nagar,Annie George- Kalina, K.P. Paul- Powai,Varghese- Assisinagar, E,A Joseph- Nasik Road, Babu Peter- Andheri E, Daina Menezes- Andheri W, Biju Joseph- Andheri, Sneha Paulson-Dahisar E, Jose K K-Ulhasnagar, Biju Mathew - Andheri, Wilfred R Menezes- Andheri W, Geeta Bijlaney- Andheri W, Roopali Kaushik- Andheri W, Immaculate Nagmoti-Andheri W, Valina Ferria- Bandra W, Nisha Varghese- Andheri W, Nafisa Anthony_ Vasi W, Suparna Baghi- Andheri W, Surayya Farooqui- Andheri-W, Shakeela Choudhary- Andheri W, Suja Joseph - Andheri W, Sweety Vinan - Virar W, Jule John- Andheri W, Raji Parakkal- Andheri W, Nazish Sayed- Andheri W, Manisha Vikas- Goregaon E, Naznen Ali- Andheri W, Samruddhi Sarmalkar- Mahim W, Reji Johnson T- Thilak Nagar,Theresa Thomas- Chembur, Gypson George- Colaba, Sheelal S- AndheriM-ry Vadakoot, Rosily Poulse- Kanjurmarg E, Clara Riji Amil- Mulund E, Katherine Mathew- Borivali W, Mariamma George - Malad W, James Sebastian- Tikujiniwadi, Jolly Mathew- Panvel, Johny P V - Anushakthi Nagar, Tom K Joseph - Powai, Arpit Chheda-Santacruz, Kshitij Desai- Santacruz, Gourav Rane- Santacruz, Raul Dipak- Santacruz, Antony Varied- Powai, Thomas Malayakkal- Mulund E, Alice Dyson Chandy- Assisi Nagar, K D Jose- Mulund W, Anu Varghese- Assisi Nagar, Festi Johnson - Kalyan W, Leelama Paul-Borivali, Reena - Andheri E, Sreekanth Bhaviripudi- Dadar W, Reji Johnson - Tilak Nagar, Xavier-Poinsur, John Jacob- Quatar, Daisy Varghese- Borivali W, Nisha Austin- Powai, Rinu Zachariah-Ulhasnagar, N A Jose- Nallasopara, Jojo George- Nallasopara, Mini Paulachan- Boisar,



URBAN

Brilliant work happening at Gyansaathi! Keep up the passion...

Jignesh Thakkar & Deepak Chincholi
KPMG



“We are unworthy servants; we have done which were bound to do”



Kalyan Diocesan Social Action - Karunya Trust Staff with Mar. Thomas Elavanal

Love... “be devoted to” is the synonym in action of all our Projects. We owe it to the people who work with Karunya Trust (KT). The branches of KT spread out providing shade to so many lives. These branches are the KT staff.

This is an opportune moment to write about them. Many visitors to the varied Projects have appreciated the love emanating from our Projects. And this is the beauty of our KT staff. Simple people, ambitious... not for

money but to lift up the downtrodden, love in action and in sync with the beneficiaries and their lives. They belong to different religions but have imbibed the Gospel values of love, fellowship and peace into their lives. They come from far,

travel hours, loiter through the dirtiest parts of Amchi Mumbai, linger into TB infested shanties, walk into rodents infested lanes... playing a role into making India truly “Incredible India”. They are the uncrowned heroes of not only Karunya Trust but of our country as they

bring about change into the lives of the needy. Our Projects vary from working with the villagers to the HIV/AIDS infected and into the largest dumping ground of Asia, Govandi. They face challenges from Slumlords to Pests, from being Infected to Affected

with high risk diseases, cultural and religious differences but still shine out... Karunya Trust salutes all its Staff for being the “Unsung Heroes” of our Country. Thank you and God bless you.

**Report by Team
Karunya Trust**

Project SAVLI, Supported by Deutsche Bank



Children from project Savli with Fr. Joju Arackal, Forane Vicar, Mr. Linus Chettiyar, Deutsche Bank, Mangesh Pawar Corporator - Ward 105, Village Road Bhandup, Mr. Sachin Shivaji Ward president, Fr. Paul K., KT Director, Fr. Jomet, Nodal Incharge, Sr. Betty, Senior Program Manager, together with Karunya Team

The Colours of Summer



Savli project focuses on the empowerment of the 800 children who are at High Risk, in the age group of 6 to 18 years and also their families, within a period of 3 years.

