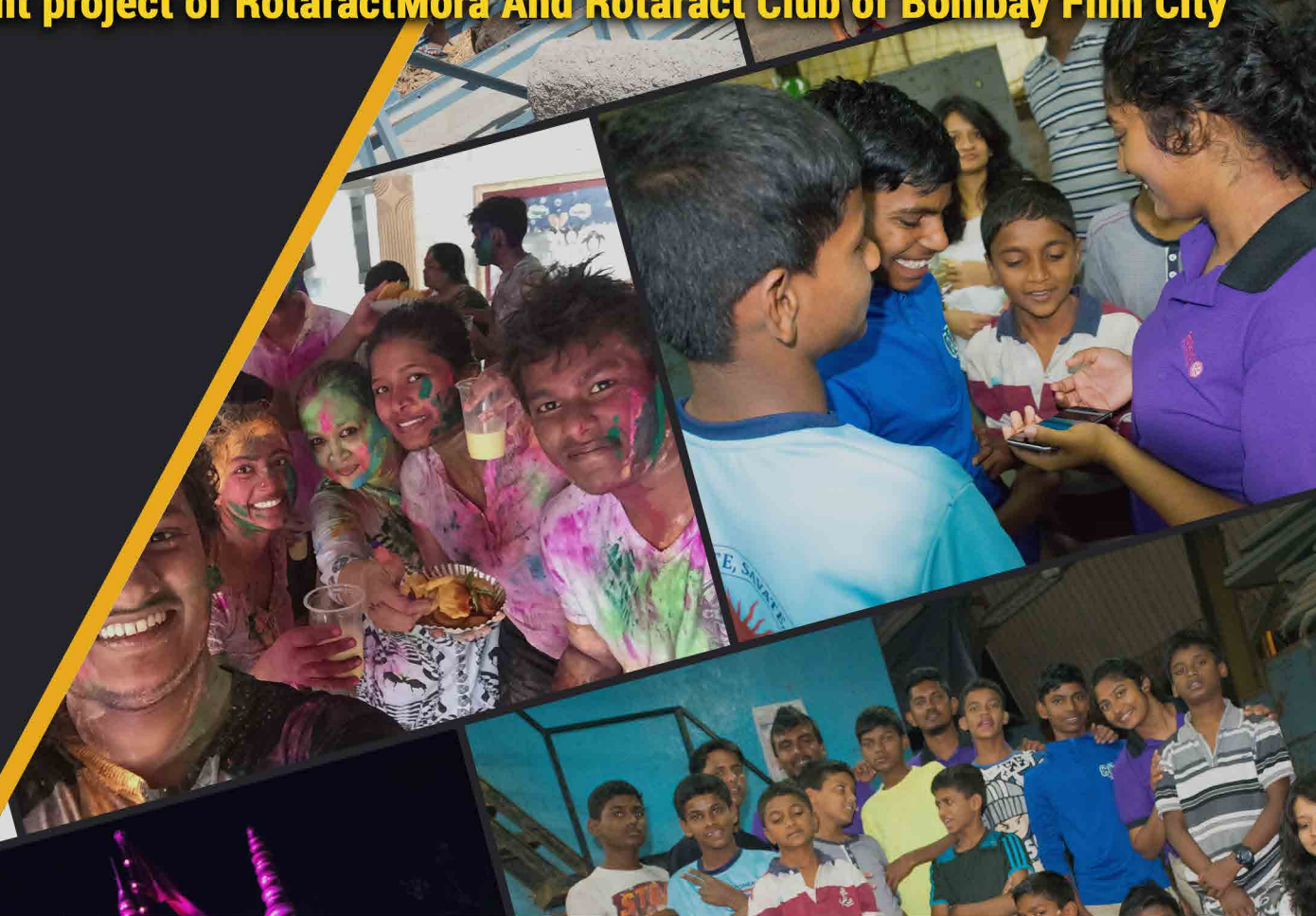


RACONTEUR

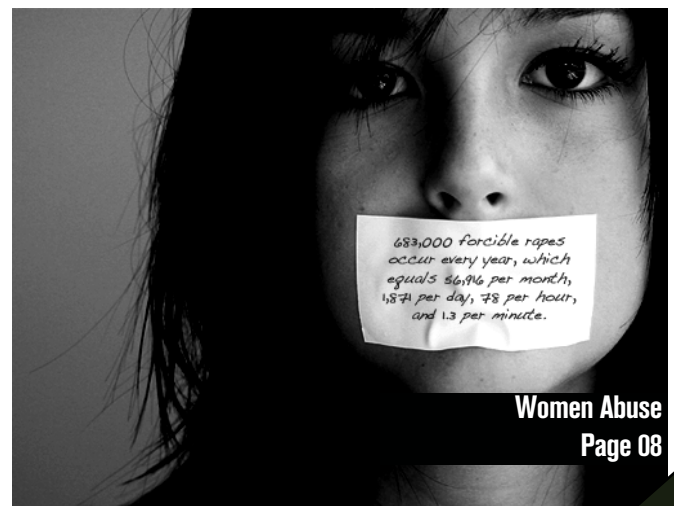
A joint project of RotaractMora And Rotaract Club of Bombay Film City



Rotaract
Rotary Club Partner
District 3220 Sri Lanka & Maldives



CONTENTS



Editorial...

Another Rotaract year is almost seeing its end, but it's never too late to take a trip down the memory lane filled with lot of inspiration, camaraderie and fun. Thus it's once again the time to look back at the journey of the past few months and reminisce about their stories of success.

Rotaract has always brought together people with diverse back grounds to work towards the betterment of the society. Thus, Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa together with Rotaract Club of Bombay Film City brought phase 2 of the project "Sojourn" in the last month.

Tightening the bond between them, the twin clubs across the ocean join hands together to bring forth the "Raconteur" to unfold their stories of success, mingled with different cultures and humanity. This story is a recollection of the moments they relished over the past few months. While wishing both clubs for a wonderful journey ahead, we humbly present you the joint bulletin, Raconteur...

Rtr. Devni de Silva

Co-Editor

Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



Spellbound 2016

A Legacy Continued! Spellbound 2016!

Rotaract Club of Bombay Film City's, Spellbound'16 was on 31st August 2016.

SpellBound is perhaps our Clubs most anticipated PD event; an Inter-School Competition aimed at Challenging Students in the Language front.

This year we took it to an even bigger scale and had a participatory strength of Six Schools.

Only SSC schools were targeted so as to give them a platform that is otherwise found missing.

The event had various games like Crosswords and Bull's eye followed by a traditional Spelling Bee.

Acclaimed Author, Miss Anjali Kirpalani graced the event as the Judge of said competition.

