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WELCOME TO OUR

E-NEWSLETTER

From the Director's Desk

"For all women and children: Rights, Equality and Dignity"

This is the theme of international women's day 2025. On this Women's Day, we honor the strength, resilience, and achievements of women across the world. True progress is only possible when every woman and child is treated with equality and dignity, empowered to live without fear or discrimination.

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಪರ ದ್ವನಿ ಸೇರಿಸುವಾಗ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಿ, ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಉತೇಜನ ನೀಡಿ, ಮುಂದುವರೆಯ ಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಘ ಮತ್ತು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟಗಳು ಈ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರಿ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿವೆ. ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು ಅವಕಾಶ ಮತ್ತು ಗೌರವವು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೂ ಲಭಿಸ ಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಇವು ಲಿಂಗತ್ವದಿಂದ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಮಾನವೀಯತೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ದೃಢವಗತದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಪಡಿಸಿ, ಬವಿಷ್ಯವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸೋಣ.

ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಸಮಾನತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಘನತೆಯ ಪ್ರಪಂಚವನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟುವ ಎಲ್ಲರ ದ್ವನಿ ಕೇಳಲ್ಪಡುವ, ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರ ಕನಸು ನನಸಾಗಿಸುವ, ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಜೀವವು ಗೌರವಿಸಲ್ಪಡುವ ಸಮಾಜ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಲಿ. ಇದೇ ಆಶಯ ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆಯದ್ದು. ಹೊಸ "ಅಲೆಗಳು" ವಾರ್ತೆ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಈ ವಿಚಾರಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ನೀಡಲು "ಅಲೆಗಳು" ವಾಚನ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಚಿಂತನಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಪೂರ್ತಿಯಾಗಲೆಂದು ಆಶಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

Happy Women's Day! Keep shining, keep rising!

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On January 1, 2025, the Maanini Women's group gathered for a meeting at SMSSS Shimoga, where key figures including MSSS, SMSSS WEP Coordinator Sr. Nancy, Fr. Richard Pais (Director, KROSS), and Fr. Pius (Director, SMSSS) were present. The gathering also saw the participation of the core committee members. The primary focus of the meeting was the discussion of plans for the upcoming Women's Day celebration on March 8. Ideas were shared, and preparations were initiated to make the event a meaningful and impactful occasion for the women of the community.

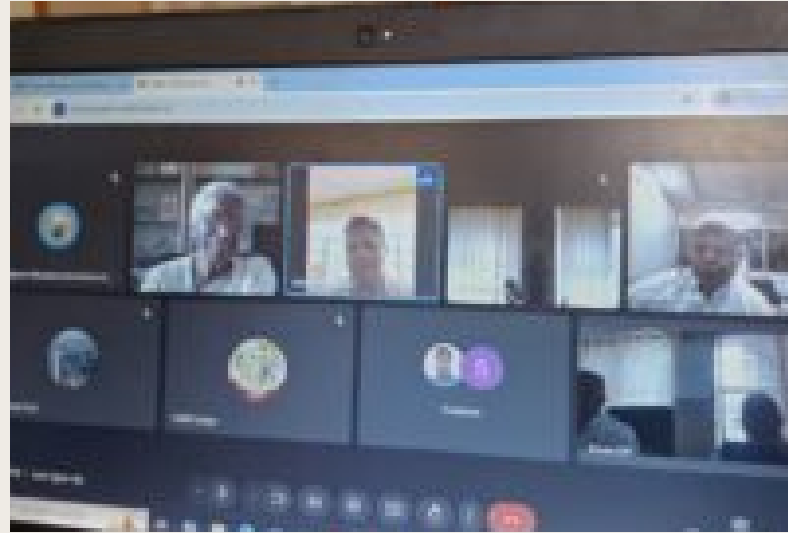
An online meeting was conducted in the month of January, February 2025, for the newly joined staff members of the Women Empowerment Program (WEP). The session provided an overview of the project, its goals, and objectives, ensuring that the new team members understood the program's vision and impact. Additionally, the meeting outlined their specific roles and responsibilities, offering clear guidance on how they could contribute to the program's success. The interactive session aimed to equip the staff with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively participate in and support the program's initiatives.



