

# MOCDS



## News & Views

**MONTFORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**



**Say  
NO  
to  
Child Labour**

The Newsletter  
of the

**Montfort Community  
Development Society**

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Editor

**Bro. Patrick s.g.**

Editorial Board

**Alttaf M. Haris  
Mrs. Nazreth Felista  
Greeto Racharia  
Mrs. Sayee Ramesh**

Project Office

**17, SBI Colony  
Shastri Nagar  
Adyar - 600 020  
Chennai  
India**

☎ : 044  
2491 4078  
2446 0526

E-mail  
[mcds10@yahoo.com](mailto:mcds10@yahoo.com)

Website  
[www.mcdschennai.org](http://www.mcdschennai.org)

# PROLOGUE

*This issue of MCDS News and Views covers a variety of topics with special emphasis on Child Labour.*

*On popular demand, particularly from institutions, MCDS News and Views will continue to carry inspiring quotes and interesting facts on environment, sustainable living and conservation of natural resources and habitat.*

**Thank you,**

**TALKINGTech FOUNDATION, New Zealand for your partnership and patronage.**

**MCDS seeks partnership under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).  
We do need partnerships.**

## **Readers are Welcome to Share their Views**

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Child labour is a betrayal of every child's rights as a human being and it is an offence against human civilization. It impairs health, alters their very perspective of society that they live in.

One has only to visit certain construction sites to see first hand the plight of working children. Quite a few are forced by circumstances to take up a full time job at this early age. Major part of the day is spent working. If families of these children are 'Bonded labourers' of unscrupulous builders their plight is much worse. It is a known fact that once a bonded labourer it is for life and in many cases, it goes on to the next generation.

The employment of minors has advantages to the employer. The wages paid are significantly lower than the minimum wage of adults. Social security for child labourers is not essential and they can be fixed. The biggest advantage? Child labourers cannot set up a trade union.

No child likes to work and when it is forced, it impairs health and disrupts education. It is a cruel world. A child may be as young as twelve and at work along with the adults, see children of his/her age happily going to school every morning. Is it his fault that he is working instead of being with them? Is it any merit of the latter that they are not working?

Poverty, improper family background and non-skilled education are the basic roots of child labour. In general, the minors are not only least protected labour sector, but also the most exploited.

Children are not for work. They are at a stage in life when they are innocent, easily led and are happy with simple joys of life.

***Childhood is once ... do not make it "too much"***

**Bro. Patrick s.g.**

Director, MCDS

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry .

— **Thomas Fuller**

## Childhood Is Once – Do Not Make It 'Too Much'

Child labour is harmful, it threatens the child's physical, psychological, emotional and social developments because...

- ✓ Children are **too young** to be doing this kind of work
- ✓ The hours and work are **too long**
- ✓ Children are **too small** for the tasks and tools involved
- ✓ They are paid **too little**
- ✓ The work is **too hard** for a small young body
- ✓ They have **too much** responsibility
- ✓ The work is **too dull** and repetitive & does not stimulate their development
- ✓ The working environment is **too dangerous.**
- ✓ They are **too un free**; there has been no choice about whether or not to work.

### “How You Can Help”...

**There is a great deal that each one of us could do to be part of a positive change. You could use the following list as a guide and start to make an unforgettable difference in the life of another human being.**

1. Do not employ a child in your home, organization, factory or industry. Offer the same job to the child's parents instead, and pay them at least the minimum statutory wages.
2. Ensure that even the people you sub-contract work to, do not employ child labour.
3. If you know of someone who is employing a child, express yourself clearly to that person. Explain why child labour is wrong and why it is important for us adults to ensure that children receive their basic rights to education, health, play and recreation.
4. Intervene in instances of child abuse or exploitation and report the matter to relevant authorities (such as the Special Cell for Children and Women in your city) or non-government agencies. Contact them whenever necessary.

