

# Narrative Report of MARIAS MAHLZEIT Project 2022-2023 & Empowerment of Migrant Communities

## Introduction

Marias Mahlzeit project has been sponsored by Rev. Fr. Sharat IMS, Rev. Fr. Jaisheel IMS, Rev. Fr. Jithesh IMS, Rev. Fr. Jose Andrews IMS and by the generous benefactors respectively. It is being executed by Pragati Social Service Society at Karnal. Karnal is a fast growing and developing district of Haryana state where more than a lakh



migrant families and their children are residing over at different urban slum areas for their survival.

These migrant labourers are occupied as domestic maids, construction workers, road workers, rickshaw pullers, brick-kiln workers, bonded laborers and so on. Their children mostly are left alone at

home with their younger siblings to be looked after by them. They don't have any means to get educated, they lacked proper food, sanitation and basic amenities. In this context Pragati Social Service Society intervened in their struggles of life and empowered them, assisted them to live a better dignified life, provided them non-formal education, nutritious food, uniform, study materials, clothing, conducted awareness programs and motivated them to live courageously with hope.



## Pragati Nonformal Education Centers

There are four Nonformal Education Centers opened for the preliminary education of the children of migrants at Narsi Village, Sector- 32 and Budhakhera in Karnal. All these areas come under sub-urban parts of Karnal. These migrant workers are settled on footpath, sectors and free



space of Haryana urban developing land. They are living in the temporary sheds built by themselves.

The parents daily go for the manual jobs available and earn for their

survival. Once parents are gone for the work their children are left alone, scattered and aimlessly spent time in quarreling, begging, rag-picking, even go for the child labour as well.

In this situation making school shed was very necessary for bringing scattered children together and initiated them to preliminary



studies. Through the support of local civil authority and well-wishers four school sheds were made in order to conduct informal classes for them. In deed it was big challenge to collect them, attract them and teach them to be disciplined. PSSS staff walked extra mile, took keen interest as well as utilized their energy, time and expertise in teaching these children.

## Regular Classes

The children those left alone at home are most vulnerable, aimless, lacked basic good manners, undisciplined and illiterate. They needed initial education. Hence, we have been conducting regular classes for them at four centers without



any failure. We have developed specific syllabus for teaching them which focused on their wholesome formation. It included character building, talent developing, increasing intellectual capacity and nurturing self-discipline.

## Activity Based Education

The only method to teach these children is activity-based education. It is because their minds are disturbed, they lacked concentration, deaf to lecturing and unacquainted with class room setup. In this regard they are more attracted to do activities than traditional way of teaching. Teachers are given special training to organize



various kinds of activities. They conduct group activities, action songs, singing, dancing, drawing, one act play likewise make them to do individual performance, so that they get interested, enthused and encouraged to learn, faster and better through the activities. Certain

days they use prepared chart, mobile, loud speakers for taking classes which make them more joyful, disciplined and attentive in learning.

## Mid-day Meal and Nutritious Food supply

These children are in need of mid-day meal. Their parents are not able to provide nutritious meal everyday due to their poverty and lack of good health. Their mothers go for domestic work around 6 am and return at 12 pm during their break.



In the same way their fathers go

for other ordinary jobs at 8 am and return at 5 pm. The only members left at their home are these children who take care their younger siblings.



Many of the parents don't get minimum wages, they do over time work and get illness frequently.



Nutritious food is being given them regularly during the recess. Everyday they are given kinds of protein biscuits, alternative days fruits are supplied, depends on the weather they are

given buttermilk, juice or hot milk, eggs, every week special lunch provided with warm roti, pulses, sweets, salads, vegetables as well. It is heart touching to observe gladness on their face, joyful smile and gratitude.



## Uniform Distribution

Children were provided with special uniform stitched by the trainees who have completed tailoring course from Pragati vocational training centers. It was an opportunity given to them to develop their skills while doing their



jobs. They stitched uniform for almost all children and distributed to every center separately. Children used to wear it on during the class hours.

## Distribution of Teaching Aids, Learning Materials and Furniture

In order to educate children teaching aids are essential and each slum school teacher was provided with required aids for the same purpose. They have utilized it properly to convey the knowledge to the students. These students are living in an abject condition since their parents could not afford learning materials like books, bags, stationery items etc.

Therefore, they were supplied with learning resources that helped the students to acquire knowledge, learnt alphabets writing and drawing.





Another important need was furniture for the slum school shed. The Bank of Baroda came on our way as good Samaritan with needed tables, chairs and blackboards that enabled the teachers to function well and assisted the students to learn better. Children also received writing copies, text books and other stationary items for their study purpose.