We initiated by organizing summer camp for around 65 children at Christ the King Church, Bhandup for 2 days. The main activities during this camp were arts & crafts, audio-visual and games sessions. Children not

only got many new ideas but also had fun throughout this camp.

Children made an inspiring Tree filled up with their write ups assisted by Ms. Steffi Counselor, focusing on their ambitions and also in the form of message to the society mainly reflecting on saving girl child and protecting environment. Group activities and interactions motivated children to work in a team and helped in group bonding. They were

also oriented on water conservation through audio-visual sessions. Children also eagerly shared their views and comments on saving water. Children actively participated the camp



with zest and with full spirit and all were provided the Karunya Trust slogan stickers on “Save Water and Save Life”.

**Report by, Clinto Francis,
Coordinator**

The Princess of Dreams



I am Kiran P Navkar, and has been associated with Karunya Trust since the last 5 years. I am very glad to

be a part of this family. As and when I get the opportunity to visit office I am so impressed with the staff's warm hospitality, which makes me feel as if I am in my own family. With the support and equivalent inspiration from Karunya Trust I could score 74% in SSC and also achieved 76% in HSC. I was also lucky to get scholarship from Karunya in order to

bear my study expenses.

I extend my whole hearted gratitude to Deutsche Bank for sponsoring me and gifting me a bicycle, which benefitted my sister to go to school with much ease.

My dream is to become an IAS officer. Once again a big thanks from the core of my heart to Karunya Trust and Deutsche Bank for their support.

Global village in my Classroom...



I am Karuna Kashinath Bangare, I study in 10th at Shivbakt Ashram School Lavalee, Ambarnath taluka. I love my Ashram school very much. My school, has all the activities for student's growth. Our school teachers are hard working and their commitment brings every year 100% results. In my school a wonderful thing happened. With the support of Samsung, Karunya Trust has made it possible through furnished rooms, LED, very good seating arrangement, Smart board and 21 laptops in my school. I was very thrilled to use the smart class facility in our school where only tribal children study. We got the privilege to view and know the world closely. I know it will enhance our perception of the world and make us more open, I never ever could imagine that I would get a chance to handle a laptop, but Karunya Trust has made it possible through Samsung Company. My

teachers and students remain ever grateful to Samsung and Karunya Trust for unbelievable reality of our Ashram School”.

“Karunya Trust with the support of Samsung C & T facilitated by Habitat India, constructed two smart classrooms in Shivbakt Ashram School, Lavalee and Matruboomi High School, Ratholi, Ambarnath Taluka, benefitted more than 600 tribal students”

**Report By Sr. Shaila
Program Manager -
Rural Development**



4RURAL

Kudos to Karunya for the great work done for the society. Each and every team member is extremely passionate and committed towards their work. I feel blessed to be part of team for this project. Love to all students.

Arun Chaudhary
Piramal Enterprises Ltd.



Life is a great big canvas... throw all the paint on it you can...



The youth of St. Thomas Cathedral, Kalyan West under the leadership of V. Rev. Fr. Jacob Porathur and Fr. Frinto came to Kuradpada, a small village situated in the interiors of Badlapur. Youth says "Armed with cans of paint and a heart full of love, we, decided to put some colour in these villagers lives". A total of 32 youth participated in the 'House painting' initiative of Karunya Trust. "I got a great opportunity to help those who are really needy... being a student I couldn't help financially but still could help out in the best manner suitable to my age and maturity...

thanks to Kalyan Cathedral Youth and Karunya Trust which gave me the opportunity to make my personal contribution..", said Rochelle, a youth executive. Thanks Karunya Trust for giving

Hand and stand apart.

46 youth from Malad Zone under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Jesto Menachery and Mother Merina marched into the interior villages of Badlapur. "We divided ourselves into 4 groups and took up 4 houses and started painting the exterior walls. All the houses were painted by 1:30. The villagers were extremely kind and they always greeted us with a smile and were ready to help us in whichever way possible. Our clothes



us this opportunity to touch people's lives...for giving us the opportunity to "Lend a

were covered with paint and our faces were plastered with smiles. It was a good day despite

Skills for Life...



