



Celebrating 40 Years

# E-Street Voice

September 01– October 30 2020

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

## Editorial Note...

### My Voice, Our Equal Future

In 2020, the United Nations (UN) commemorate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the ‘Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.’ The ‘Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,’ adopted at the Fourth World Conference for Women in 1995 is considered as the most progressive plan of action for promoting the rights of girls. October 11 was declared as the International Day of the Girl Child as per the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 19, 2011. The theme for the International Day of the Girl Child for 2020 is ‘My Voice, Our Equal Future.’

should be created WITH girls. We want to be protagonists of change, not spectators,” says Julieta Martinez, a 17-year-old climate and gender equity activist from Chile.



Voices have been raised and protests of varying magnitudes have been organized in order to make gender equality a reality. However, violations of the rights of girls happen every minute in one place or the other. Let us take a pledge today to be harbingers of change by upholding the rights of girls and by standing up for gender equality.

“Solutions should not be simply FOR girls; they

*Fr. Prasad SDB*

## International Girl Child Day at BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan



ing competitions for the girls residing at the centre based on the theme, ‘My Voice, Our Equal Future. Save the Girl Child’ on October 11, 2020.

On October 12, 2020 during the programme at the centre, Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, gave a message on the theme and said that every girl should uphold the rights of every other girl. Sr. Sheeba, Director In-charge, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan distributed prizes to all the participants. Fifty girls and staff of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan participated in the celebrations.

On the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized cultural programmes, essay writing, drawing and slogan writ-

## Anniversary Celebrations at BOSCO Yuvakendra

BOSCO Yuvakendra, Bengaluru celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary along with the directors, staff and youth residing at the center on September 8, 2020. Speaking on the occasion, Fr. CV George, Director, SJPU and ARSP Programmes, said that BOSCO Bengaluru has completed forty years in the service of the underprivileged children and youth. BOSCO Yuvakendra has been actively involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of the young at risk. He exhorted the youth to make optimum use of the facilities and opportunities provided to them by the organization.

Addressing the youth, Javed Basha, Past Pupil, said, "I have come up in life and have been able to lead a good family life because of the timely support and



guidance of BOSCO. So, I request you all to follow the guidelines of BOSCO to achieve your goals in life." The celebration included the cutting of the cake, cultural performances by the youth of the centre and lunch. Sr. Silvy, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra welcomed the gathering. Twelve youth and staff were a part of the celebration.

### International Girl Child Day



International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated at BOSCO Rainbow Home on the theme, 'My Voice, Our Equal Future' on October 11, 2020. Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, spoke about the importance of the girl child day and exhorted every girl to fight for her rights. Children staged theme based cultural programmes and enjoyed celebrating their day. Fr. John MA, Director, BOSCO Rainbow Home, Sr. Leena, Coordinator, Rainbow Home, seven staff and fifty-seven children were present for the programme.

### Foster Care Training



Foster Care Programme BOSCO Bengaluru organized training for the children and staff of Auxilium Navajeevana Girls Home, Guduvanahalli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District on October 2, 2020. Shivamallu, Coordinator, Foster Care Programme, explained about the importance of family for children and parents, the procedures involved in foster care, etc. Bharathi, Coordinator, BOSCO Mane and Member, CWC Rural), spoke about the care and safety of girl children, prevention of physical and sexual abuse and child trafficking. Fourteen children and staff participated in the training.

## National Nutrition and Poshan Abhiyan Launched



Spoorthi Project, BOSCO Bengaluru participated in the Launch of National Nutrition and Poshan Abhiyan Month's Campaign organized by ICDS Department at Karmikara Samudhaya Bhavana, Bapujinagar, Bengaluru on September 14, 2020. The program was organized to give awareness about Nutritious food and Poshan Abhiyan program.

Ms. Meenakshi Kabade, CDPO, Bengaluru Central Project, ICDS welcomed the gathering. Dr. Usha,

Deputy Director, DWCD explained the importance of consuming nutritious food and the main objective of Poshan Abhiyan in eradicating malnutrition.

