

Deonar Rotarians focus on women's empowerment

Team Rotary News

Vidya Subramanian, president, Rotary Club of Deonar, RID 3141, began the Rotary year with an initiative, *Yes, we can* — as part of the club's 'encouraging the

empowered' programmes. The first event under this initiative was to felicitate the all-women crew of the city's BEST bus — Lakshmi, the bus driver, and Sujata, the conductor. The women were honoured at

the club's first meeting for the year. They both narrated their struggles and how they went on this unique path to achieve not just success but also establish a voice of their own.

The club organised a fundraiser by collaborating with budding artists through *Art for the Soul*, an exhibition of their paintings. They donated part of the proceeds from the sale of the paintings for the club's women's empowerment programme — *Project Pink Angels*.

A seminar was organised for school students to create awareness about burns prevention, first aid and organ donation. This seminar was held at the General Education



Above: Umbrellas distributed to students at the Shahaji Nagar school.

Top right: Club president Vidya Subramanian and her team at the Art for the Soul exhibition.

Left: Little Roshni Malik celebrates her birthday at the hospital.



Academy School in Chembur by a team from the National Burns Centre. The talk by Dr Kanan Gharat focused on burns safety and club member Dr Sunil Keswani shed light on the importance of organ, eye and skin donation to an audience of 185 students, staff and Rotaractors.

Three-year-old Roshni Malik was treated for a congenital heart defect known as the Tetralogy of Fallot, a situation where the child had four defects in the heart and required immediate surgery. She was

treated at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai, under the club's ongoing global grant; RC Campo Mourao, Brazil, is the international partner.

Project Barsaat

The club has been distributing umbrellas, under its Project *Barsaat*, to schoolchildren studying in underprivileged localities during the monsoons. Recently 200 children studying in the Subhaschandra Bose Vidyalaya in Mankhurd and

100 children in the Shahaji Nagar Tamil Municipal Public School in Datta Nagar and Trombay in Mumbai received umbrellas from the Rotarians.

The club has been associated with this municipal school for several years. "We have supported the school with computers, water purifiers and notebooks, and an urban forest was developed on the school grounds using the Miyawaki technique," says club member Vivek Khandelwal. ■