



SOROPTIMIST WELFARE ASSOCIATION (SI Bombay Chembur)

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

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3, December 2020

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Soroptimist Sisters,

When we ushered in 2020, we did so with so much of zest and verve because there was just something so lyrical about it... 2020. Little did we know that a nightmare was unfolding and an invisible enemy would strike all continents, the old & the young, the rich & the poor, everyone... with a devastating impartiality.

The common enemy, the greatest leveler got governments into a huddle and people into a bubble. Migrants walking home and tales of hunger, unemployment and death became everyday news. All of us Soroptimists rose up to the occasion and used our creativity and of course digital media to raise funds for marginalized communities during this time. We have continued with mostly all our projects despite the lockdown and the inability to be physically present in the field. Kudos to all of us!!!

In spite of the traumatic tales and horror stories that we have heard through this year, we have also heard of stories of nature rejuvenating itself- dolphins swimming to the shore, ducks waddling across the street and the majestic Himalayan mountains rising high in clear blue skies.

In these unprecedented times, with no light at the end of the tunnel, let's take a cue from nature. There is a law of rhythm, a cyclic pattern. The longest night has a day. It's darkest before dawn. If winter comes shall spring be far behind...

So let's comfort ourselves that THIS TOO SHALL PASS...

Regards,
Yvette Lee
President,
Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC)

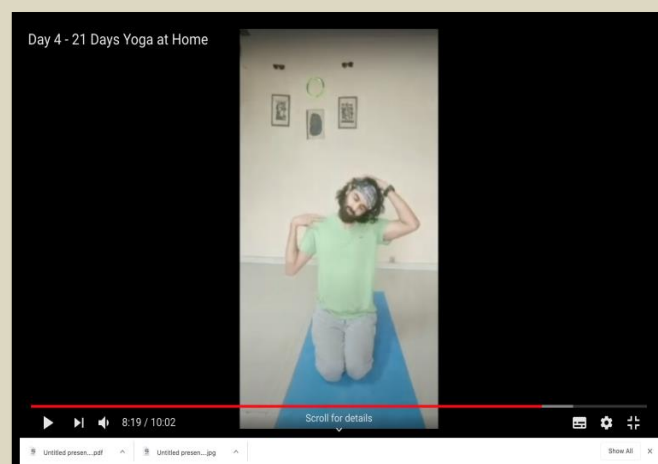
PROJECTS– JUNE, 2020 to DECEMBER, 2020

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA- SDG #3

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in association with Pillai College of Education and Research, Chembur launched its 21 days '*Yoga: Wellness for Women*' program on 1st June, 2020. In this initiative, yoga sessions were broadcasted on YouTube every day and at the end of the 21-day program, a quiz on basic understanding of yoga and asanas was shared with the participants through a Google Form. These sessions uploaded on YouTube enabled the participants to practice yoga at their convenient time and space and also gain basic knowledge about it. This initiative aimed at wellness for women and girls, especially during the period of lockdown when because staying at home with a busy work and home schedule, personal time for fitness, meditation and relaxation is often neglected. These sessions helped participants to bounce back and to rejuvenate and revitalize themselves. A total number of 280 participants attended these online sessions.

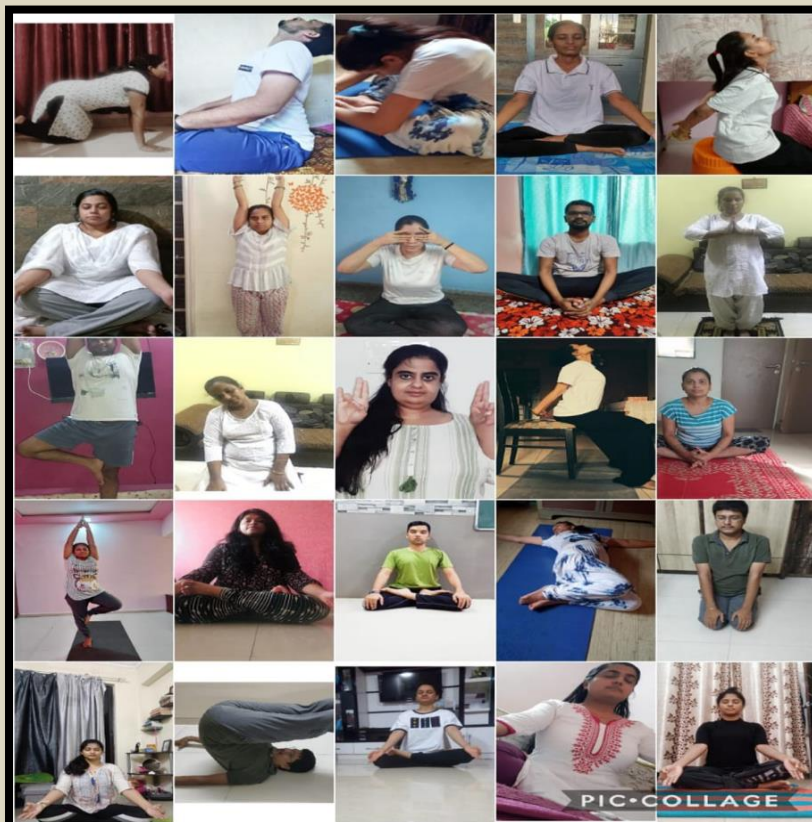
To see one of the yoga sessions please click on - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMI-e6i6IOw&t=8s>

You may find other sessions PCER's YouTube page.