Fr. Regi Jacob in his speech explained about the importance of the role of mothers in the family and society. Ms. Meenakshi Kabade, CDPO appreciated BOSCO's presence and felt that there is a great transformation in the AWC with the intervention of BOSCO. Health checkup for children was conducted by NRC, Vani Vilas Hospital. Mr. Joy, World Vision, Bengaluru distributed Protinex Powder to SAM Children. Baby shower was organised for five pregnant women. Annaprashana program was organised for five children. Varieties of nutritious food stuffs were displayed. Fifty Protein drinks were distributed to SAM children with the support of BREADS, Bengaluru.

### Distribution of Snacks to the children



Railway CHILDLINE, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized distribution of snacks to the children travelling in trains twice a day in Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway station, Bengaluru from September 26 to 30, 2020. The CHILDLINE staff working in two shifts distributed the snacks in the morning and evening hours to the kids under Program for Children in Contact with Railway Station (PCCRS program).

Seven hundred and ninety-eight snack kits were distributed to the children travelling in Delhi Special, Karnataka Express, Udyan Express, Dhanapur Express, Mysore Passenger, Karwar-Mangalore Express and Golgumbaz Express.

### Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration



BOSCO Vikas and Mane celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanthi on October 2, 2020 at BOSCO Mane. Mr. Dhareesh, Warden, BOSCO Vikas, welcomed the gathering. Mrs. Lalitha, Teacher, BOSCO Mane, spoke about the life of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahaddoor Shastri, Former Prime Minister of India. Fr. Binny, Director, BOSCO Vikas, garlanded the photos of Gandhiji and LalBahadur Shastriji and gave a message to the children. The celebration concluded with the National Anthem. In the afternoon party games were organized for the children of Vikas and Mane. Fifty-five children participated in the celebration.

## BOSCO Nilaya Anniversary Celebration



BOSCO Nilaya, Bengaluru celebrated the fourth anniversary of the centre by distributing food kits to street dwellers in KR Market, Jolly Mohalla, Ranasinghpet and surrounding areas on September 21, 2020. The

celebration commenced with the prayer by Fr. Regi Jacob, Director BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas. He motivated the staff and said, “Service to people is service to God” and exhorted the staff to continue their services for the welfare of the poor and the underprivileged.

Ramaswamy, Coordinator, CREAM Project expressed his gratitude for being a part of BOSCO. He also echoed Don Bosco’s Preventive System of Education and its benefits to the children. The Nilaya and Nivas teamS cut the cake to mark the celebrations. Hundred street dwellers received the food kits.

## Online Foster Care Training

BOSCO Foster Care Programme organized online training via Google Duo Meet for the Directors and Social Mobilizers of the project across ten districts of Karnataka, from BOSCO Mane on October 17, 2020. Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru appreciated the Social Mobilizers for promoting the Foster Care concept in their Districts and said, “We are the people who are working for the children in difficult situations and all of us should agree to the fact that the biggest happiness of a child is to grow up in a family environment.”

The Social Mobilizers of the 10 districts shared the reports of their activities during the last 3 months. Ms. Usha Kiran,



Member, Foster Care Guidelines, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru spoke about the JJ Act, Foster Care guidelines and rules. She started the session with UNCRC’s insights on children, principles of placement in alternative care, UN Guidelines, Foster Care legal framework in India, identification and preparation of children, matching and placement, post placement, roles and responsibilities of DCPO, CWC, PO-NIC, PO-IC and SFCAC. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Director, BOSCO Foster Care Programme appreciated Social Mobilizers and other team members who helped in creating awareness about the programme in their respective districts. He also explained about the meaning of network, advantages of networking and Foster Care implementation. Mr. Praveen, BOSCO Accounts Department clarified issues related to budget.

Mr. Shivamallu, Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme welcomed the participants and proposed the vote of thanks. Thirty-five participants from 10 districts of Karnataka were a part of the online training.

