

December 31, 2020

*Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru**Editorial Note...***Together, we can!**

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home, so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world... Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world,” said Eleanor Roosevelt.

International Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10 December. The theme for the International Human Rights Day 2020 is- ‘Recover Better- Stand Up for Human Rights.’ At the end of a year devastated by a pandemic of gigantic proportions, the UN urges everyone to stand up together on the path of recovery.

Human rights violation does not happen in an abstract space. It happens in our families, communities, and the society at large. For fear of consequences when one chooses to remain as a mute spectator to the innumerable instances of atrocities and violence, it is equivalent to staying on the side of the oppressor than the oppressed. On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, let's take a pledge to be human by resisting and protesting against all that is inhuman.

*Fr. Prasad SDB***Day of the Poor Celebrated**

BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, Bengaluru organized ‘Day of the Poor’ to bring joy to the hearts of the poor and give a chance for them to celebrate Christmas on December 17 and 22, 2020 in K.R. Market, Cottonpet, Bakshi Garden, Goods shed road, Cottonpet, Bakshi Garden, Tharagpet, and Shivajinagar. Fr. Regi Jacob, Director BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas along with the staff distributed food kits to the people dwelling on the streets. Street dwellers in need of first aid and medical support were identified and supported.

Street dwellers felt happy and energized and thanked BOSCO. They also said that they will help BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas in rescuing, rehabilitating and referring children in need of care and protection. Around hundred street dwellers were given food kits.

CREAM Project Meeting

CREAM Project Team, BOSCO Bengaluru, participated in the Training programme of CREAM- Phase 3 organized by BREADS, Bengaluru at Don Bosco Provincial House, Bengaluru, from December 1-3, 2020. Fr. K. C. Sebastian, Rector, Don Bosco Provincial House welcomed the gathering. Fr. Joy Nedumparambil, Executive Director, BREADS in his introductory message said that CREAM project works in collaboration with the Government and tries to strengthen the Government programmes for children.

Fr. Antony Sebastian, Chairperson, KSCPCR in his inaugural message said, "In Phase 4, I wish CREAM to cover all the districts of Karnataka and KSCPCR will be happy to join hands." Mr. Soni Kutty, Child Rights Specialist, UNICEF addressing the gathering said, "We need to network

to resolve the issues faced. We can make the difference together." Fr. Jose Koyickal, Vice-Provincial, Bengaluru Province quoted the famous saying, "When the going is tough, the tough gets going." He said that the Salesian world is happy to present CREAM. We have to instil self-esteem, self-confidence and hope in children.

Mr. Soni Kutty, introduced UNICEF to the group. He said that activities such as Grama Sabha, Child Rights Clubs etc., should be organised to provide opportunity for children to participate. Legislation of laws and the mechanisms such as CWC, CHILDLINE, DCPU, CMPO, SJPU were explained. It was suggested that CREAM 3 should emphasize on positive parenting.

Fr. Rubin Mathew, Assistant Director, BREADS, presented Don Bosco National Job Placement Network. www.donboscojobs.org, a website and Jobs DBI, mobile app. Key features of the Website was shared and poster was distributed.

Fr. Joy Nedumparambil, explained the baseline survey reporting format, monthly reporting format and the impact indicators through a presentation. The 20 pro-

ject locations were shared. Major activities of the project were explained. Targets per year were shared. Mr. Manjappa, State Coordinator, presented a ppt on Children Grama Panchayat amendments.

Mr. Benny Augustine, Manager, Projects, BREADS explained about the advocacy action, reporting format, MIS-Management Investigation System, details of child protection systems in a Panchayath required, District, Taluk, Panchayath wise SDMC, CPC, Bala Vikas Committee, Village Justice Committee etc. The teams from different districts shared about the existing advocacy activities in their respective districts. Roles and responsibilities of the CREAM staff members were shared.

In the Valedictory program Fr. Joy Nedumparambil wished that the learnings would be turned into action. Fr. P. S. George, Economer, Don Bosco Provincial House, Bengaluru Province wished that advocacy would be taken up on a war footing. Thirty-three participants from Don Bosco Mysore, Ramanagara, Davangere and Chitradurga and BOSCO Bengaluru, participated in the programme.



Training on Children's Ward Sabha



BOSCO Nilaya organized capacity building programme on Children's Ward Sabha for the staff at the centre on December 7, 2020. Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya, quoting the message of Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, SDB, Rector Major, said, 'Let all our approach be positive and filled with hope'. Mr. Ramaswamy, Cluster Coordinator, Spoorthi Pro-

ject, introduced the principles of Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, Children's Grama Sabha with the details on amendments. He spoke about organizing Children's Ward Sabhas in the target locations. He also explained about UNCRC, child rights and the importance of advocacy actions. Mr. Vasim, outreach staff and Ms. Priya, Project Coordinator, Spoorthi Project, explained in detail about the nine mandatory participants required to be present for the children's Sabha.

During the discussions it was decided that two representatives from the Child Rights Clubs of each school would be present for the Ward Sabha. Ms. Ravikumari, Cluster Coordinator, Spoorthi Project, emphasized on strengthening the advocacy actions through Children's Grama Sabha. Twenty-two staff participated in the training.