The aim of Spellbound was to help children hone their grammar and language skills, thus giving them the confidence to go on stage and face/enrapture an audience.

The participating schools were very happy with the experience and affirmed their participation in Spellbound 2017.

It was indeed a Dream Lived!



Gift A Smile 17.1

By Kashuni Kariyawasam

Gift a smile, a major project under the Community Service avenue of Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa, is one that focuses mainly on the upliftment of the living standards of children in children's homes around the island. The 17.1 phase of this project which was funded by the generous hearts whose birthdays fell in the months of January, February and March, concluded successfully in collaboration with Rotaract Club of Colombo West and Interact Club of Wycherley International School, under the chairpersonship of Rtr. Dhanuka Perera and Rtr. Kasun Chathuranga on the 11th of March 2017 at the Sanhinda Children's Development Center, Watareka, Padukka where 14 kids in their early teens who had been deprived of parental love and care were spending a monotonous life. The main focus of this worthy course was to bring a spark of happiness to their lives and upgrade their living standards from the current status.

The day started around 10 am with an introductory session where each child was encouraged to introduce them to the crowd and was followed by a round of refreshments. Although the youngsters were a bit nervous at the beginning, after some time they bit the bullet and started to get along pretty well. Then, everyone joined to enjoy themselves by singing songs. Next up was a very valuable interactive session conducted by Rtr. Tharuka Dilshan where he pointed out that the children were not at all alone in the world and inspired the young minds to improve their studies, refrain from bad habits, follow their dreams and serve the society to their fullest.

