



E-Street Voice

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

Editorial Note...

Online Safety of Children: A Mirage?

National YaR (Young at Risk) Day is celebrated across the country on August 31. The theme for the YaR campaign in 2021-'22 is, 'Every Child Safe Online'. "While technology and digital solutions provide significant opportunities to keep children learning, entertained and connected, these same tools may also increase their exposure to a myriad of risks," says Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF.

The nation-wide closure of schools, lockdowns and re-

strictions due to COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a phenomenal increase in the number of children and families resorting to digital solutions for learning, recreation and socialisation.

As the screentime of children is on the rise, their exposure, vulnerability and risks in the virtual space is a matter of concern. According to statistics, more than a third of young people in 30 countries report being cyberbullied, with 1 in 5 skipping school because of it and 80% of children in 25 countries report feeling in danger of

sexual abuse or exploitation online.

A multipronged approach is necessary to ensure that the online experience of children is safe and constructive. Governments, companies, service providers, parents, schools and caregivers have a vital role to play ensure that children are empowered and prepared to face the challenges of learning, socializing and having recreation online.



Fr. Prasad SDB

National YaR Day Campaign



The online launch of National YaR Campaign 2021 - 2022 and celebration of the YaR Day was held on the theme- "Every Child Safe Online" on August 31, 2020. Fr. Tony Pellissery, DB YaR, Executive Director, Rev Fr. Biju Michael, Regional, South Asia and Rev. Fr. Thathireddy, Provincial, Hyderabad spoke on the occasion. Ms. Shruthi Roy Chowdhury briefed the highlights of the campaign.

Children from DB Anbu Illam, Chennai, Vatsalya Bhavan, BOSCO Bengaluru and Jyothi Snehalaya, Guwahati performed dance. The Campaign Poster was released on the occasion.

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Independence Day Celebrations at BOSCO



Independence Day was celebrated at the Centres of BOSCO on August 15, 2021. BOSCO Mane and Vikas celebrated Independence Day in the presence of Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Vikas and Fr. John MA, Director and Administrator, BOSCO Mane. Mr. George Kutty, Y's Men International hoisted the flag and Fr. Prasad SDB, gave a message on the theme "Let Children Express themselves." Members of Y's Men International were present on the occasion. Later in the day party games were conducted and prizes were distributed to the winners. Thirty-seven children and staff participated in the celebrations.

At the Rainbow Home, celebrations began with the hoisting of the flag by Sr. Jenny, Coordinator, BOSCO Rainbow Home along with the Mrs. Vijya Lakshmi, Headmistress, High School, in the school premises. During the day, cultural programme was organized. Fr. John MA, Director, BOSCO Rainbow Home, gave message on Independence Day to the children. Rainbow staff and fifty-five children were present during the celebration.

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan celebrated Independence Day in collaboration with Leelavathi Multi Specialty Hospital, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru. Dr. Harish MD, Leelavathi Multi Specialty Hospital gave an inspirational speech on the importance of Independence Day and exhorted the children to go ahead in life

filled with hope. Sweets were distributed to the children. Sixty children participated in the celebration.

BOSCO Sumanahalli celebrated the Independence Day with the centre youths and area children. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru inaugurated the programme by hoisting the National Flag. Party Games were arranged for the children. Sweets were distributed to the children. Fr. Joshy, Director BOSCO Sumanahalli and Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas and staff of BOSCO were present during the celebrations. Sixty children participated in the celebrations. Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra hoisted the National Flag. Revanna Marlinga, Programme Manager, Dream A Dream and Basavaraj, Asst. Professor, MN Degree College, Bengaluru spoke about the freedom struggle and the current situation. Twenty-three youths, children, five past pupils and staff were present for the celebrations.

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National YaR Day Campaign

On the occasion of YaR day, BOSCO Yuvodaya, BOSCO Yuvakendra, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, BOSCO Sumanahalli, BOSCO Rainbow Home, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, BOSCO Mane and BOSCO Vikas, organised sessions with children and staff on online safety which included online abuse, effects of pornography, social media addiction, fake digital profiles, the risk of sharing personal information online and managing screen time.

Fr. Prasad SDB, Director BOSCO Mane and Vikas conducted a session on 'online safety and cyber crimes' for the staff of the centre. Ms. Cliona D'Costa and Mr. Ravindra, Staff, BOSCO Yuvodaya explained about cybercrime, cyber bullying and the helpline number to reach out to when in trouble for the children of Open Shelter. The staff and children of the centres took part in the online launch of the YaR Day Campaign.