To mark and celebrate International Yoga Day on 21st June, 2020 SIBC organized another a week-long '*Yoga and Pranayama*' sessions for holistic health and wellness from 16th to 21st of June, 2020 for the staff members of Pillai HOC College of Arts, Science & Commerce.

The schedule included '10-Minute Morning Routine', 'Hasta Mudras', 'Yoga to Relieve Menstrual Cramps (only for female staff)', 'Chair Yoga', 'Yoga to Boost Immunity' & 'Pranayam for Stress Management'. The sessions of around sixty minutes each, were conducted every day on Gmeet. On the last day, which was International Yoga day, i.e. 21st June, 2020, all the staff members took **#Yogachallenge** where every staff member posted a snap of any of the asanas taught during the week. The event was well received and was engaging and interactive. All the videos were later shared with everyone so that they could design a 20-min daily routine of Yoga and Pranayam for themselves based on their time, capacity and level. Around 40 participants attended the program.



"Yoga is the journey of the self, through the self, to the self."

-- The Bhagavad Gita

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY- SDG #13

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in collaboration with Chembur English High School (CEHS) organized various online activities to mark World Environment Day on 5th June, 2020

The students were sensitized towards the environment through various activities done throughout the week. Students made posters, useful items out of waste, participated in an online quiz competition, elocution and collage making competitions. Around 250 students participated in the various awareness activities conducted during the week.

Following activities were conducted online at CEHS

Let's Nurture the Nature – a photography contest with their pet plant

Boundless Imagination – Poster making competition

Grill – Drill – Online Quiz

Regard before you Discard- Best out of waste competition

Thought into Action- An online English elocution competition

Catchphrase Collage – Collage making

It is said that creativity is intelligence, having fun and it is the way to share one's soul with the world, this thought was exponentially showcased during the activities throughout the week. It was an amazing and energetic week of celebration where students enjoyed and learnt to conserve our nature.

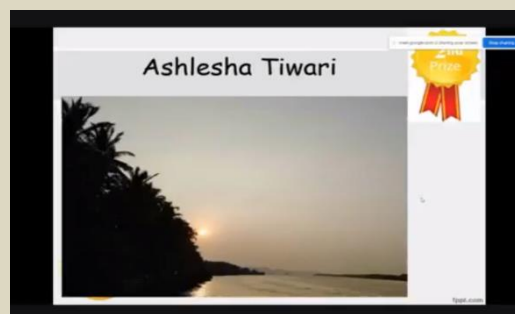


“The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for.”

—Ernest Hemingway

COVID-19: PHOTOTHON – LIFE DIARIES DURING LOCKDOWN- SDG #1 & 2

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in association with Mahatma Junior College of Education, Chembur organized ‘*Photathon – Life diaries During Lockdown*’ – A photo contest with a social cause. The contest was held in five categories – Unveiling Creativity, Candid Moments, Family Time, Nature at its Best and New Acquired Hobby. The last day of registration was 25th June, 2020. The registration fee collected during the event was directed to Gurudwara Guru Nanak Darbar, New Panvel towards their social initiative for providing food to 10,000 migrant labourers in and around Panvel and Navi Mumbai. There were 82 registrations and a substantial amount was raised through the competition. The prizes were announced on 28th June, 2020 through a virtual platform. Dr. Daphne Pillai, Secretary MES, Founder President SWA was the Chief Guest for the event.



INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY- SDG #4

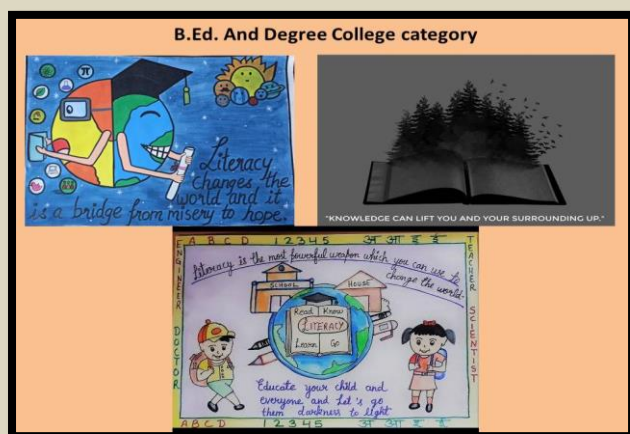
A poster making slogan writing contest was announced for students of Mahatma Education Society's Chembur Campus by Soroptimist Welfare Association to mark the World Literacy day on 8th September, 2020 with an objective to sensitize students on the importance of Literacy

The theme for the contest was "*Literacy according to me is...*" Students were invited to send in their posters via email.