Then the children teamed up with the Rotaractors in a game of Sudoku, which provided them not only entertainment, but also a chance to improve their intellectual and team working skills.

After having lunch, the kids were invited outdoors to enjoy themselves in some games and this was a blithesome moment full of laughter, happiness and love.

Sadly, as the time was passing by without anybody even noticing, although everyone including the kids was having such a good time, the evening session was started to bring to a conclusion by distributing gifts. Here, apart from the individual gifts, some essential items such as educational materials, stationeries, sports equipment and household appliances which had been identified prior to the visit as unfulfilled necessities at Sanhinda, were donated.

Even though the Rotaractors left the premises after offering tea and taking part in another musical session, they as well as the youngsters at Sanhinda, are sure to keep the nice memories of the day in a special place in their hearts.





Jolly Cause

Winter Solstice - RCBF Plays Santa.

This event took place at an orphanage called Shram Yash Charitable Trust on December 25th, 2016.

The event fostered keen interest in our Club with numerous members turning up to partake in the Christmas Spirit of "Giving".

It was a fun event where in we interacted with the children at the orphanage and they in turn showcased their talents like dancing, singing and drawing.

We also played games like "Santa Says", "Snow on the Mountain" and "Nose the Reindeer".

Members also partook in a Donation Drive wherein we donated essential commodities like Aata, Pulses, Toothbrushes, Tumeric.

All in all it was truly a satisfactory event with both parties parting ways with Cheer and warmth in their hearts.



Grama Prabodhaya" ~ In the pursuit of their dreams ~

By Hasitha Prashan

"Grama Prabodhaya" is a sustainable community service initiative to develop rural villages of Sri Lanka as self-sufficient economic units. Reaching beyond the concept of material donation, this project could be stated as a collective effort to develop villages comprehensively in many aspects to uplift the quality of life of the villagers. The project saw its initiation in July 2016 by the Rotaract club of University of Moratuwa. In recognition of the service rendered towards the community, "Grama Prabodhaya" has been selected as the 'Single Club International Winner in year 2016-17 Rotaract Outstanding Project Awards, organized by Rotary International'.

'Ranugalla', a small rural village in the 'Monaragala' district, which gives residence to about 200 families, was selected for the first unfolding of the project. According to the survey conducted by the "Grama Prabodhaya" team, it evidents that this village faces many recurrent issues due to the lack of proper infrastructure facilities, health and sanitation facilities as well as due to the gaps in education and employment opportunities and many health issues due to the lack of clean drinking water. Female unemployment is also a rising issue in the village. The only school in the village is 'Mo/Ranugalla Kanishta Vidyalaya' which provides education for around 200 students from grade 1 to 11. The school doesn't have permanent teachers for some of the main subjects nor do they have a science laboratory, a proper library or good sanitary facilities.

Rotaract Mora developed a three year plan to address many of these issues that are within our capabilities and also to enhance infrastructure, health, sanitation, education and sports facilities of Ranugalla village. Thus "Grama Prabodhaya" was initiated comprising of a series of sub projects in order to cater these requirements. Our foremost focus was to develop education in the village and encourage students to reach beyond their boundaries of poverty through the means of education. Hence 1st phase of "Grama Prabodhaya" was dedicated to education. Alongside we opted to focus on health issues and community development.

Thus, building a sustainable network around "Grama Prabodhaya", we will confidently take the project to the next phase to provide clean drinking water to the entire village by constructing an artificial tank and a water purifier. Also, we have organized to partner with different organizations to introduce new employment opportunities to the unemployed citizens, especially the women in the village. We will also focus on bringing expertise health care to the village through more projects like "Healing Hands". And we are also planning to uplift the ICT knowledge of the students through building a Computer laboratory in the school.