5. Refuse to be part of any system that exploits children. Do not buy goods made using child labour. Make an effort to locate manufacturers that do not use child labour.
6. Join and support voluntary agencies working against child labour as a volunteer or with your donations.
7. Ensure that all children go to school, including the children of your domestic help. Support them by helping to pay their fees, buying books and through coaching. Ensure that they do not drop out.
8. Sensitize parents who send their children to work, regarding the importance of education and how it can benefit not just their children but them as well.
9. Demand betterment of government and municipal schools by lobbying with authorities in your area.
10. Do not vote for parties lacking a definite anti-child labour stand and demand effective legislation to eradicate the child labour.
11. Get more people involved in the problem by spreading awareness of the issues affecting them. Form citizen committees or groups in your area and become 'watchdogs' to safeguard the rights of all children around you.
12. Encourage children to get to know children not as privileged as themselves. Sensitize them to be aware of issues and take action

## **Just For Laughs**

### **Child's View of Marriage**

When Ruby expressed difficulty in grasping the concept of marriage, her father decided to pull out the wedding photo album, thinking visual image would help.

One page after the other, he pointed out the bride arriving at the temple, the entrance, the wedding ceremony, the priest, the reception etc.

**“Now do you understand?” he asked.**

**“I think so...” she said, “Is that when mommy came to work for us?”**

We must do everything in our power to slow down global warming.

The science is clear. The global warming debate is over. **- Arnold Schwarzenegger**

# Disability Rehabilitation

Acceptance of children with disabilities and their integration into society are among the major concerns of MCDS, along with creating awareness on causes and possible prevention of disabilities. Three centres with about 100 children and youth with disabilities are taken care of through “Community Based Rehabilitation”(CBR) program.

The philosophy behind CBR is to integrate disabled people into the main stream society rather than create special environment from them. The involvement of family and the community are integral part of this concept.

Systematic evaluation of members as individuals with their teachers and family are periodically carried out in partnership with Vidya Sagar, Chennai.

MCDS is privileged to have access to expertise from “**Vidya Sagar**”, a NGO working with children and adults with Cerebral palsy, Autism, Mental Retardation, Learning Disabilities and Multiple Disabilities. The program includes goal setting for all stake holders.



An Evaluation by Vidya Sagar

## Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) Managing Director visits MCDS

The TNSCB is the Tamil Nadu Government agency that manages all aspects pertaining to its slums and slum dwellers. It has become all the more significant since thousands of families from the city slums are being relocated to places outside the city limits.

Plagued by a host of problems such as grossly inadequate living space provided, unemployment, access to liquor and drugs etc, etc face the TNSCB on a daily basis.

The present Managing Director, Dr. Palanisamy, I.A.S., spent quality hours visiting many of the MCDS programs on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014.

*Here is the pictorial account of the visit.*



Dr. Palaniswamy, I A S  
at one of the 17 'Transit Schools'

... at one of the 3 'CBR' centres



You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

– Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TRSCB) Managing Director visits MCDS . . . .



Interacting with our senior coordinator, Ms. Nazareth Felista



With our Senior Citizens



Planning yet another CBR centre



With the 'Open School' students

Needless to say, his visit was a source of encouragement to all of us at MCDS. Subsequent to this visit, MCDS has decided to carry out a number of programs to benefit the thousands being relocated at a new settlement called Ezhil Nagar, Thoraipakkam.



## A "MULTI-MEDICAL CAMP" ORGANIZED

All the MCDS staff and Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Madras Besant Nagar along with a team of dedicated medical specialists organized an extremely useful medical camp on the morning of Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Over 200 persons took advantage of this initiative. On call were a Dermatologist, an Eye specialist, Diabetologist and General Physician .

*Here is a pictorial account of the same.*



Mr. Ashok, MLA of Velachery Constituency being welcomed



Let us see if you are diabetic



The MLA inaugurating the medical camp



Checking for general well-being



A little boy with the dermatologist



The team

## **An Eye Camp, in Partnership with Sankara Hospital**

Providing holistic health care to the underprivileged is among the priorities of MCDS. One of the major partners in providing health care is Sankara Hospital, Pammal, Chennai. This partnership is almost as old as MCDS itself. Once MCDS identifies the location and beneficiaries, the team from Sankara takes over. Their intervention consists of care of individuals through eye screening, medication, providing glasses and advise surgeries for those who need it. As for surgeries, it is the responsibility of families of the patient concerned to give their consent in writing. All services rendered are totally free of cost.



Going through the formalities  
for Eye Donation



Early detection



How is it ?

