

CONCERNS CONNECT

JANUARY 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings for the New Year 2018! We would like to take this time to thank you for your support over the last year. The year 2017 gave Concerns another opportunity to impact the lives of a new batch of young people and we look forward to 2018 in hope, to influence more lives. We take this opportunity to give you a brief update on the programmes from October 2017- December 2017.

Community College Update

Apart from the regular classes, unit tests were conducted. The students went for their internships, the ECE students went to nearby pre-schools and the OM students to the bank. Music classes were conducted for the ECE students which taught them how to learn music in a creative way. Also, Dr. Eileen carried out the medical check-up for all students.

Furthermore, there were a few special programmes that were conducted in the month of December. At the beginning of December, a team building programme was organised for the students in Visthar. Thirty eight students were part of the programme. The students learnt the concept of team building and their understanding of their own responses to a task, both individual and group tasks was enhanced. They also learnt about being united as a team. The day was filled with learning, activities and the students had an enjoyable time. During the month, a session on the hazardous nature of alcohol, smoking and drugs was conducted. The students were educated on the ways of avoiding and overcoming these harmful substances. An awareness session was also conducted by Jaya Karnataka Mahila Sanga on the different facilities the government provides for women safety and how to approach Mahila Sahayavani in times of crises and needs. A special session was conducted by Dr. Vasudevan on being happy in life. The quarter ended with the students celebrating Christmas and the college closed for the holidays.



Photo of an activity during the team building session in Visthar



Photo of the session conducted by Jaya Karnataka Mahila Sanga

Alumni Achievements:

- Rizween is promoted as H.R for ICS consultancy and is earning Rs. 15,000/- per month.
- Karthik's job has been confirmed in the BBMP Office as an Office Boy and he is earning Rs.7, 000/- per month.
- Divya's job is confirmed after 1 year in Wings Software and she is earning Rs. 10,000/- per month.
- Angel is working for Temptations Beauty Parlour as a Beautician and is earning a salary of Rs. 14,000/-.

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Pre-School Centre Update

Over the period of 3 months, in the five pre-school centres students progressed in their ability to identify English alphabets, colours and shapes. They also showed improvement in colouring and their ability to recite rhymes in three languages fluently. Their enthusiasm to attend the pre-school and participate has increased. Their mothers and teachers are happy to see them in a learning environment. In addition to their classes, the children celebrated Diwali by lighting lamps, bursting crackers and eating sweets. Children's' day was also celebrated in the pre-school centres on 14th November 2017. In December, the children celebrated Christmas by decorating the class and enacting a skit on the Christmas story.

Apart from the above, Dr. Eileen did a medical check-up in all centres for the pre-school children.



Photos of children in the different pre-school centres involved in their

Community computer, healthcare, sponsorship & savings programme update

Computer Programme Update:

- 41 young men and women completed the short term computer course with touch typing and internet while 22 students are currently being trained.
- In the tuition computer class. 16 students completed basic computing and 16 are ongoing.

Sponsorship Programme Update:

- The progress report was completed and submitted for 115 children.
- Two students, Sonikumari & Lokeshwari, successfully completed their athletic training through CIF in Kanteerava stadium.

Health Programme Update:

- For the tuition children, 10 sessions were conducted on de-worming, TB and dengue.
- Health awareness was conducted for 55 women in the community on topics like menstrual hygiene, TB, dengue and homemade nutritious food.
- An antenatal and postnatal awareness session was conducted for 41 women and they were referred to hospitals.
- Regular follow up was done with 29 TB patients.
- Awareness sessions were also held for parents on TB.

Savings Programme Update:

- Saving distribution: Monthly 42 women saved Rs.11, 000/- and totally Rs.1, 45,000 was distributed.
- Ongoing savings: 80 women in 5 groups are saving Rs.19, 000/- monthly.
- Bank accounts opened: Recurring deposit accounts for 6 saving groups and 15 women were opened.
- Awareness sessions on the importance of saving were also conducted for women in the community and parents of students.

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Photo of an awareness session in the community



Photo of an a sponsorship child

Stitch Craft Unit Update

An average of 15 women were trained in the unit until December.



Photo of the women during the training

Administrative Updates

- In October 2017, a fundraiser was organized by the Bangalore School of Music and Rs. 67,590/- was raised.
- Childcare centre 2 shifted to a new premises.
- A few old electronic items were sold as E- waste for Rs.10, 000/-.
- 3 Volunteers, Jenny, Jane and Anne were supporting the work of Concerns between October and December. We are grateful to them for all their efforts.
- The land has been cleared and we are in discussion with a builder to start the construction of the new premises.
- Concerns Universe Foundation has registered with NGO Darpan.
- One funding application has been submitted and we are waiting for a response.