Students were divided into three categories.

1. School students
2. Junior College and D.ed students
3. B.Ed and Degree College students

Three best posters from each of the categories were selected and presented certificates. All participants were also presented with participation certificates. The contest was judged by Ms. Munawira Kotyad, who runs an online store Wonder wheel that creates a unique market for artistic creations, with the aim to create a community of artists that promotes creativity and helps turn ideas into a thriving business. We received around 75 entries all together. The prizes were announced via email on *12th September, 2020*.



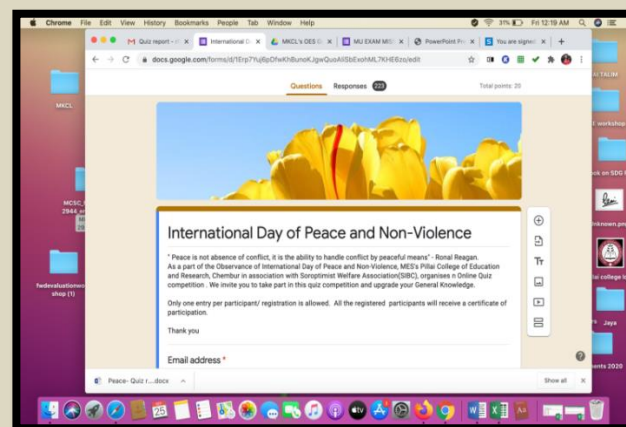
'One Child, One Teacher, One Book, One Pen Can Change the World.'

- Malala Yousafzai

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE AND NON VIOLENCE- SDG #16

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in association with Pillai College of Education and Research, Chembur organized an online quiz, as a part of the observance of International Day of Peace and Non-Violence on *21st September, 2020*. The quiz consisted of 20 compulsory questions; each question carried one point. The items were based on general knowledge related to topics like peace, non-violence, various organizations working towards international peace building initiatives and activities. Only one entry per participant / registration was allowed. All the registered participants received Certificates of Participation.

Overall there were 223 responses; the major respondents were students and various professionals.



"Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means"

– Ronald Reagan.

WEBINAR ON CYBER SECURITY- SDG #5

The world is growing amazingly digital and hence it is important to protect and preserve our cyberspace more than ever before. Women generally fall victim to cyber-crime. Responsible Netism is a unique project of an NGO – Ahaan Foundation where they aim at equipping people with online safety.

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) along with Women Development Cell of Pillai HOC College of Arts, Science and Commerce supported this initiative by Responsible Netism by organizing an hour long webinar titled '*CYBER SAKHI*' on *30th September, 2020* for the female students and faculty members of the college. Ms. Sonali Patankar, the founder trustee of Ahaan Foundation and Mr. Unmesh Joshi, co-founder addressed the digital gathering of 245 participants walking them through the ways in which females can ensure their cyber safety, the way they can be trapped, those minor mistakes which need to be taken care of and how to get out of it if something similar happens. They also informed about the crime and related penalty.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD- SDG #5 & SDG #17

To commemorate International Day of the Girl Child, '*Digital Stree Shakti-Webinar on Online Safety of Girls*' was held on *10th October, 2020* by Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) with Pillai College of Education and Research, Chembur in collaboration with Maharashtra State Commission for Women and Responsible Netism. The webinar focused on the online safety of girls prioritizing security measures, online protection and cyber wellness.

There were 120 female participants both from B.Ed and D.Ed. batch of student teachers who had registered and attended the program wholeheartedly.

Ms. Yvette Lee, President of Soroptimist Welfare Association, stressed on the theme of International Day of the Girl Child - "My voice - our equal future" and threw light on the need to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges faced by girls. "Little girls with dreams become women with vision" - quoting this the Principal of PCER and SIBC member, Dr. Reni Francis explained the importance of use of technology in today's time and addressed the necessity for awareness of security of women and the sensitization towards digital safety.

The speakers for the webinar were -

1. Ms. Sonali Patankar, founder of Responsible Netism and President of Ahaan Foundation, who has 25 years of experience in the field of social work and mental health.
2. Mr. Unmesh Joshi, co-founder of Responsible Netism, who specializes in the field of cyber law.