## World Food Day

World Food Day was organized for the children in BOSCO Vikas by AOW Response Net Group, Bengaluru on October 16, 2020. The purpose of this programme was to make children understand the importance of food and nutrients for a healthy living. Fr. Rubin, Director, BREADS, Bengaluru spoke about the importance of food and nutrition in order to lead a healthy life. As part of the programme, drawing and painting of different types of food was held. Children enjoyed drawing and painting the food items. Fifty children participated in the programme.

## Teacher's Day Celebrations at BOSCO

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan celebrated Teachers day on September 5, 2020 at the centre. Ms. Sheebha Thomas, Director In-Charge, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, spoke about the importance of teachers' day and also explained about the responsibilities of the students. Children performed a skit and dance on the importance of the day. Cultural activities were organized. Children distributed surprise gifts to all the staff. Sweets and snacks were distributed to the children. The staff expressed their heartfelt gratitude towards children. Fifty children and Vatsalya Bhavan staff were present in the programme.

Children from BOSCO Rainbow Home organized Teacher's Day at the centre on September 5, 2020. Children staged cultural programmes and delivered speech about Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and the purpose of celebrating Teacher's Day. Fr. John MA, Director, BOSCO Rainbow Home gave message on Teacher's Day. It was followed by cutting of the cake. Sr. Leena, Sr. Suganya, Ms. Renuka, Ms. Basamma, Ms. Shruthi and fifty-five children were present during the programme.



Children of BOSCO Vikas and BOSCO Mane organized Teachers day at BOSCO Mane, on September 5, 2020. Children enacted a drama on the bonding between teacher and students. Papaiah, Coordinator, BOSCO Vikas, gave the message on the importance of Teachers' Day. Forty children and staff of Vikas, Mane and Health Department participated in the celebration.

## Resource Organization Meeting



BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE Project conducted Resource Organization Meeting on September 18, 2020. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram welcomed the participants and briefly explained the purpose of the programme. Ms. Rashmi, CIF, shared an overview of the CHILDLINE program and its functions. Mr. Johnson Joseph, Coordinator, BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE, presented about the functions and activities of Bengaluru CHILDLINE. There were discussions on how to strengthen the collaboration and network among the NGOs working for the welfare of the underprivileged children. Twenty participants were present for the meeting.

## Distribution of Food Kits



BOSCO Nilaya organized the distribution of food kits in twenty-two communities and fourteen tuition centres with the support of BREADS, Bengaluru during August and September 2020. Area leaders, Community members, BBMP Officials and BBMP Pourakarmikas supported BOSCO in distributing the food kits containing instant food and snacks.

Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas and staff of Nialya and Nivas organized the distribution. Three thousand three hundred and two community members were given the food kits.

## Capacity Building Workshop



Capacity Building workshop for Anganwadi Workers (AWW) and Early Grade School Teachers was organized for Rayapuram Cluster Schools and AWCs at GUEHS, Goripalya, on September 10, 2020. The workshop started with ice breaker activity conducted by Ms. Priya, Coordinator, Spoorthi Project.

Ms. Vinnarasi, Cluster Coordinator, Spoorthi Project, explained about the project and its activities. She also emphasized on the importance of ECCE. Ms. Priya, through group activities, explained the importance of the role of AWW and Early grade school teachers in child development. Ms. Shashikala, AWC Supervisor explained the rights of children and emphasized the teachers to play an active role to stop child rights violation. She also explained about Child begging, child abuse, child labourers, and child marriages. Mr. Azeez, SDMC Member, GUMPS, JJR Nagar appreciated the

team in transforming the life of children and the constant support to community areas and children in need.

Fr. Regi Jacob, Project Director, Spoorthi Project, Ms. Shashikala and Ms. Dakshayani, AWC Supervisors, Mr. Hanumanthaiah, School Teacher, seven AWC Teachers and four School teachers participated.

On September 16, 2020, Capacity Building workshop for AWW and Early Grade School Teachers was organized through Zoom meetings app. Fr. Regi Jacob, Project Director, in his introductory note, explained about the project and its activities.