Karunya Trust started tailoring courses for 40 young Tribal girls who were dropouts from the school and young married women. They expressed their desire to excel in ladies clothes like blouse and chudidar / salwar. After 5 months of training, 5 of them purchased the second hand machines and many of them are earning. The young girls are given life skill training often.

the heat as we helped make a difference in the villagers lives. Thanks to Karunya Trust. Here are some experiences as quoted by the youth:

Simmi George "It was indeed a good experience going there and doing something totally different from our daily routine of work. Aakhir daag ache hote hai!!"

Sajan Stanly says "Somehow realized the importance of our house in comparison to the houses built there. Happy to hear that people are grateful to Karunya Trust for providing them a shelter and education.

"Simply amazing to see the smiles on the faces of the villagers, to do something that actually means a lot to those in need. I feel grateful and blessed and am looking forward to more of such opportunities to aid the poor." Anju Joseph

Report by, Bhagawan Animator

I have a healthy baby



I am Sangeeta Sanjay Mukane, I stay at Devloli Katkari wadi, Ambarnath taluka. My husband and I work on bricklins after the monsoon. Since we are poor we hardly eat any nutritious food, our staple food is rice and tamarind curry with chilly powder. I have a three year daughter who is anaemic and receives nutritious supplement from Karunya Trust.

I was pregnant with my second child and I was very anaemic, Karunya Trust's animator Mrs. Sangita took me for check up, since then I started taking HB injection and tonics. It improved my health and I have delivered a healthy baby boy. Today we do not have any health problems. I am grateful to Karunya trust for timely medical help.

Report by, Sangeeta Animator

Literacy: a weapon against exploitation.



As per census 2011 female literacy in Maharashtra is 69.87 %. At the same time among scheduled tribes (Sts) it is 59% only Eight years of Karunya Trust experience among rural

population reveals that no empowerment is sustainable without education. As results Karunya Trust initiated functional literacy in 16 tribble villages of Karunya Trust

I am deeply impressed...



Barari Project of Ambarnath Block is supported by Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH), Germany. It was a joyous moment for sponsored children of the project to meet Gerd Heidchen, Donor and sponsorship head,

KNH. He express his heart "Thank you so much for the wonderful work you do! I am deeply impressed by the field visit meeting the women and the children and hearing about challenges and achievements. Thank you especially for your

generous hospitality. I do appreciate that a lot and I will be able to take home many good impressions about the country and about the projects and about all wonderful partners. May God Bless you and the children!"

Impressive experience!



Thank you for your warm hospitality! Your work is very very interesting, really good work you do without looking at religious back ground of the people. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to get this impressive experience! Wish you all the best". Ms. Christine, Brunen, Germany.

Friends from Hong Kong



Visits by Professors from Hong- Kong Social work university to Karunya Trust rural projects to know the empowerment of women in Rural India. "Appreciate the Empowerment nature of your work". Friends from Hong Kong



4RURAL

Very fascinating place, I am sure its done because of the great sacrifice and dedication you each have contributed. God bless you and your efforts...

Fr. Jerryn D'souza
St. Joseph Church
Vikhroli



PLE Impact: Tribal Community achieved their food rights.



It was a day of celebration for the Kathkari community because they finally achieved their rights to get quota of food grains from Gram sabha and the administration which were earlier not distributed according to government rules.

The landless tribal

community of Pachwamail hamlet of 16 Kathkari households has always been dependent on Public Distribution System (PDS) for food grain. All these households belong to Antyodaya, the category for the poorest of the poor made in PDS, which entitled them a monthly

quota of 35 kilograms of food grain.

Maharashtra government had designated Kathkaris as one of the two 'most-backward' communities of the state.

Mr.Namdevwaghe said that the shopkeeper of PDS outlet in Kamba had refused to give food grain

to them according to Antodaya card. "We were not aware about this Antyodaya card quota. We learnt that Antodaya holder get 35 kg food grains per month in a meeting organized through Karunya Trust Awareness program said Namdev.

Karunya Trust (KT) has been organizing 'common' meetings for empowering them and making them self-reliant. "As we are illiterate, we are ignorant about our rights and entitlements. The PDS shopkeeper exploited our illiteracy by manipulating records and not releasing eligible quota of foodgrains to us", said Manjulapawar a Kathkari woman who depends on PDS for meeting the food needs of her three children. In one of

the 'common' meetings, one community member informed that he was not given minimum food grain because he did not know about it. Several other community members also shared that they were also not given food grains. "When I heard that other families were not given food grains, I also informed the Common meeting that my family had not received minimum food grain for several months because we did not have any idea", said Gangubai Mukane, a laborer whose only source of income is wage labour.