Minimise grass lawns in your yard because less grass means less water

# PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING FOR OUR YOUTH

Youth, all over the world, is a major factor for social change. They have much to contribute to the society and its development.



MCDS, through its various initiatives, empowers youth to become contributing members of the society.

One of the initiatives is providing Pre-Marital counseling for young men and women. It is an annual event spread over 10 weeks, covering as many topics.

The very first session for young men was on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The resource person was the ever popular counselor, Rev. Fr. Jerry s.j. Right from the word "go", he captured the attention of the free-spirited, restless young men. The session lasted for 80 minutes with the participants asking for more. The topics covered were ... Gender sensitivity, Economic literacy, Adapting to new situations, etc.



Fr. Jerry s.j. being welcomed



A session in progress



Rev. Fr. Rayappan s.j. with our youth

# Case Studies

**I am Shaliha Beevi. When I was a child our family migrated to Chennai city from Salem District to make a living. My father was and continues to be a daily labourer and my mother, a housewife.**



**Shaliha Beevi**

Thanks to the MCDS 'Transit School' teacher Mrs. Yasoda, I had the good fortune of joining the *MCDS Child Labour Rehabilitation Programme*. After a year of preparation, MCDS admitted me to the Corporation Primary School in my neighborhood, where I successfully completed Standard V. I am now at St. Antony's Higher Secondary School where I successfully completed my Standard X scoring a creditable 444 out of 500. I am now in Standard XI specializing in Business Maths. What next? I hope to become a Chartered Accountant.

I will always remain thankful to MCDS for what I am and will be and I hope to continue my association with it.



**Dorothy Helen**

**My name is Dorothy Helen and I am from Chennai.** Due to acute financial difficulties, I discontinued my studies in Standard XI and worked for nine years. It was at this time I came to know about "*Montfort Open School*" where after a year of preparation I successfully completed Standard XII. I am now a proud student of the very prestigious Stella Maris College, where I am pursuing my graduation in History and Tourism. I must do my Post Graduation studies and get a good job.

Needless to say, I and my family owe a great deal to Montfort Community Development Society (MCDS) for whatever I am.

The 10 warmest years have occurred in the 12 year period 1997-2008.

# Child Marriage . . . a Curse

Admit India is one of the leading developing countries in terms of economy and technology but continues to be struck in the throwbacks of social problems.

Child marriage is just one of the social evils with more than 39,000 child marriages happening in India everyday.

This problem is more in rural areas, in comparison with urban areas. The worst are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Early marriage challenges the basic rights of children to education, health, protection and development. It is a big threat to human rights and well being of children, especially girls. This evil practice is prevalent because a girl child is seen as not being a source of income, but a burden to the family. For the lower section of the society, poverty is seen as a major reason for child marriage- One mouth less to feed!



An End to  
"Early Child Marriage"  
demanded



Child Marriage

Recycled paper requires 64% less energy than making paper from virgin wood pulp, and can save many trees.

# MCDS Programs at a Glance

## A One-Day Training Camp :

A one-day training program for the MCDS staff was organized on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 very efficiently by Rev. Rayappan s.j. of the Regional Theological Centre, Chennai 600 004.

The trainees found it extremely useful.



## MCDS Open School:

This program is to help school drop-outs to catch up with their studies. Performance of the students in the recent public examination are as follows :

- Government exams held for Std. X in the month April 2014. *Eighteen students* appeared in the Government exams *Eleven students* have cleared all their papers.
- Government exams held for Std. XII in the month March 2014. *Six students* appeared in the Government exams *Four students* have cleared all their papers

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was as low as 190 ppm during the last Ice Age, about 21,000 years ago.

## MCDS Programs at a Glance . . . . . contd.

### Child Labour Rehabilitation 2014 - '15 :

After a month long survey of various slums of Chennai, a large number of child labourers have been identified and brought under seventeen "Transit Schools". The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) has willingly given the necessary permission to MCDS to manage these 'Transit Schools' to prepare the identified child labourers for admission to neighbourhood schools in June 2015. MCDS continues to manage the largest number of 'Transit Schools' for child labourers in the country.



### New – look CBR centres :

Thanks to friends and well-wishers. The two of the three CBR centres of our children with disabilities have been renovated and made more user-friendly.