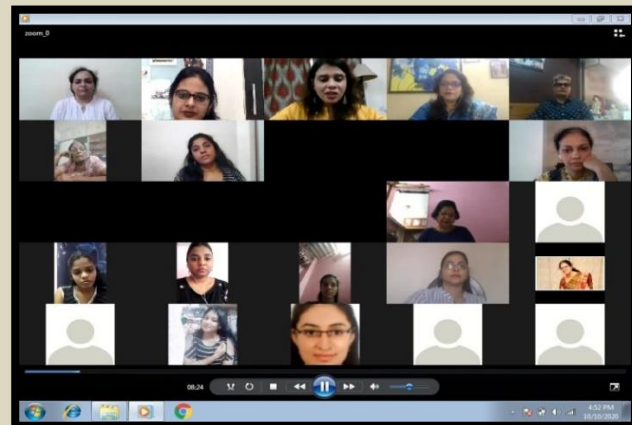
Ms. Sonali Patankar displayed a presentation listing and describing the various forms of cyber harassment such as hacking, creating fake profiles, stalking, morphing, body shaming and trolling. Sharing her experience and case studies, Ms. Patankar emphasized on the dangers and after effects of such kinds of harassment on mental health. Special stress was laid on the need to stand up against such harassment and report them to guard oneself.

Mr. Unmesh Joshi dealt with the concept of cyber safety. He urged the participants to continuously update themselves about the various cyber safety measures. Mr. Joshi gave some quick tips to be cyber safe and explained the steps for security settings of major social sites such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. He explained the nature of different cyber-crimes, sections under which they are charged and the corresponding punishments.

Highlighting the importance of responsible online behaviour, they shared the contact information of Responsible Netism, Mahila Aayog helpline and cyber cells, Mumbai and Thane in case of facing instances of cybercrimes.

The above session can be viewed by clicking the link below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EQ8EBXaoKjpDP01OgwkoZ_y6dMoxB50R/view?usp=sharing



DREAMCATCHER MAKING WORKSHOP- SDG #5 & SDG #17

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) organized a Dreamcatcher Making workshop for the children of Dongri Shelter Home on 10th October 2020. This was done to commemorate the International Girl Child Day. The workshop was organized in partnership with Wonderwheelstore.com and Prerana Anti Human Trafficking Organization. The materials were sent to the shelter a few days before the workshop and distributed among the girls. The workshop was conducted by an Artist from Wonderwheel Store, Shailaja Pathania. The workshop was a huge success and the girls were extremely happy to create their very own dreamcatchers and flaunt it on their beds and bags. The workshop helped in building skills for children and it also provided a break from their daily routine.



“A girl should be two things: who and what she wants.”

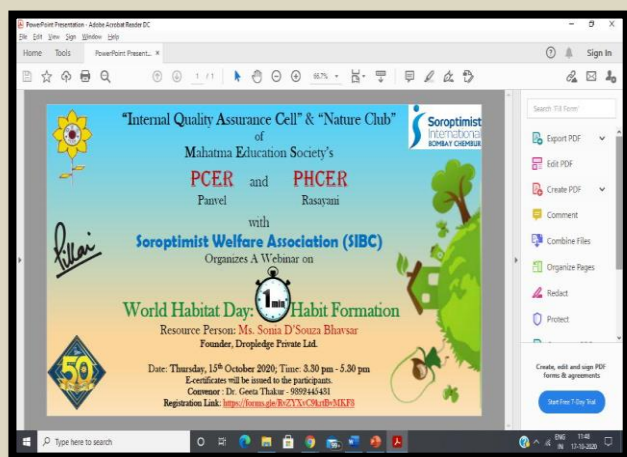
– Coco Chanel

WORLD HABITAT DAY- SDG #11, SDG #13 & SDG #15

On 15th October 2020, Pillai College of Education and Research, New Panvel and Pillai HOC College of Education and Research, Rasayani in collaboration with Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) organized a webinar on “World Habitat Day: 1 Minute Habit Formation” The session witnessed an online gathering of around 130 participants from the field of education.

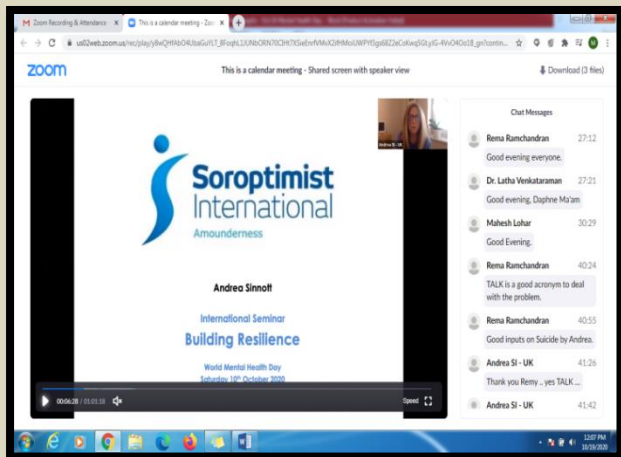
The webinar was organized in line with the United Nations idea to reflect on the state of towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The guest speaker for the session was Mrs. Sonia D'Souza Bhavsar the young dynamic founder of Dropledge, a social cause-based technology initiative. In May 2020, Dropledge was chosen for a special accreditation by the United Nations. It is aligned and registered with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14. The idea of the session was based on the conviction that if we dedicate one minute from each day of our life to one sustainable habit we truly believe in, it will subconsciously become a part of us. The organization with the help of the insights gained through its scientific research, has crafted gamified user experience to bring about a change in the habits and behaviour of the users. The session not only focused on the issues revolving around the habitats for humans but also put forth the plight of thousands of other inhabitants of the Earth. The speaker shed light on some hard-hitting facts related to habitat destruction and the loss of biodiversity.