"When we learned from Karunya Trust, we decided to raise the issue in Gram Sabha. Then Kamba grampanchayat conducted Gram Sabha on the 6th March 2016. Among the 193 people who

participated were 63 women and 130 men. It was a general Gram Sabha. Pachavamail Hamlet women participated actively in Gramsabha and presented the rationing issue.

"Villagers came in groups and pressurized the shopkeeper and also warned him to release food grains according to government rules, and in few days we started getting our quota of 35kg per month. We realized that we can get our rights only when we come together and demand for it" said Shakuntala.

*PLE - People Led Empowerment

Report By, Pravin Pandit
PLE Coordinator

Tribal people approached government scheme.

Tribal community demand (MNREGA) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and they got! happened in Kelni Hamlet Kalyan block Thane district. In the landless tribal community of Kelni hamlet of Thakar 35 households were always dependent on daily wages. Maharashtra government had designated Thakur one of the 'most-backward' communities. Most of the people are brick kiln workers as well

as landless. "We don't have any source of income generating without daily wage work", said Gurnath Nirgude a local Leader. When we don't have any work we migrate and stay there for six months. Karunya Trust (KT) work in this village organizing common meeting for empowering them and creating awareness to be self reliant. "As we are illiterate and ignorant, we didn't know about government scheme and Benefits. The Grampanchayat has

various schemes for our benefit but we are not aware about it" said Sunita Waghchaware a laborer who rely on daily wage. "We are tribal so are not able to avail the schemes. Several times other people are manipulating us because they are politically powerful". In one of the 'general meetings, KT Animator created awareness on Panchayat Raj Institute (PRI) and various government schemes. After the awareness people approached the Grampanchayat and



Opening door of Mercy to the lives of many...



Under the leadership of Mar. Thomas Elavanal, 46 pastoral council members of our Diocese expressed solidarity in the year of Mercy by their visit to Warachi Wadi Village, in Ambarnath Block on 12th March 2016.

Warechiwadi village is two hours' drive from the Cathedral Church and is one of the initial villages that the diocese took up for development under the social action

mission.

Mar Thomas Elavanal in his speech, expressed his gratitude to the villagers for their warm welcome. "Through the care, affection and warmth of all present here, I could see how much you appreciated the efforts put by our diocese to help you grow" the Bishop continued. He thanked them for accepting our initiatives.

Rev. Fr. Paul Painadath conveyed his message to the people of the village in

Marathi. On importance of education he said that education is like a plane and each one of us are the pilots and that with the help of education we can achieve unimaginable greatness and fly high in life like the plane.

The members added cheers to the hamlet people by their presence and by contributing financially from their generosity to purchase chickens for six families (Rs.10000/- per family) and goats for five families (Rs.20, 000/- per family). It was a day of celebration for the entire hamlet people to have the pastoral council members in their homes and wadi. They expressed their joy by performing the cultural program for the team.

Thank you for organizing such a great venture, they did their best. Also, thank you for building up this community. May Almighty Give you Strength & Way to bring up more and more... says Mrs. Celine Joseph

Report by, PKX Thomas
Pastoral counsel secretary

enquired about the MNREGA scheme and Applied for Gram panchayat. Five people filed application on 21st February. Since they

approached within 15 days of time they got the sock pit construction scheme under MNREGA. "Now we are happy because we approached

grampanchayat for government scheme and got benefits", said Kamal.

Report By, Pravin
Pandit

Self Help Approach (SHA) Impact: Women stops liquor



We are members of Syali SHG from Thakurpada. The liquor issue was disturbing us so long but we had no courage to oppose it. Under SHA

approach, through goal setting process our unity was strengthened and we collectively decided to set the goal to eradicate liquor issue of the hamlet. We presented the issue in Gram

Sabha. On 26th January 2016, we submitted application to the Gram Panchayat members. The Members accepted the application, considered this matter and conducted the meeting with hamlet women and passed a resolution. They took this issue on priority and all SHG women; Sarpanch and Police Patil went to the Police station to submit the application to stop the alcohol in this Hamlet. Police took immediate action on the liquor maker and stopped the sale of liquor.

This is the impact of Goal setting process. Women are starting to discover their potentials and self-worth, and success of their own empowerment.

Report By, Nishikant
Rannaware