Don Bosco's Birthday Celebrated



Birthday of Don Bosco was celebrated at the respective centres on August 16, 2021. Children in Vatsalya Bhavan staged a cultural programme honouring the great saint. They sang hymns and performed a skit on the life of Don Bosco. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram shared about the life of Don Bosco, his humility and his love for the youth. Sixty children were present in the celebration.

Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas exhorted the children to follow his principles. He said one can be happy by making others happy. Sweets were distributed to the children. Around thirty-five children, staff and Directors were present

BOSCO Rainbow Home celebrated the 206th birthday of St. Don Bosco by cutting the cake. Cultural programmes like dances, drama, speech and songs were organized. Sr. Jeny, Coordinator, BOSCO Rainbow Home exhorted the children to imbibe the values of Don Bosco, love for children and youth and respect and dignity for all. Around twenty-five children were present for the programme.

BOSCO Yuvakendra celebrated Don Bosco's birthday on August 16, 2021. Fr. CV George, Salesian In-charge, BOSCO Yuvakendra graced the occasion and



spoke about the principles and values of Don Bosco. He briefed about the establishment of BOSCO in Bengaluru and how the descendants of the Saint are continuously striving towards achieving his dreams. The movie on Don Bosco involving his childhood was screened. Twenty-three youth participated in the program.

Formation of Child Rights Clubs



BOSCO CREAM Project organized the formation and training of Child Rights Club (CRC) members at Makan Compound, Shivajinagar,

Bengaluru Urban, Veerabdra Na- Mr. Devraj K, Coordinator, gar Community, Bengaluru, Devraj CREAM Project, Ms. Archana and Urs Community, Bengaluru, Pil- Ms. Kalaivani, Social Activists, lahalli Community, Bengaluru Ur- CREAM Project facilitated the for- ban, GHPS, Veera Raghavanpalya, mation of the CRCs. They trained Bengaluru Rural, Yuvakendra, the CRC members on their roles Magadi Road, Bengaluru Urban and responsibilities. They motivat- and Nagarbhavi Community, Ben- ed the CRC members to take initia- galuru Urban during August, 2021. tives in addressing the issues of Through an activity, Fr. Regi Jacob, children. They also asked the mem- Director, BOSCO Nilaya briefed bers to refer the deserving youth of the communities to vocational training courses. Hundred and thir- UNCRC, child protection mecha- ty-one children from these commu- nisms and CHILDLINE-1098. nities were selected as the club members.



International Youth Day Celebrated

International Youth Day was celebrated in BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas on August 12, 2021. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, guided the children regarding choosing friends, managing time, utilizing opportunities and seeking the blessings of God and elders. Mr. Prashanth Murthy, HR Manager, BOSCO Bengaluru, exhorted the youths to imbibe good virtues and qualities and work hard towards achieving personal goals. Through an activity, Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, explained about the challenges adolescents face; be it, internet addiction, substance abuse, emotional and mental outbursts, peer acceptance, etc. He also showed them some inspirational videos. Ms. Gijija, Social Activist, BOSCO Nilaya, explained about



developing self-confidence. Ms. Brunda and Mrs. Priya Malini, Social Activists, BOSCO Nilaya spoke about respecting elders. Ms. Kalaivani, Social Activist, BOSCO Nilaya explained about personal hygiene. Mr. Amal, Project Manager, BOSCO Bengaluru and sixty-nine children participated in the programme.

Meeting of Prospective Foster Care Parents



Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized a meeting with prospective parents at BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan on August 17, 2021. Oblesh K, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, introduced the purpose of the meeting. Briefing about BOSCO and its services Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, said that Foster Care project launched in 2012, was born out of the belief that family is the best place for a child to grow up in.

Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, explained the concept of foster care. Ramaswamy, Outreach Officer, BOSOCO Foster Care Programme, explained about the importance of a child being brought up in a family rather than being institutionalized. Sr. Sheeba, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan was present for the meeting. Thirteen prospective parents participated in the meeting.

General Health Check-up



BOSCO Health Care Department organized a general health checkup for the youths of BOSCO Yuvakendra and BOSCO Sumanahalli at BOSCO Yuvakendra on August 17, 2021. Dr. Abaham, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru and his team conducted the camp. The doctor prescribed medicines and immunity booster to some of the youths. The mother of one of the youths of the centre was counselled regarding his illness, the precautions to be taken and food to be given.

