

*Editorial Note...*

**Let their Light Shine**

Nelson Mandela once said, “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” November 14 is celebrated as Children’s Day across the country. Coincidentally, Diwali, the festival of lights and Children’s Day occurred on the same day in November 2020. In a year hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, the light in the lives of the less privileged children has been the one that is apparently the worst affected.

As per the data of UNICEF, in India, the closure of 1.5 million schools due to the pandemic and lockdowns in 2020 has impacted 247 million children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools. In addition,

there are over six million girls and boys who were already out of school even before the COVID-19 crisis began.

UNICEF organized ‘GoBlue’ campaign to remind the world that the recovery from the pandemic must be child centric. On the occasion of the World Children’s Day on November 20, major buildings and iconic monuments were lit in blue in support of reimagining a better and brighter world for children. Come, let us join hands to let their light shine.



*Fr. Prasad SDB*

**Deepavali Celebrations**

**BOSCO** Nilaya celebrated Deepavali with the less privileged who dwell on the streets, at the centre on November 14, 2020. The programme was organized to provide them an opportunity to celebrate Deepavali and also to motivate them to become child rights supporters.

Food kits containing bread, cake and chocolates were distributed. Forty-nine people living on the streets benefitted from the programme.

**BOSCO** Yuvodaya organized Deepavali celebrations for the children of the open shelter by lighting diyas in the presence of Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Director, **BOSCO** Yuvodaya and staff of the centre.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram highlighted the importance of celebrating the festival which was translated into Hindi by Jilani, Night Warden, **BOSCO** Yuvodaya for the convenience of the children.

After the celebration special dinner was arranged for the children.



Around fifteen children participated in the celebration.

# Children's Day Celebrations



BOSCO Yuvodaya organized Children's Day for the children at the Open Shelter and children of migrant families at the centre on November 14, 2020. Mr. Shivaswamy, Inspector of Police, Upparpet, Bengaluru, Ms. Manju, Member, CWC1, Bengaluru Urban and Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru were present for the programme. Eighteen children from Open Shelter, fifteen children from migrant families and twenty-three staff attended the programme.

BOSCO Vikas and Mane organized Children's Day at the centre on November 14, 2020. Ramu Jogihalli, Chairperson, CWC, Bengaluru Rural, inaugurated the programme and spoke about child rights. Fr. Binny, Director, BOSCO Vikas, Fr. John, Director, BOSCO Mane and Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas and sixty-seven children participated in the

celebrations.

BOSCO Rainbow Home celebrated Children's Day at the centre on November 14, 2020. Fr. John MA, Director, BOSCO Rainbow Home, said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon in changing the world'. He strongly felt that education should be given a priority and every child should be educated. Fifty-eight children participated in the celebrations.

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized Children's Day Celebration at the centre on November 14, 2020. The program started by tying ribbons on the wrists of children, followed by cultural programs. Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru spoke about the importance of celebrating children's day. Staff of the center performed dance. Fifty children participated in the programme.



BOSCO Nilaya celebrated Children's Day on November 13, 2020 at the centre. Ms. Archana, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Nilaya, explained the purpose of celebrating Children's Day and Child Rights Week. Thirteen children, nineteen staff members and eight Volunteers participated.

BOSCO Sumanahalli, CHILDLINE and Yuvakendra celebrated Children's Day in Sumanahalli on November 17, 2020. Relating his own life, Lokesh, Past Pupil, Comedy Khiladigalu fame, said that it is very important that today's children and youth are aware of child trafficking and the adverse effects of it. Sr. Silvy, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra and staff of Sumanahalli, CHILDLINE, and Yuvakendra were present during the celebrations. Sixty youth participated in the programme.



# Child Rights Week

special

## CHIDLIN Se Dosti Week Inauguration

Railway CHIDLIN, BOSCO, Bengaluru organized CHIDLIN Se Dosti Week from November 14 to 20, 2020 on the theme ‘Prevent Child Trafficking’ in collaboration with the Railway Department as part of the Children’s Day. The inauguration of the programme was held on November 13, 2020.



Ms. Rashmi, CLA welcomed the gathering. Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO CHIDLIN delivered the keynote address and spoke about CHIDLIN Se Dosti week and the importance of the programme. Ms. Mumthaz, DCPO, Bengaluru Urban spoke about BOSCO CHIDLIN’s work in Railway station and other centres for the betterment of children.

yamani, SI, RPF, Ms. Bharathi, SI, GRP, Ms. Bharathi, TTE, Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Director, Railway CHIDLIN, Directors and Coordinators from APSA, SATHI and Child Right Trust and BOSCO CHIDLIN Staff were also present during the programme. The guests and dignitaries released the poster based the theme on “Anti Child Trafficking”.