The team of "Grama Probodhaya" consisting of nearly 100 Rotaractors whose aspiration and the consistent commitment to develop a rural village situated 240 km away is the main strength behind the successful implementation of Phase 1 of the project. Rotaract Mora which has a 200+ membership has the capability and resources to take "Grama Prabodhaya" forward in the years to come.

Women Abuse

By Shenali Kariyawasam

She is the woman who loved you, who smiled and showed you the light of the world, amidst unbearable pain. She is the woman; the girl then, with whom you laughed, played and quarrelled which in turn gave you immense pleasure and memories. Regardless of your flaws, she is the woman who will take your hand, who will promise to be by your side, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health. She is the girl, the miniature – woman to be, who will adore you and will portray you forever.

As you may have already pondered by now, these women portray each and every woman we encounter in life. Women abuse has been and still is at present, a major conflictual phenomenon in all societies and countries. Women of all kinds of backgrounds and all ages are vulnerable of being abused at home (which is domestic violence), work place or while travelling. Abuse doesn't always bleed. Women abuse can be of several types. It can be physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, financial or technological. Regardless of the type, a woman who experiences abuse will experience male domination and gender inequality which will provoke her to silently endure it all amidst physical and mental distress.

Thus, necessary steps should be taken in order to minimize and ultimately eradicate the violence and abuse against women. Despite the growing international awareness on women abuse, there is no significant reduction in violence and abuse. A country's legislation and penal code plays a major role in controlling abusive practices. It should be noted that still some laws regarding women abuse turn a blind eye to the perpetrators. It should contain strict laws against the wrongdoers and provide sufficient compensations to the victims. It should be reinforced that both the perpetrators of violence against women and those who keep silence despite knowing a woman is being abused, are equally contributing towards women abuse.

Moreover, a long lasting countrywide program should be launched to continuously educate the school going scholars about gender equality as they are the future and as it is only from an attitudinal change in the minds of individuals, a country will succeed in eradicating violence against women. A person should always regard a woman as his/her mother, sister or daughter and give due respect and security at all times.

"I believe with the media and several forms of communication available at our disposal, awareness on such an issue has become an asset and tool to create ripples of change and mind-set transformation in the truest of sense. Thus we must look at collaborating and carrying out some on ground activations to trigger the change".

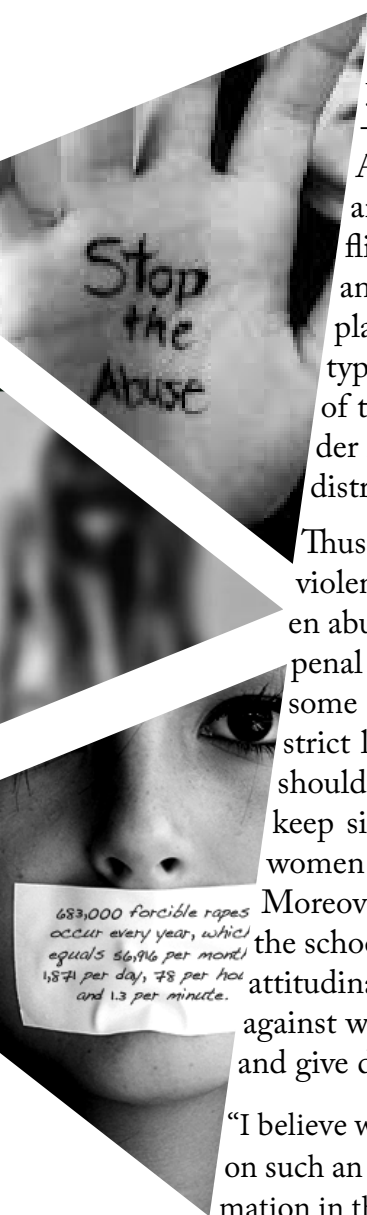
~Monik Doshi

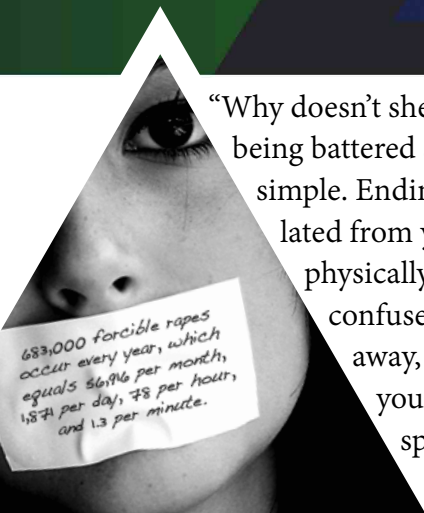
Rotaract Club of Bombay Film City.