She sensitized the audience on the impact our habits have on the globe and suggested an idea of a Climate Classroom. The crux of Climate classroom is the opportunity each teacher gets to reach students in large numbers and the potential multiplicity of the message of sustainable habits. The session was intended to remind us of the power we have and the responsibility we need to shoulder to shape our future. As teachers we need to play the crucial role of mediators to make Earth inclusive in true sense.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY- SDG #3

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in collaboration with the Social Service Committee of PIMSR hosted an International webinar on 10th October 2020 to commemorate the UN World Mental Health Day. The topic for discussion was “Building Resilience”. The speakers for the day were Ms. Andrea Sinnot, Executive Committee member of SI Amounderness, UK, our Friendship Link Club and Ms. Bhavana Lalwani, a mental health professional. The speakers highlighted the need for building resilience to successfully cope up with work and societal pressures. The campaign aimed at raising awareness regarding mental health among college students. The students presented their creativity through artwork, write-ups, poetry and dance held over a week long competitions aimed at raising awareness. Around 100 participants attended week long awareness programs and session.

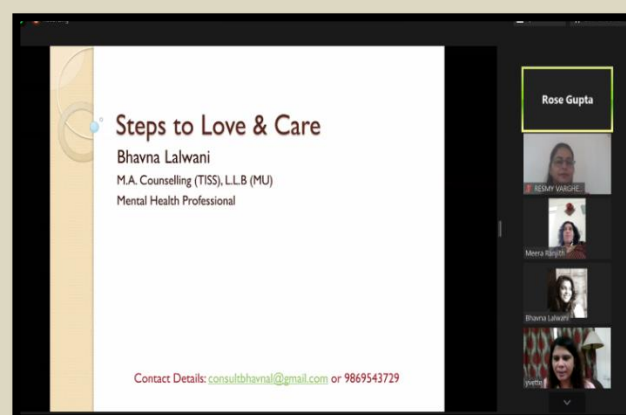
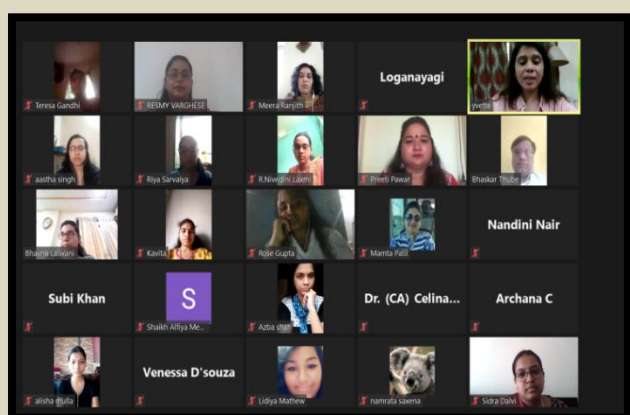


Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in collaboration with Mahatma Junior College Education organized a Webinar on '*Steps to Love and Care*' to mark the occasion of World Mental Health Day. Teachers, students and alumni of Mahatma Junior College of Education participated in the webinar.

Ms. Preeti Pawar, Secretary SIBC, welcomed the participants and the resource person, Ms. Bhavna Lalwani, a mental health professional for the webinar. It was a very interactive session and there was active participation from the 85 students who had registered for the webinar.

Ms. Bhavna stressed on how should keep themselves at the top of our priority list and take care of themselves before anybody else. She also demonstrated ways in which we can keep our minds relaxed and peaceful by taking up a hobby and giving some ME time to ourselves.

Ms. Yvette Lee, President of SIBC also shared her experience as how music helps her to unwind and de-stress herself. Other participants also shared their experiences of spending time with family, or a pet, looking at old pictures and many other such activities that gives them joy and happiness.



'You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection.'

- The Buddha

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ERADICATION OF POVERTY- SDG #1 & SDG #2

With a pledge to reduce poverty and hunger, Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) collaborated with edukidz INTERNATIONAL, a chain of preschools in Mumbai to release a short movie *'I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN END POVERTY!'* to observe the 'International Day for the Eradication of Poverty' on *17th October, 2020*.

The concept and movie direction and facilitation was undertaken by SIBC members. The preschool students were provided with slogans with messages on the issue of poverty and hunger. Together with the support from the edukidz INTERNATIONAL management and teachers, the students were guided to send their pictures holding the slogans they were assigned.

The short awareness video released on 17th October, 2020 was an attempt to raise awareness among children towards the struggle of those living in poverty. During the making of the movie, the tiny tots were made aware about the importance of the food that they get to eat every day and were also shown how it is not so easy for others to get food their table daily. The movie brought to children the value of empathy, kindness and support to the needy by organizing this advocacy action plan for raising awareness for eradication of poverty.