Mr. Kumara Swamy, Station Master, Mr. Raghuraman, Senior CMI, Mr. Srikanth CMI, Mr. Sharavana, Engineer, IRSDC, Mr. Waseem Inspector, RPF, Ms. Cha-

## Campaign to Prevent Child Beggary



CHIDLIN Collab, BOSCO Bengaluru organized the campaign against child beggary launched by KSCPCR and the Police Department by reaching out to Mahalakshmi Layout and RMC Yard, RR Nagar and Giri Nagar police station limits with public announcements through PA system engaging a vehicle on November 18 and 24, 2020.

The Hoysala Police vehicles from the concerned police stations joined the team to give awareness to the public. The police assured to continue the support to CHIDLIN in rescuing the children in need of care and protection. The team along with the police officials warned parents and employers who had brought children to the place of work. They agreed that they would not employ children.

## Competitions Organized



displayed.

BOSCO Rainbow Home conducted essay competition and poster making competition for the children of the centre during the child rights week. The best essays and posters were selected and prizes were distributed.

Children of BOSCO Nivas wrote Essays on ‘Anti-Child Trafficking’. Children shared their soft and hard copies of their essays to the Staff members. The prizes were distributed to the winners after the essays were assessed by a panel of judges.

BOSCO Vikas held tabloid and Poster making competitions for the children of the centre on child trafficking and gave the prizes.

Drawing competition and Poster making competition were held for the children in Nagarbhavi, Nandini Layout and SR Bus Stop communities on the theme ‘Prevention of Child Trafficking’ on Nov 16 2020 by BOSCO CSN team. Prizes were distributed to the winners.

BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE organized drawing competition on Prevention of Child Trafficking for the children of Ambedkar colony and VST colony located near the KSR Railway station on November 16 and 17, 2020. Thirty children from VST Colony and fifty children from Ambedkar Colony participated in the competition. Prizes were distributed to the winners.

Children of the communities in and around BOSCO Nilaya made Posters on ‘Anti-Child Trafficking’. Children shared their soft and hard copies of their posters to the Staff members. Team visited their homes and collected the posters and the winners were given the prizes.

Poster campaign on the prevention of child trafficking was held in Gandhinagar by BOSCO Yuvodaya team who handed out the posters made by the children to the shops and hotels in Gandhinagar to be



CHILDLINE Collab, BOSCO Bengaluru organized activities for the children at BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, Bengaluru on November 17, 2020. Drawing and Essay Competitions, indoor games, party games, Volley ball and Cricket matches were conducted for the children as part of the CHILDLINE Se Dosti Week. Prizes were given to the winners. Around forty children participated in the programme.



# Child Rights Week

special

## Awareness Campaigns

BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE organized awareness campaign on Prevention of Child Trafficking for shop owners, and passengers on the platforms and coolie porters at the entrance of KSR Railway station on November 14, 16 and 17, 2020. Twenty-five shop owners, around 200 public and passengers and fifty Coolie porters benefitted from the programme.

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan carried out awareness campaigns on 'Prevention of Child Trafficking' for the public at Chamarajpet, for the Leelavathi Hospital staff, BBMP workers and ANS Rainbow Home Children on November 16, 2020.

Railway CHILDLINE and BOSCO Yuvodaya jointly organized "Awareness Rally on Child Trafficking" in Majestic Area of Bengaluru on November 19, 2020. Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Ms. Rashmi, Program Manager, CIF, and Mr. Lokesh, Past Pupil, BOSCO flagged off the rally. For the conclusion program at the KSR Railway station, Mr. Sourab Jain, JGM, IRSDC, Mr. Srikanth, CMI and Mr. Raghuraman, Senior Consultant, IRSDC were present.

BOSCO Yuvodaya conducted awareness on Prevention of Child Trafficking for the migrant families residing near Sangham Theatre in Majestic area of Bengaluru on November 20, 2020. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, Ms. Rashmi, Programme Manager, CIF, and Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru were present on the occasion. Mr. Anil Joseph, Coordinator, BOSCO Yuvodaya facilitated the program. Around hundred and twenty five parents and children participated in the programme.

SJPU team visited various media houses like Praja Vani, The Hindu, Indian Express, Vijaya Vani, Vijay



Karnataka and created awareness on Child Trafficking, and displayed the posters on Prevention of Child Trafficking in the media houses during the child rights week. The team organized awareness programmes for the police officials in various police stations including Kamakshipalya, Magadi Road, VV Puram, KP Agrahara, Chandra Layout, RR Nagar, Jnana Bharathi and Kengeri and also for the traffic police in Vijayanagar, Bengaluru. The team also conducted awareness for the BOSCO Yuvakendra youth on the theme.