The interactive session was facilitated by Ms. Ramya, Key Education Foundation, who explained about social, emotional, creative, cognitive, physical, mental and linguistic development in children. Mr. Ramaswamy, Cluster coordinator, Spoorthi Project, explained the importance of promotion of child rights, child protection mechanisms, safety measures to be taken during COVID-19 Pandemic, functioning of CHILDLINE and CWC. Fr. Regi, Director suggested preparing a video of innovative methods of teaching. Ms. Vindhya, MLF, welcomed the gathering and Ms. Bhagyalakshmi proposed the vote of thanks. One AWC Supervisor, fourteen AWC Teachers, two School HMs, fifteen School Teachers and twenty project staff members participated in the online workshop.

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## Stakeholders Awareness Programme

BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE organized awareness programme for RPF officials at the RPF Police Station located on the 5<sup>th</sup> platform on October 7, 2020 and GRP officials at the GRP Station located on the 6<sup>th</sup> platform of Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) Railway Station on October 8, 2020. The awareness was organized to orient the newly appointed officials at the station about the programme. They were briefed about BOSCO and its activities. Information was given about the functions of Railway CHILDLINE, working procedures, role of BOSCO and role of RPF in the care and protection of children at risk. Awareness was also given on Covid-19 and the precautions to be taken, like maintaining social distance, using hand sanitizers, etc. The present procedure of child rescue and intervention and the medical and quarantine facility



for the children rescued was also explained. Ms. Bharathi, SI, GRP, KSR Railway Station, Bengaluru was present during the programme. Seventeen RPF officials and nineteen GRP officials attended the awareness programme.

## Digital Essay Competition

Spoorthi Project, BOSCO Bengaluru organized Digital Essay Competition on the theme 'My Voice, Our Equal Future.' Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, Spoorthi Project and the team organized the competition on the occasion of the International Girl Child Day. The purpose of organizing the competition was to create awareness about gender equality and issues faced by girl children. Children wrote essays in English, Kannada and Urdu Languages. The essays were evaluated by a panel of judges, Ms. Robina Farooq, Former School Principal and Teacher and Mr. Biju, Member, Juvenile Justice Board, Bengaluru.

Bicycles were given to the winners as prizes. School bags were given as consolation prizes to six children. All the participants were awarded with Certificate of



Participation. Distribution of bicycles was done in the communities in the presence of their parents and community members. Certificates of participation were distributed in the schools and communities. Around 120 children between the age group of 11 to 18 participated in the essay competition.

## Foster Care Awareness Programmes



Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru organized six awareness programmes for the Anganwadi Teachers, Byatarayanapura and Chikpet, Bengaluru, Anganwadi Mothers, Vinobanagar, Bengaluru, Ward Corporator, Anjanappa Garden, Bengaluru, ASHA workers, Azad Nagar, Bengaluru and staff of BOSCO Yuvodaya during September, 2020. Shivamallu, Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme and Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, spoke about BOSCO and its services. They also enlightened the participants on child rights, Foster Care concept and responsibilities of Child Welfare Committee. Ward Corporator, fifteen Anganwadi Mothers, forty-one Anganwadi Teachers, fourteen ASHA workers and sixteen Staff, BOSCO Yuvodaya attended the awareness programmes.

## Community awareness



BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE (BRCL) conducted Community Awareness programme for the people at Ambedkar Slum near Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station on October 12, 2020. Mr. Balraj and Ms. Vimala, BRCL staff, spoke about Railway CHILDLINE, services of Railway CHILDLINE, BOSCO and safety measures to be taken during of Covid-19 pandemic.

Face masks were distributed to the children. Fifty community members and children participated in the programme.