*Empowered
Women
Empower
Women*



An online meeting of the Maanini State-Level Women Federation was held on 13th January 2025. The primary agenda was planning for the upcoming anniversary of the federation and the celebration of International Women's Day. Members discussed key events, activities, and collaborations to highlight women's empowerment and achievements. Preparations for both events were initiated, with a focus on inclusivity, awareness campaigns, and strengthening the federation's network.



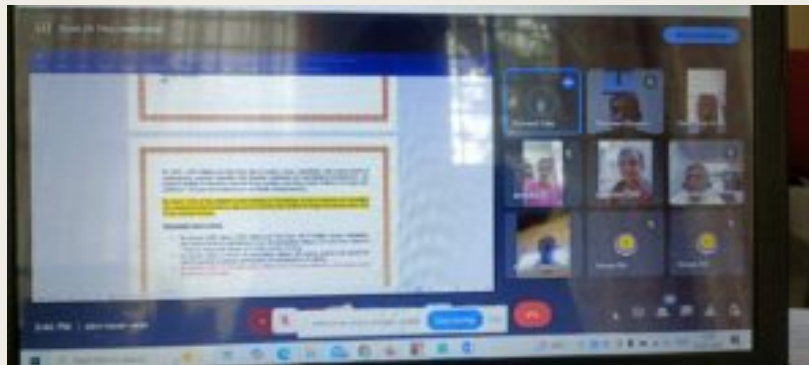
An online debriefing session for the internal evaluation of the Women Empowerment Program was held on 14th January 2025. The evaluators shared their feedback, highlighting key strengths and areas for improvement. The meeting was attended by KROSS staff and directors from all 14 partner organizations. Constructive suggestions were provided to enhance program effectiveness, with a focus on better coordination, resource utilization, and participant engagement. The feedback will be used to refine strategies and ensure greater impact in future program phases.



On January 16th, 2025, the Karnataka Regional Catholic Bishop Council (KRCBC), in collaboration with the Karnataka Regional Catholic Educational Society (KRCE), the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM), and KROSS, inaugurated the new office for Career Development at KROSS. This initiative aims to support the educational and career aspirations of youth in the region, providing them with guidance and opportunities for professional growth. The event was marked by a gathering of church leaders, youth representatives, and stakeholders, all committed to empowering the next generation through skill-building and career-focused initiatives.



A debriefing session for the internal evaluation of the Women Empowerment Program (WEP) was held on January 16th and 17th, 2025. The session brought together WEP coordinators from 14 partner organizations to review the program's progress and outcomes. During the meeting, program coordinators shared valuable feedback, highlighting key strengths and identifying areas for improvement. Constructive suggestions were put forward to enhance the program's effectiveness, with an emphasis on improving coordination, optimizing resource utilization, and increasing participant engagement. The collaborative discussions aimed to refine the program and ensure better impact for future initiatives.



KROSS organised and conducted an online meeting with the HCHF partners to plan and prepare of a comprehensive project proposal for continuing the HAPPY CHILDREN IN HEALTHY FAMILY – CHILD PROTECTION ECO-SYSTEM IN KARNATAKA. Fr. Richard Pais, Executive Director, KROSS, facilitated the meeting. He informed the partners on various components to be incorporated in the proposal for submission to CRS by January 2025. Partners had clarified their doubts and agreed to contribute for the proposal. It was also discussed about the forthcoming visit by the Officer – “Child Desk”, CRS to the DSSS to plan with them on the proposal. Mr. Varghese- Programme Co-ordinator KROSS welcomed the participants and proposed vote of thanks.



A cluster-level training on Government Schemes and Entitlements was conducted in January 2025 across four clusters: CODP, Mangalore; SMSSS, Shimoga; BDDS, Ballari; and KROSS, Bangalore. The event saw enthusiastic participation from around 160 women representatives from various partner organizations. The primary aim of the training was to enhance the participants' understanding of available government schemes and entitlements, while also strengthening their capacity to effectively implement these initiatives at the grassroots level.

Over the course of the two-day program, participants engaged in active knowledge-sharing discussions and practical capacity-building activities. These sessions were designed to sharpen their skills in assisting beneficiaries in navigating and utilizing government schemes and services. By the end of the training, the women were not only equipped with valuable insights but also provided with the necessary tools to improve service delivery and better support their communities in their respective regions.





ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು: ಹಕ್ಕು ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ
ಮಕ್ಕಳು ನಮ್ಮ ಸಮಾಜದ ಭವಿಷ್ಯ, ಅವರ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸಿ, ಉತ್ತಮ ಜೀವನವನ್ನೂ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸೋದು ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಆಹಾರ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸೇವೆ, ಮತ್ತು ಭದ್ರತೆಯ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಇವು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ತಾವು ತಮ್ಮ ನೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಕನಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲು ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ. ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸುವುದೇ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಗತಿಪಥದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾರಿ ತಲುಪಿಸುವ ಮೊದಲ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ.

ಆದರೆ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಅನುಸರಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ, ಮತ್ತು ಭದ್ರತಾ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಜೊತೆಗೆ, ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಹೀನಾಯಗೊಳಿಸುವುದು, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ದುರ್ಬಳಕೆ ಅಥವಾ ಶೋಷಣೆ ನೀಡುವುದು ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ತಡೆಯಲು ನಾವು collectively ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ.



On 25th January 2025, a significant meeting of priests and religious advocates was held at KROSS, where a collective deliberation took place on strategies for enhancing collaboration in the pursuit of justice. The gathering focused on framing clear objectives to effectively address and advocate for causes related to justice and social equity. The meeting underscored the importance of unity between religious and legal leaders in addressing critical issues facing communities. Participants discussed various ways to strengthen their collective efforts, including advocating for marginalized groups, promoting human rights, and ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities. By the end of the session, a framework of actionable goals was outlined, aiming to align the work of religious and legal advocates in their shared mission for justice. The meeting was a step forward in fostering greater cooperation and impact in the ongoing fight for social justice.



A two-day Cluster-Level Training on the Community-Led Approach was successfully held in February 2025 across four clusters: Sampada, Udupi; CMSSS, Hassan; MSSS, Badravathi; and BDSSS, Dharwad. The training brought together participants from these diverse clusters, providing them with essential knowledge and skills to strengthen community-driven initiatives.

The sessions focused on key areas such as community engagement, participatory planning, and sustainable development strategies. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and group activities, participants gained practical insights into effectively implementing a community-led approach in their respective regions. The training was designed to empower participants with the tools needed to drive meaningful change and enhance community development.



A Cluster-Level Training on Safeguarding was conducted in February 2025 across four clusters: Sampada, Udupi; CMSSS, Hassan; MSSS, Badravathi; and BDSSS, Dharwad. The training focused on essential safeguarding principles, core guidelines, and preventive actions to ensure the safety and well-being of individuals within community settings.

Bringing together Self-Help Group (SHG) members and Federation members, the training provided valuable insights into recognizing potential risks, addressing vulnerabilities, and fostering a protective environment. Through interactive discussions and real-life examples, participants gained a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding practices. The session was both informative and engaging, equipping participants with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively implement safeguarding protocols within their communities.



Success through hard work



Jasmine flower cultivation is a significant livelihood for families in the coastal areas of Mangalore and Udupi, with a special demand during the wedding season. The flowers, known for their unique scent, are used in religious and cultural events. This cultivation has become a source of income for many families, helping them meet daily expenses and provide education to their children.

Mrs. Florine Shyla D'Souza, a successful jasmine cultivator from Nakre village, Karkala, began with just 30 jasmine bushes after her marriage in 1998. With hard work and patience, she turned it into a profitable venture, earning between Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 per week, and up to Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 14,000 per month during peak seasons. Today, she manages 60 bushes and serves as a role model for her neighbors, many of whom have started jasmine cultivation under her guidance. Florine's success has not only improved her family's financial situation but also helped support the education of local children.

Governing Board Meeting



The Governing Board meeting of Kross was held on 21st February 2025 at the KROSS Resource and Training Centre. The meeting was attended by the President of KROSS and the Governing Board members. During the session, program coordinators presented their quarterly reports, outlining the progress and achievements of the ongoing programs. The reports provided valuable insights into the operational performance, including key milestones, challenges faced, and plans for the upcoming quarter. The board members engaged in constructive discussions following the presentations, offering suggestions and feedback to further enhance the impact of the project's initiatives. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to continue supporting the growth and success of the organization

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