CSN team carried out awareness on Child Trafficking in Bhariappa Badavane and Krishnappa Layout areas of Bengaluru. BOSCO Rainbow Home Conducted awareness campaign in Wilson Garden Police Station on prevention of child trafficking and gave posters for display in the police station. 12 Police personnel were given awareness.

Through various social media, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas carried out the Digital Campaign by disseminating the information on Child Rights Week and Anti-Child Trafficking. Posters on Child Rights Week were distributed to four Police Stations and one Community center. Over 2600 shares were made.

## Tying CHILDLINE Se Dosti Band



BOSCO Yuvodaya in coordination with BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE team organized a visit to Upparpet Traffic and Crime Police Station, Outpost Station, RPF, GRP, and Primary Health Centre, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru along with children from the open shelter and Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya and Railway CHILDLINE on November 18, 2020. Children tied the Dosti band to all the police officials and stakeholders and handed over the memorandum and awareness poster to the police officers. Six children and five staff were a part of this programme.

BOSCO Nilaya team with children and community leaders visited Cottonpet Police Station, KR Market Police Station, SJ Park Police Station, JJR Nagar Police Station, Ambedkar Bhavan Community Center and V.S. Garden on November 20, 2020. Pushpa, Cluster Coordinator, BOSCO Nilaya, briefed the stakeholders about the importance of the Child Rights Week, children tied the Friendship bands to Police officials symbolizing Child Friendly Police. Mr. Prem Kumar, Assistant-Sub Inspector of Police, Cottonpet, Bengaluru with the other police officials re-

ceived the memorandum from the children. Six Children, thirteen Police officials and two Community members along with Nilaya Staff participated in the event.

BOSCO Nivas continued the campaign of tying Dosti bands and submitting the memorandum in Shivajinagar Police Station and Government offices on November 20, 2020. The programme started with the visit to Women Police Station, Broadway Road, Shivajinagar and then to BEO Office, Kamaraj Road, Shivajinagar. Five children participated in the campaign.

SJPU team visited various media houses like Praja Vani, The Hindu, Indian Express, Vijaya Vani, Vijay Karnataka and gave the posters on Prevention of Child Trafficking and tied Dosti bands to the media personnel during the Child Rights Week. Children from BOSCO Vikas and Mane along with the staff visited VV Puram Police station and submitted the memorandum duly signed by the children and staff to the Police Inspector on November 21, 2020.

CSN Team visited eight police stations including that of Jnanabharati and Kengeri in its working area along with the children from the communities who tied Dosti bands to the police personnel and presented the memorandum and sought help from the police to protect the children and stop child trafficking.

A team from CHILDLINE Collab, BOSCO Bengaluru, along with staff and children's representatives from BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, visited Annapoorneshwari Police Station and Kamakshipalaya Police station on November 17, 2020. The team tied CHILDLINE Se Dosti band on the wrists of police officials and requested them to help the team to reach out children in need of care and protection. Posters on CHILDLINE Se Dosti Week and Anti- Child Trafficking were given to the police stations.



# Child Rights Week



## Signature Campaign

Railway CHILDLINE, BOSCO Bengaluru organized 'Signature Campaign' as a part of CHILDLINE Se Dosti week at the entrance of the KSR Railway station on November 15, 2020. Mr. Manu, Deputy Station Master, inaugurated the campaign by signing on the banner and spoke few words about the importance of Children's Day celebration. After the inauguration ceremony the Railway stakeholders and passengers signed on the banner and awareness was given to them. The public gathered and participated in the signature campaign. Hundred and fifty signatures were collected from the passengers and stakeholders.

BOSCO Yuvodaya organized Signature Campaign near Movie Land Theatre as part of CHILDLINE Se Dosti week on November 17, 2020. Mr. Anil Joseph, Coordinator, BOSCO Yuvodaya, facilitated the program and gave brief information about the program. Ms. Rashmi, Program Manager, CIF and Fr. Mathew



Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru inaugurated the program. Mr. Sudhakar ACP, Upparpet Traffic Police Station visited the program point and ensured his support to CHILDLINE 1098. Open shelter staff and children ensured their support to CHILDLINE by putting their palm impression on the white cloth. Pamphlets were distributed during the program. Around 150 public benefited from the program.

## Online Awareness Programmes



Online session on CHILDLINE 1098, Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, POCSO Act and Online safety, was organized over ZOOM Platform by BOSCO CHILDLINE for the students of Jindal Public School, Bengaluru, as part of CHILDLINE Se Dosti Week, on November 18 and 19, 2020. The session was facilitated by Fr. Prasad, Director, CHILDLINE Collab, BOSCO, Bengaluru. Children and staff clarified their doubts regarding child related acts and issues related to children. Over 150 students and twenty teachers participated in the session.