"My message to all women is "Do not be afraid to speak out". We are special. It is not an embarrassment to bring to light the cruel actions of these men with no humanity. There are various types of abuse. Be it physical abuse, verbal abuse, mental abuse, sexual abuse or even online abuse; women speak out for yourselves. We should stand together with them. We should instate into every woman the confidence to fight back and not to be trodden."

~Faith Culas

Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



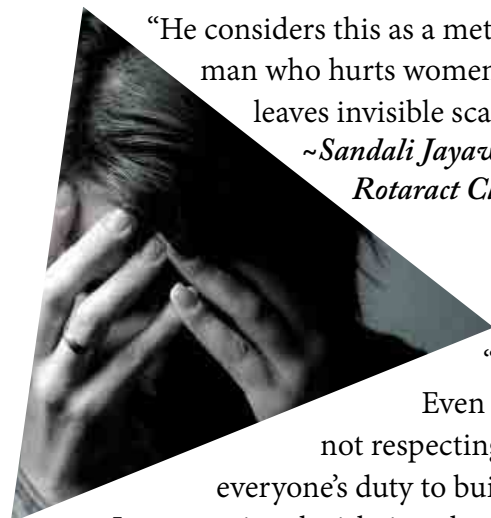


“Why doesn’t she just leave? It’s the question many people ask when they learn that a woman is being battered and abused. But if you are in an abusive relationship, you know that it’s not that simple. Ending an important relationship is never easy. It’s even harder when you’ve been isolated from your family and friends, psychologically beaten down, financially controlled, and physically threatened. If you’re trying to decide whether to stay or leave, you may be feeling confused, uncertain, frightened, and torn. One moment, you may desperately want to get away, and the next, you may want to hang on to the relationship. Maybe you even blame yourself for the abuse or feel weak and embarrassed because you’ve stuck around in spite of it. Don’t be trapped by confusion, guilt, or self-blame. The only thing that matters is your safety. Abusers never change. They need to go through certain rehabilitation programs in order to get rid of that. So hoping that your abusive partner

will change is useless. I think we need to spread this idea among society to guide these abusers for proper treatments. As the first step, women will need to have the strength to step out from their relationships. I think in our society most women don’t have this strength. So it’ll be effective if we can spread the idea that these things are common in society and there are people who can help them. So they will not feel like they are alone in this so they will look for help. Most abusers will be revealed to the society and they will be gone through certain treatments in order to get rid from their abusive behavior.”

~Gayan Nettasinghe

Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



“He considers this as a method of showing his power and manhood. But nothing is weaker than the man who hurts women whether by his actions or by his words. This is a matter of attitudes. Abuse leaves invisible scars in a woman’s life. She has all the rights to fly free. Let her live her life free.”

~Sandali Jayaweera

Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa

“Women abuse has become a major issue in almost all the countries. Even in our country it is a major social problem. The main reason for this is not respecting women. A woman is one’s mother, a sister or a daughter. So it is everyone’s duty to build a safe world for them.

In to my view, legislation should be strict on these issues. Authorities should be straight forward and should not be biased on these situations. We all should join our hands to make the world a better and safe place for everyone.”

~Dayan Nadeesha Jayawardena

Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



New Year Festival

By Kashuni kariyawasam

The month of April is a very special holiday season for Sri Lankans as it brings along with it one of the largest national festivals of the country, the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. This was originally celebrated by the ancient agricultural society to mark the end of the harvesting season, and although in the modern society this purpose is not very dominant, the dawn of the New Year when the sun moves from Meena Rashi to Mesha Rashi is still celebrated with much glamour and grandeur.