The doctor advised her to allow the boy to stay at the centre for some more time as he would get better food, care, and attention. The team from St. Martha's Hospital gave awareness on COVID- 19 and motivated the youth above 18 years of age to take the vaccine. Twenty-two youths from Yuvakendra and seven youth from Sumanahalli availed the benefits of the camp.

Induction Training Programme



Human Resource Department, BOSCO Bengaluru organized Induction Training Program for the newly appointed staff, at BOSCO Yuvodaya on August 26,

2021. Fr. John MA, Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru briefed about programs and services of BOSCO. Mr. Shivamallu, Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme and Mr. Ramaswamy, Outreach Officer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, oriented the staff on child rights and child laws.

Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas engaged the staff in an activity-based session and explained about Don Bosco's Preventive System of Education and Values. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru took session on Child Welfare Committee (CWC) procedures and Juvenile Justice Act. Mr. Prashantha Murthy, HR Manager, briefed about the HR policy of BOSCO. Twenty-three participants attended the training.

Awareness Programme for BMTC Officials



BOSCO team working in the Bus Stand organized an awareness programme for the BMTC officials on August 23, 2021. The main objective of this program was to create awareness among BMTC officials about BOSCO's work and services. Vinnarasi, Team Member, gave information about the issues faced by the children and how BOSCO is supporting the needy children on the streets. She also explained about child rights and the role of BOSCO in the protection of child rights. Mr. Krishnamurthy, Assistant Traffic Manager (ATM), BMTC cautioned all the officers in the Security Section to be attentive towards needy children in the bus stand and refer them to BOSCO. Anjaneya, Coordinator, Bus Stand Team, acknowledged the support of BMTC in the rescue and protection of the children in difficult situations. Forty-six officials attended the awareness session.

Value Education on Communication Skills



BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted a session on effective communication skills for the youths of the centre on August 7, 2021. The session began with a game to make the participants understand that people hear and interpret things differently, even when given the same information. Geethamala, Counsellor, BOSCO Yuvakendra, distributed sheets of paper to the participants and asked them to fold the paper into an origami shape blindfolded according to her instructions.

The counsellor, then explained the importance of communication, interpretation, asking questions and confirming the understanding. She also briefed about the different types of communication and how to practice effective ways of communication. Twenty-three youths attended the session.



Karate Belt Grading Exam Organized

Mr. Marilinga, Karate Instructor, organized Karate Belt Grading Exam in coordination with BOSCO Nilaya at BOSCO Life Skill Training Center, Sumanahalli on August 8, 2021. Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, spoke about discipline, humility and hard work. Fr. Joshy, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, exhorted the children to work hard and achieve their goals. Karate Instructors and students did karate demonstration.

Belts, certificates and prizes were distributed to all. Three children were promoted to green belt, 4 each were promoted to purple belt and orange belt, one child was promoted to brown belt, and six children were promoted to yellow belt from the Nilaya Team. Mr. Vinod Kumar successfully obtained black belt. Mr. Marilinga and Karate Instructors felicitated Fr.



Joshy and Fr. Regi with shawl and garland. Ms. Archana, Social Activist, BOSCO Nilaya welcomed the gathering. Ms. Bhagyalakshmi, Social Activist, BOSCO Nilaya, proposed the vote of thanks. Eighteen children (six girls and twelve boys) from Ramanana Garden, Bhakshi Garden and Jolly Mohalla and twenty-eight children from various parts of Bengaluru participated in the exam.

Session on Spiritual Values



BOSCO Rainbow Home organized Value Education session on 'Spiritual Values' to the girls residing in the centre on August 22, 2021. The purpose of organizing the session was to fulfil the divine potential of children, prepare them for life by giving them the tools to face life and motivate children to be closer to God and deepen their relationship with God.

Sr. Shamala, Counselor, BOSCO Rainbow Home, showed inspiring movie on the importance of spiritual values, narrated moral stories focusing on personal insight, values, meanings and purpose in their lives. Seventeen children participated in the session.

Outing to Jeevaratni Foundation



BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized one day outing to Jeevaratni Foundation, Nallur, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu for the children residing in the centre on August 28, 2021. The children interacted with the children from Jeevaratni Foundation. They strolled round the campus enjoying the nature.