Awareness Campaign to Prevent Crimes



Kalasipalaya Police station in collaboration with CHILDLINE 1098 organized 'Awareness Campaign to Prevent Crimes' program at Vinobha Nagar, Bengaluru on December 17, 2020. Speaking on the occasion, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, CHILDLINE Collab, BOSCO Bengaluru briefed about Juvenile Justice Act, Prevention of Child Marriage Act, POCSO Act, Child Labour Prohibition Act and about the means to prevent children from entering into conflict with law. Preethi.HR, Prasanna, Ravish and Dhanush Chand, Sub Inspectors, Kalasipalaya Police station spoke on the occasion.

The police officials urged the members of the community to educate their children and keep them away from evil influences in the society. Over 150 people from the community including children were given awareness through the program.

Sports meet for BOSCO Vikas Children



BOSCO Vikas organized Sports Meet for the children at BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli on December 19, 2020. Fr. Prasad, SDB, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, welcomed the children and gave brief instruction regarding the center and about Sports Meet. Team games like cricket, football and kabaddi were organized.

The children were divided into four groups and competitions were held. Fr. Binny, Director, BOSCO Vikas, Br. Albin and staff of BOSCO Vikas and forty-three children participated in the sports activities.

Adolescent Children and Youth Meet

CREAM Project, BOSCO Bengaluru organized Adolescent/Youth meet at St. Peter and Paul Higher Primary School for Rayapuram Cluster, at Vyayamashala AWC Center for Shanthinagar Cluster, at BOSCO Nilaya for K.R. Market Cluster and at Govt. Model Higher Primary School, Karithimmanahalli for Chamrajpet Cluster during first and second week of December, 2020.

Mr. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, CREAM Project, Ms. Vinnarasi and Ms. Pushpa, Cluster coordinators, CREAM Project, conducted the sessions. They explained about Don Bosco, BOSCO centres, and their activities. They also briefed about Child Marriage Prohibition Act, CHILDLINE, child rights, Reproductive health and hygiene, safe and unsafe touch and about Covid -19 safety measures. Activities on



how to manage emotions, develop self-confidence, trust, patience and setting goals were conducted by the team. The participants were introduced to the vocational training courses at BOSCO and Don Bosco Jobs app.

Christmas celebration at BOSCO centres



BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Yuvakendra, Yuvodaya, Nilaya, Nivas, Rainbow Home, Mane, Vikas and Sumanahalli organised Christmas celebrations with children and youth from December 21 to 23, 2020 at their respective centres. The Directors of the respective centres inaugurated the crib and gave a message on the importance of celebrating Christmas. Children and staff performed skits, dances and carols signifying the value of Christmas.

The Management and Staff were present during the celebrations. Around 250 children and youth from the centres and areas were a part of the celebrations.



Foster Care Awareness Programmes



BOSCO Foster Care Programme, organized awareness programmes for Government Officials at BRC Centre, VIjayanagar, Bengaluru, School Teachers at CRP Centre Model Higher Primary School, Chama-

rajpet, Bengaluru, Govt. School, Karithimannahalli, Bengaluru, and Self-Help Group Members, Anganwadi Center, Pillareddy Nagar, Bengaluru during December 2020. Obalesh K, Social Mobilizer, Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, spoke about BOSCO and its services. Mr. Shivamallu, Coordinator, Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, discussed about laws and policies related to children and enlightened the participants regarding Foster Care concept, types of Foster Care, purpose of Foster Care, roles and responsibilities of Child Welfare Committee.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Director, Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, requested the stakeholders to promote Foster Care in the communities they work so that parents come forward to give a child a family. Twenty-four Government Officials, thirty-seven School Teachers and twenty-one SHG Members attended the awareness programmes.

Community Awareness Programme



Special Juvenile Justice Unit (SJPU) Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized a community awareness programme at Meeting Hall, Kamakshipalya Police Station, Magadi Road, Bengaluru, on December 26, 2020. PN Basavaraju, Coordinator, SJPU, BOSCO, Bengaluru, spoke about child rights, child related issues such as child trafficking, child labour, child marriage, child abuse, children dropping out of school, prevention of crimes, etc. citing various examples.

The community people ensured that they would report cases related to children in their neighbourhood, if any, to the concerned authorities. Prashanth, PSI and three Sub Inspectors, Kamakshipalya Police Station were present for the programme. Forty-seven people participated in the programme.

Awareness Programme



Special Juvenile Justice Unit (SJPU) Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized an awareness programme on Child Rights and Protection for the staff of Sudarshan Silk House, Balepet, Bengaluru on December 22, 2020. PN Basavaraju, Coordinator, SJPU, BOSCO, Bengaluru, briefed about child rights, child protection mechanisms and POCSO Act.

There was an interaction with the staff regarding work place harassment and sexual abuse. There was a discussion on how to handle such problems. Ms. Shruthi, Woman PSI, City Market Police Station was present during the awareness programme. Fifty staff attended the programme.