## Slogan writing competition



BOSCO Nilaya, Nivas, CSN and Rainbow Home teams organized slogan writing competition for the children of the centre and the surrounding communities of Shivajinagar and KR Market and Bairappa Badavane and Krishnappa Layout, Bengaluru, on the theme 'Prevent Child Trafficking' during the Child Rights Week. Children recited slogans on Child rights and Anti-Child Trafficking. Videos of children shouting slogans were made. Children shared the videos to the staff members. Children from the area actively participated in the event in large numbers.

## Comestai Regazzi Camp

BOSCO Yuvakendra organized a three day camp—Comestai Regazzi on Life Skills for the inmates of the centre at Don Bosco, Ajjanahalli from November 27 to 29, 2020. The purpose of the camp was to develop life skills for a better life. Mr. Revanna and Mr. Shivanna, Resource Persons facilitated the sessions on imbibing various skills like communication, listening, being happy, loving the nature and environment, about enhancing one's talents and skills, respecting human beings and becoming responsible citizens through various group activities.

The youth were also taken to the hill nearby and Sid-deshwara Temple for an outing. They enjoyed the serenity of the nature. They played games like cricket,



football and volley ball to their heart's content. They also put up a skit on the current situation prevailing in the society. Fr. George CV, Director, SJPU and ARSP Programmes, BOSCO Bengaluru, Sr. Silvy, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra and the staff were present in the camp. Twenty youth participated in the camp.

## Outing to BOSCO Sumanahalli



BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized an outing for the inmates of the centre to BOSCO Sumanahalli on November 7, 2020. Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, addressed the children and asked them to feel at home and also asked them to be safe. Sports, cooking and rangoli competitions were organized for the children. Children enjoyed playing and participating in the different competitions. They also felt relaxed and happy as they ventured out of the centre for the first time since the COVID pandemic.

Forty-seven children were a part of the outing. Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Sr. Sheeba, Director In-charge, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan and staff accompanied the children for the outing.

## Consultation with Government Officials



CHILDLINE Bengaluru organized a consultation with CDPOs and ICDS officials at Stree Shakthi Bhavan, Madiwala, Bengaluru, on November 20, 2020. The programme marked the conclusion of CHILDLINE Se Dosti Week. Speaking at the programme, MN Karibasavana Gowda, ACP, South Division, Bengaluru said that the police department would provide the necessary assistance in rescuing the victims of child marriage. B. Usha, Deputy Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Mumtaz, DCPO Bengaluru, Anjali Ramanna, Chairperson, CWC, Bengaluru Urban, Lakshapathi, Director, APSA, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, CHILDLINE Col-lab, BOSCO Bengaluru, spoke on the occasion. The officials discussed about the various issues regarding the prevention of child marriages and about the effective rehabilitation of children. Around sixty officials participated in the programme.



## Namma Shale Opens



BOSCO, Bengaluru has initiated a new program to address the issue of education for children in slum communities, in the absence of regular classes in schools. Children living in the slums have been among those worst affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and closure of schools across the country. With daily survival itself becoming a challenge for people in slum communities, online education is an unattainable

dream for these children, forcing many of them into child labour, child marriage, and beggary. It is in this context that BOSCO has initiated the concept of ‘namma shale’, in which older children studying in higher classes hold Math, Kannada, and basic health awareness sessions for the younger children.

The program has been initiated in 21 slums in Bengaluru. Forty-two children from these 21 slum communities have been trained by BOSCO staff to teach the younger children, and the classes in each community are led by 2 senior students. This program is headed by Shafi, Devaraj, Savita, and Mallu, from the Child Safety Net team of BOSCO. The ‘namma shale’ program is designed to continue till schools reopen for regular classes. These classes are proving to be a constructive way of engaging children, while ensuring that they do not lose touch with education. Children in all the 21 communities are actively participating in these non-formal classes, as they eagerly wait for the schools to reopen.

## Foster Care Training Programmes



BOSCO Foster Care Project organized online and onsite Foster Care Trainings for stakeholders like Anganwadi teachers of Dodda Banaswadi and Devanahalli Anganwadi Centre, and SHG members of MRS Palya, Jayamahal Extension, Bengaluru during November, 2020.

Mr. Shivamallu, Coordinator and Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, Foster Care Programme briefed about the procedure for applying in CARA Website (Adoption), and explained about BOSCO activities, JJ Act and Foster care procedures. Fifty-two Anganwadi Teachers and twenty-nine SHG members attended the training.

## Kannada Rajyotsava Celebration



BOSCO Yuvodaya celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava with the transit home children in the centre on November 1, 2020. Fr. Mathew Thomas, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, welcomed the children and the gathering. Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas hoisted the flag and spoke about the importance of the day and shared the values and culture of Karnataka to the children. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, spoke on the occasion. Sweets were distributed to the children. Special food was arranged in the afternoon. Fourteen children and three staff participated in the celebration.