The Awurudu season gives the whole country a new touch of splendour and happiness as the people get ready for the new year with new clothes, decorated streets, refurbished houses, Awurudu games and food, in each aspect of which the Sinhalese and Tamils have features unique to themselves. The time period between the demise of the old year and dawn of the new year is referred to as the Nonagathaya, during which people engage in their respective religious activities. Then comes the cultural rituals such as lighting up the hearth and boiling milk in an earthen pot symbolizing prosperity, commencing work and having the first meal of the new year, all of which are done at predetermined auspicious times. Awurudu ceremonies are held all throughout the season in all parts of the island, featuring popular Awurudu games such as Kotta Pora.

The Awurudu season gives rebirth to relationships; it brings together relatives who haven't seen each other in ages; it gives a chance for people to forgive others as well as seek forgiveness. It is on this concept that the true meaning of Awurudu lies.



Demonetisation

By Drashti Sangani

It was the evening of November 8, 2016. I had just returned home from a long day of college and coaching classes and was very happily eating a pizza when I decided to turn on the television. Our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, was going to address the nation and I was sure it was going to be a war announcement with Pakistan. What he said, though, was definitely one of the most unexpected things ever. ₹500 and ₹1000 currency notes were no longer going to be eligible to be used as legal tender. These two currency notes comprised of most of the nation's wealth and every single one of them were to be returned to the Government in exchange of new currency notes. My reaction to this announcement was a simple "WHAT?".

This unprecedented plan was implemented to curb black money. The government said that our nation had generated a lot of black money, money that is untraceable and non-taxable (because it is undeclared), and a good portion of that black money was in ₹500 and ₹1000 notes. By banning these two highest currency notes, most of them would come back into the banking system. People who deposited cash had to explain their income source so if you earned your money through illegal methods and therefore had no reasonable explanation for it, you wouldn't go to the bank with it at all, essentially reducing your currency notes to worthless pieces of paper.

For a few weeks there were extremely long lines outside banks whose employees were working overtime to ensure proper exchange of currency for every single citizen of India. Now, even the poorest of the poor had a bank account because that was the only way in which you could exchange currency. A good portion of wealth came within the banking system. While one can see the merits that demonetisation has, one also needs to keep in mind the shoddy implementation of the scheme. There were quite a few problems with the extra long lines outside banks and shortage of currency throughout the country. Buying essentials like vegetables became a task when the vendors had no currency themselves. There were a few rough weeks.

Now, almost 6 months after the announcement, the effects of demonetisation are still visible. There is enough cash in the economy now, there is a new ₹2000 currency note but the visible change is that small shops have started accepting digital payments from mobile wallets. India is indeed moving towards a digital currency future but it is too soon to evaluate the actual impact demonetisation has had on our economy and only time will tell if it has actually achieved in destroying a significant portion of black money like the government claims.

BEST WISHES FROM ROTARACT CLUB OF BOMBAY FILM CITY



Mausam Mehta (TripIt)
President

The lady on the Iron Throne is one of the sweetest people you will ever come across. As flamboyant as her personality is, she is one of the most approachable people in the club. She has the capacity to translate to convert vision into reality. She has an unparalleled commitment and passion towards community service. Finding a person who is honest, friendly, committed (to the cause of course), creative and endearing is quite rare. And this is why #MausamIsAwesome!



Priya Nandu (Snapchat)
IPP

Sirius Black may have left the Harry Potter universe, but he shall continue to remain in our hearts. She is our Sirius Black. Priya is a very fun-loving and extremely caring person who knows how to motivate people and boost their confidence. She is always ready to take things up, be it projects or shopping bags. Her knowledge and wisdom is something we know we can bank upon during tough times. Her favourite drink is Pepsi because of its tagline: Oh Yes Abhi!