## Youth Parliament at BOSCO Yuvakendra



BOSCO Yuvakendra organized Youth Parliament for the youth residing at the centre on September 22 and October 17, 2020. During the September 2020 meeting, Jagadeesh, Youth Representative, presented the previous month's report. There was a discussion on the activities that were completed and the activities that were yet to be taken up. The youth shared about their experience of staying in the shelter, how it has helped them improve their confidence levels, develop their talents, space to relax and improve their English-

speaking skills. The group congratulated Jagadeesh for efficiently handling the responsibilities given to him from the past six months and later selected new representatives – Ravi Bandevaddar as President, Deva as Vice- President and Manoj as Secretary.

The purpose of the meeting held in October 2020 was to build leadership qualities among the youth so that they participate and take ownership of the activities in the centre. Speaking on the occasion, Sr. Silvy, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra said that Yuvakendra is like a light house leading the youth through the path of humanity, moulding them into responsible citizens of the country. She exhorted the youth to make best use of the opportunities provided to them in the center. She expressed her happiness over the proceedings of the meeting being held in English. She was happy to see the youth converse in English with confidence and asked them to continue the same as it would be useful while taking up jobs. Fifteen youth and the staff of Yuvakendra participated in the meeting.

## Public Awareness Programmes



BOSCO Bus Stand Team conducted public awareness programmes at Kempegowda Bus Station and KSRTC Bus Station during October 2020. The team explained about child rights, child protection mechanisms, issues related to children such as runaway children, child labour, child trafficking, child abuse, etc. The team briefed about BOSCO activities in Bus Stand, CHILDLINE 1098 and distributed pamphlets to the general public and passengers. The team was able to reach out to around hundred and fifty public through these awareness programmes.

## Health Awareness



BOSCO Rainbow Home conducted health awareness session for the girls at the centre on October 3, 2020. Dr. Abraham, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru, spoke about health and hygiene. He spoke about taking bath on a daily basis, maintaining dental hygiene, trimming the nails on a weekly basis, drinking safe water, eating healthy food, etc.

He gave awareness on COVID-19 through power point presentation. He insisted that children wear masks and maintain social distance especially when they are in public places. Fifty-one children benefited from the health awareness.



# Rediscovering Childhood!

Eleven-year-old Sheela (name changed) does not remember seeing her mother, and has only a faint memory of her father whom she remembers to have met for the last time when she was three years old. Sheela grew up with her sister and her brother-in-law in their house in Kodipalya, Doddaballapur, from childhood. Sheela is the youngest of five siblings, four older sisters and an elder brother. Two of her sisters have passed away, and she has been living with her third sibling.



Life in her sister's house was not easy for little Sheela. She was treated less like family and more like a caretaker for her sister's three children. Sheela used to go to a Kannada medium school in Kodipalya. She loved going to school and wanted to continue her studies. She used to take her sister's child along with her to the school, so that she could attend classes and take care of the child.

Even after all these efforts, Sheela's sister and brother-in-law used to physically and verbally abuse her. Hurt by her their behaviour, Sheela decided to leave home. She remembered that her sister had once told her that there were hostels in Bengaluru that took care of children well and provided education and shelter. Sheela decided to go to Bengaluru in search of the hostels that she had heard about from her sister. With the little money that her sister had given her earlier, she left home and came to Yeshwanthpur, and from there to Majestic. At the Majestic bus stand, she was rescued by BOSCO staff, and brought to BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan as per the orders of the Child Welfare Committee.

Sheela's sister was contacted and informed about her whereabouts. Her sister refused to take her back home, as she did not want the additional responsibility of providing for her sister. When Sheela came to BVB in June 2020, she was introduced to a whole new world- a world where no one hurt or taunted her, a world where she was heard and understood.

She actively participates in all the different activities at the centre, but loves dancing the most, and doesn't miss any chance she gets to perform. Back home, Sheela was not able to complete her 4<sup>th</sup> standard, but she is very interested in continuing her education now, and wants to go to school and study. She is currently doing the bridge course at the centre. The staff at the centre say that she is a quick learner and grasps concepts easily.

Sheela says that she is happy in BVB among the new friends she has made, and the staff who care for her. After many years of shouldering responsibilities far beyond her age, she is finally getting to be the child she always wanted to be.