The movie is available on YouTube #EndPoverty - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uP6IBUIEHCw>

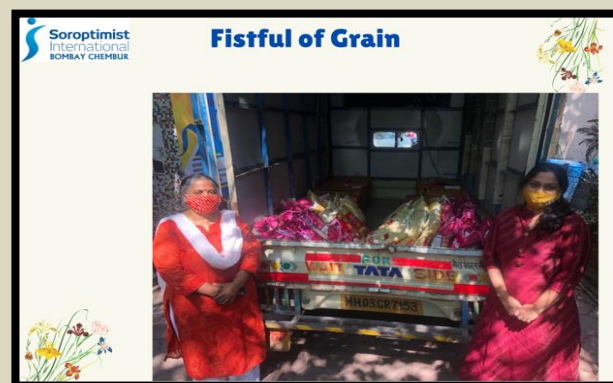
The impact of this project is that it has helped spread awareness to around 500 students and viewers on YouTube.

FISTFUL OF GRAINS- SDG #1 & SDG #2

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in association with Pillai College of Education and Research, Chembur and Pillai Institute of Management Studies and Research, New Panvel undertook the Fistful of Grains project. During this period of pandemic with trying and tough times for people all around us, the project of Fistful of Grain was indeed the need of the hour. The project was launched through the Amazon Registry, where 12 items were listed as a part of the Registry- Rice, Wheat Flour, Chickpeas, Lentils – Red and Yellow, Green gram, Sugar, Salt, Flattened Rice, Semolina, Tea, Oil. The Amazon Registry Link was shared with people far and wide and the project was hugely successful. The link was open from 17th October, 2020 to 7th November, 2020. A substantial collection was made and the food grains were distributed to four different NGOs

1. Prerana Naunihal Children's Home
2. Sisters Adorers Home for the girls
3. Manav Jeevan Seva Trust
4. Navjeevan Centre for children.

More details of the project can be found on - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFnUn7d7RRg&t=4s>



"It is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving"

--Mother Teresa

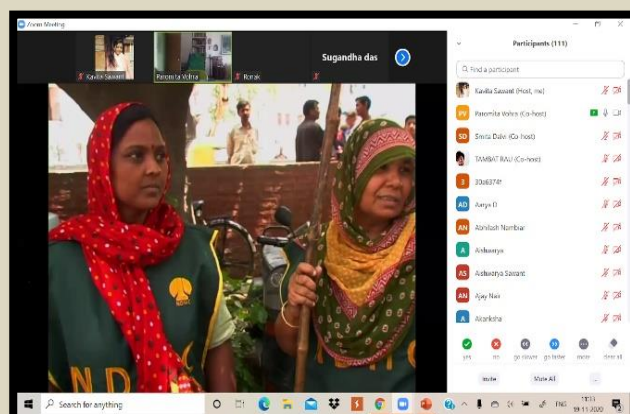
WORLD TOILET DAY- SDG #6

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) collaborated with Pillai College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai to observe World Toilet Day – an official United Nations international observance day falling on 19 November every year to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. This action is linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goal of “water and sanitation for all by 2030”. There is a serious lack of public toilet facilities in our cities. The ones that exist are woefully poor in quality. This makes it difficult for everyone, particularly women, to exist in public space and to occupy it for several reasons, ranging from livelihoods to recreation. We decided to devote the month of November to focus on the issue of lack of sanitation in urban space with multiple activities with an aim of raising awareness among students of architecture.

On 1st November 2020, an inter-college design competition was announced where architecture students were asked to select a real-world context in which to propose innovative public toilet

A total of 33 team registrations were received, out of which 15 entries were shortlisted and sent to an independent jury. Dr. Mustansir Dalvi, Professor at Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai and Prof. Uma Sankar Sekar, Landscape Architect, Boston, USA were the esteemed judges of the competition.


On 19th November, an online screening of the award-winning documentary ‘Q2P’ by Paromita Vohra, an acclaimed writer and filmmaker who in her work explores feminism, love and desire, urban life and popular culture was arranged. ‘Q2P’ is a film about toilets and the city. On 30th November, an online prize distribution ceremony was organized to announce the winners of the design competition. It was attended by participating students, faculty members and members of SIBC. The winning entries were screened along with the jury comments. President, Ms. Yvette Lee did the honours of virtually handing over the prizes to the winning teams. The event concluded with a note of congratulations to the winners and a vote of thanks for the participants and the organizers.




16 Days of Activism- Orange the World- SDG #5 & SDG #17

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in collaboration with Mahatma Night Degree College of Arts and Commerce, Chembur and Stree Mukti Sangathana organized an interactive webinar on *8th December, 2020* titled, '*Ki and Ka: Balancing Gender Roles*'. The resource person for the session, Ms. Urmila Suresh Salunkhe, Gender Expert and Sr. Program Coordinator, Akshara Project spoke on various gender roles and how all of us have been socialized into them since childhood because of the society we live it. Using very simple and relatable accounts, she was able to reach out to the participants and sensitize them on gender, patriarchy and the need and ways to bring about a change in the system. Around 80 participants attended the webinar. Many of our Soroptimist Sisters from other clubs in India also participated in it.

