



# SOROPTIMIST WELFARE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**Mahatma Education Society, Sion – Trombay Road, Chembur Naka, Mumbai  
400071**

- ◆ Bombay Public Trust Act, (1950) Reg. No - F 46909 (Mumbai)
- ◆ Societies Registration Act, (1860) Reg. No – 2048
- ◆ Vol. 1, October 2019



## OFFICE BEARERS

**Dr. Daphne Pillai**  
Founder President

**Ms. Yvette Lee**  
President

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**Ms. Munawira Kotyad Pillai**  
Programme Action  
Co-ordinator

**Dr. Betty Sibil**  
Club Extension Officer &  
Membership Officer

**Susanna Cherian**  
Publicity Officer

**Dr. Celina Joy**  
Immediate Past President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is an honour to be the President of SI Bombay Chembur registered as Soroptimist Welfare Association and an absolute pleasure to be working with 28 wonderful women. We are an active group of women who strive to improve the lives of women and the girl child in urban and semi-urban areas in Mumbai.

I am extremely happy to share that from June, 2019 to December, 2019 we were able to undertake many projects especially in the field of education, women rights, sex and sexuality, environment and mental health and personality development. A big thank you to all the members who are always thinking of new projects and ways to reach out to the marginalized population and make a difference. I thank our Founder President, Dr. Daphne Pillai, all the past presidents and senior members who continue to guide us and help us grow every year. This is also the 1st edition of our newsletter and I hope you like the work we do!!!

Regards,

Yvette Lee

President, SI Bombay Chembur



## **PROJECTS AND IMAGES – APRIL '19 TO SEPTEMBER '19**

### **INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY, 2019**

Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur collaborated with Mahatma Education Society's Pillai Group of Institutions to observe the International Yoga Day on 21st June, 2019. Around 65 students of Chembur English High School participated in the session conducted at Chembur and promised to teach the same to their parents and practice at home. Yoga and Meditation sessions for the female housekeeping staff of Dr. K. M. Vasudevan Pillai Campus at Panvel, Dr. Pillai Global Academy, Panvel and Pillai HOC College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Rasayani were also conducted. The asanas which were taught focused on various health issues faced by women in their day to day life. At Panvel campus, the event was a huge success with 40 housekeeping staff attending the session and at DPGA 30 housekeeping staff attended the same. The programme at Rasayani was attended by around 75 participants and was well received.



### **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 2019**

SI Bombay Chembur conducted an awareness session on the occasion of World Environment Day with students of Chembur English High School on Friday, 28th June, 2019. A movie on global warming was screened to the students to make them aware about the effects of greenhouse gases and the impact of global warming. The students also presented thought provoking speeches and dance drama to emphasize on the importance of conservation of trees. Around 180 students attended this session.

SIBC in association with Pillai College of Architecture commemorated World Environment Day by organizing a talk on "Human Angle in Waste Management" by Ms. Jyoti Mhapsekar, President of Stree Mukti Sanghatana. The talk was followed by an exhibition on the topic, 'Waste to Resources'. The guest spoke about the benefits of composting organic kitchen waste within homes and communities. The NGO put on display home composting baskets they have developed and explained its working. Many faculty members and SIBC members purchased the basket. A total of 250 students and teachers attended the awareness programme.





## **BOOK BANK PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH NGO GOONJ**

Soroptimist International - Bombay Chembur organized a collection drive during the month of April - June 2019 of used and new school supplies like uniforms, notebooks, stationery, lunch boxes, and water bottles across three schools in Mumbai (Dr. Pillai Global Academy – Panvel and Gorai and Mahatma International School, New Panvel) and handed them over to the NGO Goonj on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

The collection drive was very successful and over 35 cartons and 65 bags of goods were handed over to the NGO Goonj. The items from the collection will be refurbished and are distributed among children and families in rural schools who are lacking the basic necessities required for school. This initiative is aimed to reduce the dropout rate among rural schools and improving the quality of education in these schools. This initiative also inculcates among school children the joy of “giving back” in the formative years of their lives.

The project impacts 200 students and serves SDG 4 “Quality Education”



## **SASHAKT**

SIBC launched a project named SASHAKT, a series of sessions on 'Gender, Rights and Sexuality' for girls and women. The sessions were held with various target groups between the months of August to November, 2019. The project serves SGD 5 "Gender Equality" and SDG 4 "Quality Education"

The first session of the project was held on 23rd August, 2019 for 150 students of Grade 11 and 12. Two parallel sessions were held. For the girls, a session on Cyber security was conducted and for the boys a session on Addiction and its Effects was conducted.



The second session of the project was held on 28th and 29th of August, 2019 for girl students between the age group of 18-21 years. The session covered topics such as gender equality, selection of life partner, marital adjustments, sexuality and legal aspects and rights in marriage. This session was held in collaboration with Stree Mukti Sanghatana, an organization working towards women empowerment in Mumbai. Around 65 girls attended the session held over 2 days. The sessions were very interactive and it helped changed the mindset of students on sexuality and marriage.



The 3rd session of the project was held on 25th September, 2019 for students of Grade 6-8 on the topics of love, infatuation, consent and social media usage. This session was held in collaboration with NGO Rescue. Around 100 students both boys and girls attended the session that lasted for one hour.





## **INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY ON 8 SEPTEMBER, 2019**

On the occasion of World Literacy, SI Bombay Chembur inaugurated their Adult Literacy Drive Project named 'Power of a Second Chance'. The need assessment for the project was held on 3rd August, 2019 and the project was inaugurated on 13th September, 2019 by Founder President, Dr. Daphne Pillai. The maushis (women support staff) of Dr. Pillai Global Academy, New Panvel are the participants of the program. 27 maushis enrolled for the classes. The classes will be held every Saturday and will consist of Literacy, Spoken English and Skill Development classes. The project serves SDG 4 “Quality Education” and SDG 5 “Gender Equality”.



## NEWSPAPER DRIVE

A group of approximately 15 students and staff members are posing in a school hallway. They are standing next to a very large, tall stack of newspapers. The group includes students in school uniforms and adults in formal attire. The hallway has a tiled floor and a wall with a colorful mosaic pattern. A sign on the wall reads "READING PROMOTES LEARNING".