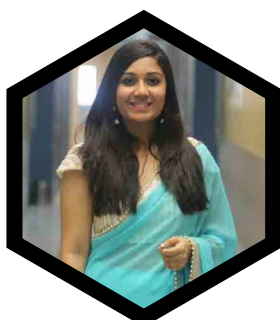
Monik (Wikipedia)
Secretary

A picture perfect perfectionist. He abides by Rotaract rules to the 'T'. An overload of brains and creativity, he is a fellow writer and blogger. His passion and commitment towards Rotaract is Platform nine and three quarters leads him to a world of football with his Hogwarts being Manchester United. He has had a dream since childhood to visit Old Trafford at least once and plans to accomplish it soon. He wears his heart on his sleeve yet has a very pragmatic approach towards life.



Parth Parekh (Wallet)
Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms:

He can be best described as the social butterfly of the club. He has been instrumental in the past to make RCBF known for its International Service avenue across the district 3140. He is a marketing graduate stuck in an engineer's body. As a true embodiment of guju-ness, he loves garba and discounts. He's a go-getter when it comes to chasing his dreams, even if they are as small as completing a TV series a season a day. Pyaar se log use "Pranky" bulaate hai.



Drashti Sangani (Foodpanda)
Human Resources Development

An avid traveler and foodie, she will often be seen going on short trips and trying out local cuisines; and international cuisines; and any cuisines that don't fit into the previous two descriptions. Basically she loves food (in case her corresponding mobile app didn't make it clear enough). She can be very mature yet retain a certain child-like innocence. If you ever need someone to listen to you, she's the one since she is able to relate to people effortlessly.



Utsav Panchal (FotMob)
Sports

For him, football is not a game, but a religion, a metaphysical island of fundamental truth in this cacophony that we call society, the only religion thus far to have succeeded in uniting every human being on planet Earth from the past, present and the future! Not one to sit at home all day, he is always ready to get down and dirty playing a game. An aspiring sports manager, who knows which football team our very own sports director shall manage someday?



Rohan Parekh (Wordpress)
Editor

A highly ambitious stand-up comedian, he's one of those several engineers who discover their mettle during the course of graduate college. Witty, observant and highly receptive to every bit of knowledge put on his way, he is known to have concrete opinions accompanied by punch lines that could crack you up even in the most serious situations. He has unconventional preferences in life because everything he likes is either illegal, fattening or doesn't text back.



Aniruddha Zutshi (Google Earth)
International Service and Partners-In-Service

If there is one person who has unravelled the secret to teleportation, it is this guy! He can be seen almost everywhere. You name an event and you can be sure to have his name as one of the attendees. He's always ready to make new friends and makes them feel at home in his company (pun intended). The pun was intended because he also runs his own PR agency after having completed engineering (why are we not surprised?).

BEST WISHES FROM ROTARACT CLUB OF UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA



Rtr. Chamal Kuruppu
President

If you ask anyone who knows Chamal to name a good belly dancer, they would easily recall his name. He is also famous for his never ending verbal attacks. Yet he is a kind hearted amicable personality truly deserving the title, President of Rotaract Mora. So far through his Rotaract career, he was able to take the club to greater heights in numerous aspects. Chamal is an all-rounder, exemplary leader and a high-spirited Rotaractor who would never let his members down.



Rtr. Kanishka Wijayasekara
Vice President (Administration)

As a guy who is passionate about his life goals as well as serving the community at large, Rtr. Kanishka has been a cognitive member of Rotaract Mora for the past 3 years mainly in the Community Service avenue while also serving as the Assistant Community Service Director of the District Committee for the past year. As fair as he could be Rtr. Kanishka has been a shining star in his Rotaract movement starting off as a proud Rotaractor of Rotaract Mora as well as a member of the District Committee.



Rtr. Chirath Hettiarachchi
Vice President (Professional Development)

With a knack for coming up with creative new ideas and an experiential talent in marketing them, you'll be surprised to find yourself buying his words in no time. As a talented speaker with great organizing skills, he is an eminent Rotaractor who has helped Rotaract Mora sore to new heights. We are so fortunate to have him as a part of the Rotaract Mora family.



Rtr. Bhanuka Abeygoonawardana
Vice President (International Services)

One of the most calm and humble Rotaractors that you could ever find with a unique talent set of organizing and managing teams to achieve the set goals and objectives. He is a lovely human being and a good friend who would always greet you with his pleasant smile.