You can find the webinar on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9OKCZvWakQ&t=8s>



Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in association with
Mahatma Education Society's
MAHATMA NIGHT DEGREE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND COMMERCE
 Chembur Naka, Mumbai 400071
 organises
 a webinar on
'Ki and Ka: Balancing Gender Roles'
 on Tuesday, 8th December, 2020. Time: -3.30 pm to 4.30 pm



Resource Person:
Urmila Suresh Salunkhe, Gender Expert
&
Sr. Programme Coordinator AKSHARA Foundation

For further information you may contact Parveen Arif- 98203 27592
 Link for registration
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OIAMVDN54GGHf-byM8j4irrsxCOA1qBpK7iKzpg2kK0/edit?usp=sharing>

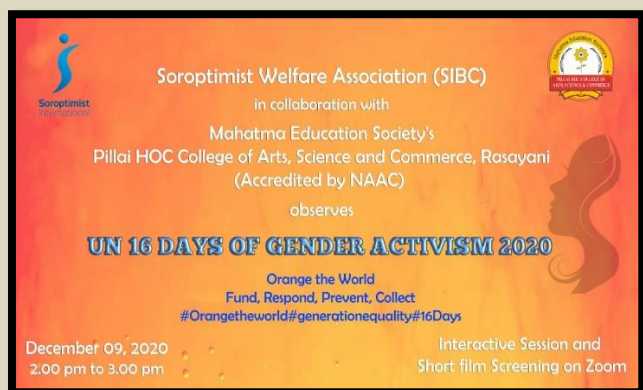
To commemorate 16 Days of Activism, Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC) in association with Pillai HOC College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Rasayani organized a screening of 2 short films on gender awareness –

Strong Women Fight Back- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHDX4jEE-ZE>

That Day After Every Day- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQR6cB1DXzY&t=3s>

The screening of these short films was then followed by a discussion on the films and gender issues. The facilitator and resource person for the discussion was Ms. Anahita Lee, Gender Expert. She touched upon various points related to gender harassment. She stressed on the point that boys and men need to be taught how to be better people. She spoke about the 3 Do Not D's- Diminish the problem, Defend the perpetrators and Derail the discussion.

The session was very interactive and highly appreciated by the participants. Many SI sisters from other Clubs in India and also from London joined in for the session



“We’ve begun to raise daughters more like sons... but few have the courage to raise our sons more like our daughters.”

— Gloria Steinem

SIGBI Belfast 2020 Virtual Conference- 30th and 31st October, 2020

Dr. Reni Francis, Former President of SIBC attended the SIGBI Belfast 2020 Virtual Conference held on the 30th and 31st October, 2020. Mentioned below is her report on the conference.

The SIGBI Belfast Virtual Conference was Live streaming on the link that was provided to registered participants. The event began with a dance performance.

Day 1: 30th October, 2020 Ms. Isobel Smith – SIGBI Federation President welcomed everyone to 86th Conference and safe wishes to all. This is the First virtual conference due to COVID-19 pandemic and economies and world is changing rapidly. We need to take efforts to think and work during this global pandemic, we are here today because of the available resources. We not only need to reduce harm but also work towards action. We are standing up for women and asking UN to help in this regard. The vision and mission of Soroptimist International was shared. Ms. Claire Bell – Federation Director of Membership showcased the flags of countries and territories. The celebration of 100 years of Soroptimist International was planned to be celebrated in San Francisco between October 1st - 3rd, 2021, however due to the global pandemic there will be no celebration till 2022, but the 100 years celebration will be planned in a unique manner. The work of SI at United Nation with the sole mission – Women and Girls. The session on Celebrating women in the Law was shared by Ms. Baroness Brebde – President of the UK Supreme Court 2017-2020. This was followed by the SIGBI financial status.

This was followed by the COVID initiatives by SI clubs and also thanked the SI members as frontline workers. Dr. Susan Black, Professor of Computer science and Technology, University of Durham spoke on the session If I Can do it, So Can you. The last session was on SIGBIs Centenary Tree Planting Projects presented by Jacqui Purne. It ended with closing remarks and welcoming for the next day.



Day 2: On the Second day Ms. Isobel Smith – SIGBI Federation President welcomed everyone for the 86th Conference followed by the Membership Calendar activities.

Dr. Alison Gardner – University of Nottingham presented her thoughts on Building Slavery Free Communities. She spoke about Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. She highlighted on Forced labour, forced commercial sexual exploitation, debt bondage, human trafficking, descent- based slavery, child slavery, forced and early marriage. Women are disproportionately affected, with higher vulnerability to low paid and precarious labour. Almost 15 million cases of forced marriages – 84% women, 5 million cases of forced commercial sexual exploitation- 94% women. Resilience against exploitation is a multi-layered system, this was explained very systematically. Dr. Alison stated that Awareness through intentional and targeted campaigns can be done through Prevention, increased reporting, behaviour change, challenge to local and cultural practices and activism and policy change.