# MCDS News & Views

## Tidbits

### 1. India ranks 135 on Human Development :

India ranked 135 out of 187 countries on the Human Development Index in UNDP's annual report 2014 released on 24th July. Human Development Index is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education and income indices to measure the well being of a country.

### 2. Only 15% of India's Child rape cases reach completed trial :

Only 15.3% of all cases relating to sexual offences against children in 2013 saw completion of trials in that year and the conviction rate for such crimes was low 31.5%, latest figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reveal. Nearly 85% cases of child rape continue to be pending in various courts across India, according to the report.

### 3. Poor sanitary conditions experienced throughout the country :

Children who live in unhealthy areas, with very poor sanitary conditions, in particular in places where there is a high rate of population, use outdoor spaces for their physiological needs, get sick easily. Surprisingly, a child who grows in India is much more likely to be malnourished compared to countries like Zimbabwe and Somalia.

## JUS 4 FUN

A young man was walking through a supermarket to pick up a few things when he noticed an old lady following him around. Thinking nothing of it, he ignored her and continued on. Finally he went to the checkout line, but she got in front of him. 'Pardon me', she said, "I'm sorry if my staring at you has made you feel uncomfortable. It's just that you look like my son, who I haven't seen in a long time".

"That's a shame" replied the young man. "Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Yes, she said, "as I am leaving, can you say Good Bye Mother! It would make me feel so much better."

"Sure" answered the young man. As the old woman was leaving, he called out "Good Bye Mother!" As he stepped up to the checkout counter, he saw that his total was \$127.50.

"How can that be?" he asked, "I only purchased a few things".

"Your mother said that you would pay for her" said the clerk.



# MCDS Welcomes Mr. Raymond Stark

MCDS was privileged to have Mr. Ray Stark, its friend and well wisher visiting us on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The quality hours spent were enriching both for Mr. Stark as well as all of us at MCDS.

*Here is a pictorial account of his visit.*



At the official function



At a classical dance at its best



Many happy returns of the day



A representative gathering



Award for good performance



Unbelievable performance by our senior citizens



Handing - over symbolic key of the new Autos to our Men SHGs



A gift to our Birthday Boy



With a 'special child' and her mother



" Thank you from the bottom of my heart "

The Antarctic Ice Sheet holds nearly 90% of the world's ice and 70% of its fresh water. If the entire ice sheet were to melt, sea level would rise by nearly 220 feet.



Our children miming with a message



Meditation . . . the best way to begin the day



Promoting wholesome food

# Photo Gallery



An awareness on Cancer for our women



Yet another consignment of Autos for our Men SHGs. A few more happy self-employed



Thank you TVS



Mr. Pugazhendi, State Coordinator, NCLP at a MCDS 'Transit School'

# India Shining? Which India?

India is home to the largest number of poor with one-third of the world's 1.2 billion extreme poor living here. It also had the highest number of under-five deaths in the world in 2012, with 1.4 million children dying before reaching their fifth birthday according to the UN Millennium Development Goals report 2014.

Commenting on the report ,minority affairs minister Najma Heptulla said its findings present a challenge to the government under Narendra Modi and that it would be able to surmount it. "Good days will come" she said." We don't have to be proud of what we have done. Poverty is the biggest challenge... I am sure when the next report comes, we will have done much better".

**According to the report almost 60% of the people who defecate in the open reside in India,which also accounted for 17% of global maternal deaths.**



## 1 rape every 30 minutes in India

Even as an increasing number of violent crimes against women , especially rape, continue to be reported across the country, a 13-year analysis of crime data reveals that a little more than 57 rapes were reported every day. This average over two rapes every hour, every day during the last 13 years. A total of 2,72,844 cases were reported across 28 States and 7 Union Territories in this period.

A Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative(CHRI)analysis of reported rape cases between 2001 and 2013 shows 2,64,130 rapes were reported in 28 States during the 13-year period – an average of almost 56 incidents of rape per day. In the 7 Union Territories, the average is almost 2 rapes per day. However, Delhi alone accounted for 8,060 reported incidents during this period.