Rtr. Tharuka Dilshaan
Vice President (Club Service)

He always tries to be in a happy mood by making jokes and laughing at others. Sometimes his words and jokes are too much harsh and unsympathetic for the situations. However he is a good public speaker who has the backbone to speak confidently and straight. Moreover, he is a good motivator, listener, care taker and decision maker. In addition to that he has a great ability and a sense to make accurate predictions by analyzing the surroundings. So he has more than enough qualities for a good leader.



Amitha Bandara Dissanayaka
Immediate Past President

He is a cool person with extra care on nature, especially street puppies and wild ponies. Amitha is currently being used as the test subject for one of his colleague's projects on "Mind Controlled Robot". The truth is there is so much and more to tell about this particular Rotaractor, there's hardly any time! He is definitely deserving of the title "Rotaractor with the most number of stories".



Achini Herath
Vice President Community Services

For those not very familiar with her, she is "badminton Achini". She is someone you'll hardly find without a racket with her. Be it a meeting, be it a lecture, have no doubt, you can catch a glimpse of a racket peeking out of her backpack! Yet for us at Rotaract, she is not only a good sports person but a very loyal friend, a steady helping hand and a spirit of hope for Rotaract Mora!

ABOUT Us

ROTARACT CLUB OF UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
RI DISTRICT 3220, SRI LANKA & MALDIVES



Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa is the first university based Rotaract Club of Sri Lanka. Initiated in 1995 with 16 members, the club has now grown to a membership of nearly 200 members from all the faculties of the University. The Rotaract Club is made up of undergraduates from all three faculties of University of Moratuwa, namely Faculties of Engineering, IT and Architecture.

Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa is more than just a community service club. Over the years, the club has widened its scope into other areas like Professional Development, Club Services and International Service apart from Community Service. Chartered under Rotaract District 3220, the club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Colombo West.

For Rotaract year 2016-2017 the club is led by President Rtr. Chamal Kuruppu along with his board of directors under the theme 'Let Them Shine', making an effort to bring about a positive change for its members and the society at large. The Rotaract Club is one of the most active clubs within the university. One of the key projects of the club is "Are You Ready?" programme, the Official Careers Fair of University of Moratuwa.

The club has won the award "Rotaract Outstanding Project – South Asia Region" twice for the projects "You Are Not Alone" and "HandZ" in 2000 and 2011 respectively from the Rotary International. The newest addition to the club is the international single club award for the year 2016/2017 for the project "Grama Prabodhaya". Apart from the international accolades the club continues to win awards and citations at the annual Rotaract District Assemblies. Upholding the motto of Rotaract, "Service Above Self", the Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa continues to initiate dozens of projects each year, serving as the ideal platform for the men and women who believe they can make a difference to gather around.

ABOUT Us

**ROTARACT CLUB OF BOMBAY FILM CITY
RI DISTRICT 3141**



Chartered in the year 2000 under the esteemed Rotary Club of Bombay Film City, RCBF has prudently evolved under the poised motivation from the parent club. Strong character, diligent efforts and zeal for zenith has led the club to be a true altruist. RCBF is one of the leading community service based clubs in Mumbai, Dist. 3141. The club has been led by prudent presidents and their board; who have given the “success mantra” for clubs activities. The club has marked their active presence in the society and has been constantly working for the enrichment of lives. The clubs underlying motto is to create value; by all the projects it carries out.

RCBF has been in sync with the society for various long term projects; serving the masses at large. The desire to serve and grow has been an inner motivation amongst all members. Over the years the membership has grown and aims to serve for the better. In the initial days club functioned with 10 members; and today the strength is of 50 members; show focus and solidarity in the movement; and also growing presence in the society. Glorious past and a challenging future is what drives all RCBF-ites.

RACONTEUR

A joint project of RotaractMora And Rotaract Club of Bombay Film City



Rotaract
Rotary Club Partner
District 3220 Sri Lanka & Maldives