## Teacher's Training

The teachers are the backbone of this commended service without which nonformal education remains fruitless. They sacrifice good amount of their energy in teaching these children, utilizes their skills to imparting



knowledge and get equipped with new techniques to make themselves updated and efficient in teaching. They are given ample occasions to excel their talents while participating different training programs which have been conducted for them quarterly. They always showed much interest and were eager to learn new things for the development of the children.

## Independence Day & Republic Day Celebration

It is being celebrated every year on 15<sup>th</sup> August and 26<sup>th</sup> January separately. It was a great event organized in the slum school with a purpose of making aware the students to love the mother land India, to respect the national flag, to salute the soldiers who sacrificed their life for us to be freed from political slavery and foreign invasion. Through this celebration they value the life of the other, understand the diverse culture of the land, being motivated to be soldiers, civil and to achieve their goals in the future. Similarly, they heard about constitution of India first time in their life.



The children were enthusiastically participated the event by performing meaningful patriotic dances, songs and actions. They got chances to exhibit their inherent and unknown talents before the society. As they were never given such kind of opportunities in their life, in the family as well as in the society.

## Teachers' day Celebration

While conducting this program students learnt that teachers are representative of God, they need to be respected, appreciated and valued for their sacrifices, knowledge and love for the students. The teachers shared their joyful memories cherished with students while teaching them. They considered them as their own, cared them with love and affection.





The children were extremely happy and honored their teachers with words of appreciation, dances, songs and gifts. They performed cultural dances and action songs in honor of teachers. It was taught by teachers themselves with much effort and children actively took participation in it. It was in deed a wonderful program.

## Sports and Games Activities

The sports and games are the energizing factors of these children. It is being conducted every quarter in order to develop their physical growth, keep them healthy and to be participative. PSSS staff organized indoor and outdoor games, group activity competitions as well for the children to be active, take initiative, come out of fear, shy and develop personality.



## Children's day Celebration



It is being celebrated every year on 14<sup>th</sup> November. It was well planned and organized program of nonformal education. The chief guest of the event was District Education Officer of Karnal also other distinguished guests availed their esteemed presence to witness the skills, talents and performance of slum children.

They highly appreciated noble service of PSSS, hard work of the teachers and performance of the students. Through the program these children learnt to work in the group, collaborate each other and cultivated an aptitude for extracurricular activities. They courageously faced the crowd and came out of stage fear. It boosted their confidence and personality.



## Parents Meeting



Parents meetings are being held quarterly to evaluate the performance of the students, discuss the problems faced by the children and the parents. They were made aware of the need of the education, value of time, discipline, doing daily homework, importance of personal hygiene and health. They are motivated to send children to the school for the bright future, attaining knowledge, skills and for their personality development.

## Tuition for the school going children

It was felt need of the children those who are going to the public school regularly that they need tuition class separately to understand, learn and complete the daily homework.





Therefore, special teacher was appointed to teach these students at afternoon hours. They were on time for the class, attended the class, performed well in the exams and promoted to next standard.

## Awareness Programs

We realized that nonformal education alone does not bring the expected result unless the parents are motivated, made aware of the need of it, challenges of it and other issues related to it. Another way of involving parents to the demand of the society, education, health and signs of the time are, they need to be taught, trained, developed their thought pattern, enabling attitudinal changes, being strengthened their personality with life skills



and soft skills. For this purpose, various awareness programs, training and seminars have been conducted for them.



The women (mothers of migrant children) are employed as domestic workers and most of them are illiterate. They were able to participate group games and got actively involved in all the activities conducted for them. It was an opportunity to make them aware of their strengths and inner abilities.

Though they had desire to explore their talents it was for the first time that many of them got chances to know one's capacity. They were extremely glad, excited and very cooperative.

## Goals achieved

It is joyous moment to know that after having completed the preliminary education many of the children were chosen and admitted to the other government and private schools for the further studies.



These children have dream about their new life. They wanted to achieve their goals and stand on their own legs.



They are studying well, improving their habits, discipline and developing a positive attitude. It is actually determining their future and purpose-oriented life.



## Gratitude & Conclusion

Pragati Social Service Society sincerely express gratitude to Rev. Frs. Sharat, Jaisheel, Jitesh, Jose Andrews and all the compassionate benefactors who have generously supported the MARIAS MAHLZEIT Project. Through this endeavor PSSS executed social animation and educational development activities for the upliftment of migrant families and their children residing at sub-urban parts of Karnal. As we evaluate this project, we are indeed joyful and satisfied in certain extent that we could implement all the planned activities creatively and enthusiastically. It has made good impact on them, similarly we found in them attitudinal changes and positive thinking pattern in the life. On behalf of them, I am very grateful to you all, for the appreciation, encouragement and financial support. Let's be united in live and prayers. Assuring you all our constant prayers for your fruitful and spirit filled ministry.

With thanks and regards, your brother in Christ Kiran