Nature never goes out of style

# Sports Round - up

## The 2014 – Football World Cup



The Football World Cup 2014 was an unforgettable experience. It was all there: drama, heartbreak, glory, display of skills and brutality and new heroes making way for old ones. It was everything that a World Cup could be, making it one of the most interesting tournaments in the recent times.

History repeated itself as Germany beat Argentina 1-0, 24 years after the 1990 World Cup finals, which Germany, (then West Germany) won with a similar margin. The young German team played as one single unit. Argentineans seemed excessively dependent on a few individual stars.

Every game that was played showed up stars with extraordinary brilliance, to remain etched in the minds of viewers for years to come.

The enthusiasm for the World Cup shown across the subcontinent was truly tremendous. The media of all hues made maximum out of this spectacle.

India, ranked some 150<sup>th</sup> among football playing countries will not learn from the experience of World Cup. Football administrators and bureaucrats, in large numbers, visited Brazil during the World Cup.

Brazil had much to offer besides Football !!



They deserved to be World champs

## Sports Round - up . . .

## Common Wealth Games 2014

The Common Wealth Games are meant exclusively for countries under the Common Wealth. The 2014 Games were held at Glasgow, Scotland from 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014. The performance of the Indian Athletes were reasonably good, but definitely not as good as expected. The true test for the Indian sportsmen will be during the Asian Games coming up at South Korea from 19<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014.



Poor preparation after the 2012 London Olympics, budget cuts and lack of leadership affected India's medal tally at the Common Wealth Games. By the time the people responsible woke up for the Common Wealth Games, it was already 2014!

**We in India never learn from experience.**

After London 2012, things would have been in place for Rio 2016. We do not have a sustainable program from Olympics to Olympics. We go from one event to the other. **In fact, Tokyo 2020 should be planned now.**

If the government is spending money, it should focus on results. Results should be quantified on different sets of parameters. Medals will come on their own.

**The question is . . . Who sets the parameters ?**



## “Kabaddi”

### taken to an entirely new level

The Star Sports Pro Kabaddi League has taken the game of Kabaddi to an entirely new level. Kabaddi will definitely get its due recognition across the world sooner than people think, provided the media keeps up its support. The coverage of the League is excellent and stadiums are getting packed. The inaugural Kabaddi League was won by the Jaipur Pink Panthers on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> August. The presence of large crowds for all the matches, including some big names from Bollywood made a huge impact on the Pro Kabaddi League.



In any case, it is better to watch Kabaddi than the India-England Test Series. The less said about the latter, the better.



## The US Open 2014

The US Open is on, with so many new and exciting participants from all over the world. And what about India? Hardly any. Only the rich kids can afford to take up Tennis and when parents have money put away for next three generations, why sweat it out on the tennis court ?

# Heart Touching Story

A doctor entered the hospital in hurry after being called in for an urgent surgery. He answered the call ASAP, changed his clothes and went directly to the surgery block. He found the boy's father pacing in the hall waiting for the doctor. On seeing him, the dad yelled: ***“Why did you take all this time to come? Don't you know that my son's life is in danger? Don't you have any sense of responsibility?”***

The doctor smiled and said: ***“I am sorry, I wasn't in the hospital and I came as fast as I could after receiving the call..... And now, I wish you'd calm down so that I can do my work”***

***“Calm down?! What if your son was in this room right now, would you calm down? If your own son dies now what will you do??”*** said the father angrily.

The doctor smiled again and replied: ***“I will say what Job said in the Holy Book “From dust we came and to dust we return, blessed be the name of God. Doctors cannot prolong lives. Go and intercede for your son, we will do our best by God's grace”.***

***“Giving advises when we're not concerned is so easy”*** murmured the father. The surgery took some hours after which the doctor went out happy, ***“Thank goodness!, your son is saved!”*** And without waiting for the father's reply he carried on his way running. ***“If you have any questions, ask the nurse!!”*** ***“Why is he so arrogant? He couldn't wait some minutes so that I ask about my son's state”*** Commented the father when seeing the nurse minutes after the doctor left.

The nurse answered, tears coming down her face: ***“His son died yesterday in a road accident, he was at the burial when we called him for your son's surgery. And now that he saved your son's life, he left running to finish his son's burial.”***

***MORAL : Never judge anyone..... because you never know how their life is and what they're going through.***



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