It was followed by the Best Practice Awards 2020 on the 5 Ps:

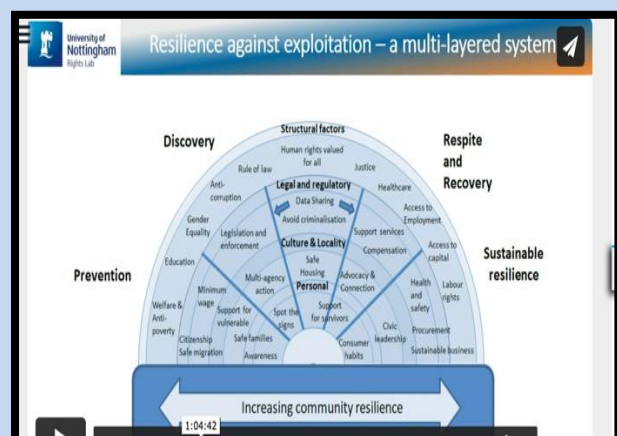
People – SDGs 1-5

Prosperity – SDGs 7-11

Planet – SDGs 6, 12-15

Peace – SDG 16

Partnership – SDG 17



WHY I AM A SOROPTIMIST!!

Dr. Reni Francis – Past President – SIBC(2014-16)



My journey to the service of underprivileged started quite early, we often visited my cousin, Nun – at the Rescue home/ Shelter home for Women and Girls in Mumbai. I spent a long time playing with the residents and even exchanged study materials. As years passed, my involvement with them increased, I conducted regular sessions on Soft skills, Personal hygiene, Cyber safety, Grooming and Personal etiquettes. This developed a strong feeling of affinity, knowing them more deeply and understanding their challenges. It was in 2008 that I attended a fundraising event organized by Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur (SIBC) and I heard Dr. Daphne Pillai – Founder President of SIBC speak about the hard work, dedication and undaunted efforts taken towards the upliftment of women through various fundraising projects to support girl education, self-help projects in empowering women to be self-reliant, projects on education for girls, thus making indelible contribution in creating opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls. The inspiring talk by Dr. Daphne Pillai instantly connected my interest and I was privileged to be a part of SIBC of like-minded Sisters in Soroptimism. SIBC under the able guidance and leadership of Dr. Daphne Pillai and the dedicated and relentless efforts by all the members that aim to make a difference in the lives of women and girls, empowering them to reach their fullest potential by the various projects such as Adult Literacy Drive, Food Mela, Sale/ Exhibition of their products thus encouraging them to break the shackles of societal barriers and march towards self-reliance. SIBC through its many initiatives have fostered a sense of self-worth and provided transformative opportunities thus making a positive impact in their lives.

My 12 years journey with SIBC has always been enriching and fulfilling. I was elected as the President of the Club 2014-16. I even served as the Secretary of the Club during 2009-2012. My experiences and knowledge of the various initiatives undertaken grew manifold thus reinforcing my strong connect with SIBC.

I am proud to be a part SIBC, which desires and designs a wave of change, creating an atmosphere of friendship and providing a global voice for Women around the world.

SIBC COLLABORATION WITH NASI & SIGBI

Dr. Daphne Pillai, Founder President, SIBC & Dr. Lata Krishnan, Former NASI President

- ✓ Were honoured by the National Association of Soroptimist International (NASI) at their 30th anniversary celebrations for their commendable services towards the society as a member of the organisation

Ms.Yvette Lee, President, SIBC

- ✓ Facilitated an interactive session with NASI members on the topic “Mental Wellbeing in the time of COVID” on the 6th of June, 2020

Dr.Sally Enos, Member, SIBC

- ✓ Represented SIBC at the NASI Panel discussion on “Climate Change in your City” on 29th August, 2020. The session was attended by all SIGBI APDs and committee members

Dr.Smita Dalvi, Member, SIBC

- ✓ Published a blog on the NASI website on World Toilet day. It can be read on <https://sigbi.org/india/blogs/>

Dr. Reni Francis, Former President, SIBC

- ✓ Participated in the SIGBI Belfast 2020 Virtual Conference held on 30th and 31st October, 2020



UPCOMING EVENTS

AGM – Soroptimist Welfare Association (SWA) – December 28th 2020 at 4 pm

DID YOU KNOW?

The first club of Soroptimist International was founded in 1921 in Oakland, California.

Soroptimist International consists of five Federations:

Soroptimist International Africa Federation, Soroptimist International of the Americas, Soroptimist International of Europe, Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland and Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific.

No matter where you are in life,
inspire and empower the women
around you. Success is never
reached alone. And, wisdom and
wealth are sweeter shared.

-Mizzfit