Children from both the homes staged cultural programmes. They played in the park and had fun. It was a pleasant change for the children away from the busy city life. Fifty-two children, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Sr. Sheeba, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan and eleven staff joined the children for the picnic.

Police Sensitization programme



Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru, in coordination with Chamarajpete Police Station organized a sensitization programme and Masika Jana Samparka Sabha on August 28, 2021. In his keynote address, B.S. Lokapoor, Police Inspec-

tor, Chamarajpete Police Station, Bengaluru, briefed about the goals and objectives of the programme. Tippeswamy D, Coordinator, SJPU Project, BOSCO Bengaluru, facilitated the session on Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and Model Rules, POCSO Act - 2012 and children in conflict with law. He also explained about SJPU, CHILDLINE, structure and procedure, the helpline- 1098 and the role of police officials in care and protection of children in difficult situations.

B.S. Lokapoor explained about the purpose of organizing Masika Jana Samparka Sabha. People came up with their problems and the police tried addressing them. Hanumanthappa, Traffic Police Officer, Chamarajpete, Bengaluru exhorted the people and police to support SJPU, especially, when children are seen begging at the traffic signals. Fifteen police officials and around sixty people were present for the programme.

Sports Day at BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan



As part of the Independence Day celebration, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized Sports Day for the resident girls at the centre on August 14, 2021. The children were divided into four categories such as sub-juniors, juniors, seniors and super seniors. Various games like collecting the balls, sack race, breaking the balloons, folding the sarees, brush and cap, lemon and spoon, threading the needle, getting ready to school in 5 minutes, word memory, non-stop skipping, bridal make-up, pyramid making, eating biscuits and milk powder were conducted. The children enjoyed the games thoroughly and felt refreshed. Fifty girls took part in the games.

Training on Documentation Tools



BOSCO Home Link (HLK) in coordination with BOSCO Nilaya organized half-day training on Documentation Tools for the staff of the centre on August 9, 2021. Mr. John Joshua Nirmal, Coordinator, HLK, introduced the 'In-Contact' format to the team and explained in detail about filling and updating the format. He also explained about updating the details of CRC children, tuition centre children, Karate Club children in the format. Sangeetha, Team Member, HLK briefed about updating the reports/documents in the Child MISS tool. Six staff and two student volunteers of BOSCO Nilaya attended the training.



Parents' Meeting

A meeting for the parents of the tuition children was organized by BOSCO Nivas at Ambedkar Huts, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru on August 13, 2021. The meeting commenced with a brief introduction about BOSCO and its area of work. Mothers were instructed to send their children regularly to the tuition classes and advised them to make their children wear proper masks and use sanitizer frequently. Guidelines were given to the mothers to take care of their children's health as a precautionary measure for the third wave of COVID 19. They were advised to strictly follow the protocols given by the Health Department for COVID 19. Nine mothers of the tuition children attended the meeting and expressed their willing to send the children for tuitions.



Child Protection Committees Formed



CREAM Project, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized meetings to form the Child Protection Committees (CPC) at Gollahalli, Honnenahalli, Shivagange, Agalakuppe, Nelamanagala(Tq) Bangalore Rural during August, 2021. Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya, explained about BOSCO and its activities to the group. Ms. Bhagyalakshmi and Ms. Archana, Social Activists, BOSCO CREAM Project, explained about the rights of children, children's issues such as trafficking, child labour, child marriages, abuse, etc. and the laws and acts to deal with such issues.

Mr. Devaraj K, Coordinator, BOSCO CREAM Project, explained about skill training programmes available at BOSCO. He also explained about child rights clubs, CPCs, and the role of stakeholders in protecting the interests of the children. Seventy-eight stakeholders including PDO, panchayath president, vice president and panchayath members were present.

Visit to Foster Care Families



BOSCO Foster Care team visited the families of foster care children in Silvepura, Kannamangalalya, Hebbal, K S Garden, Farukya Nagar, Yalachenahalli areas of Bengaluru on August 18, 2021. The purpose of the visit was to monitor the growth, academic performance and family bonding of the children in foster families. It was observed that the children were happy with their foster families and parents. They were performing well in studies. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director and Director, Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru and Ramaswamy, Outreach Officer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme were part of the team. During the visit, food kits were given to the families which were sponsored by Mr. Joseph, Principal, St. Joseph High School, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru. The team visited the families of three girls and ten boys in foster care.