



E-Street Voice

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

Editorial Note...

Home, Sweet Home!

“Every traveler has a home of his own, and he learns to appreciate it the more from his wandering,” says Charles Dickens, one of the most famous British Novelists of the Victorian era. Home, a word that usually triggers myriads of nostalgic memories in the minds of people, is a place where hearts reside and not a mere roof under which people find shelter. Even migratory birds travel hundreds of miles non-stop to get back home, to their natural habitat.

The process of reuniting children who have been away from home often sheds light on the varied dimensions of human bonding and familial love. Way back in 2001, in my initial days at BOSCO, I happened to accompany a teenage boy home along with another staff from the organization. He had been away from home for months. His parents, relatives, and friends had left no stones unturned in searching

for him, but to no avail. As we were nearing the house, his mother seeing him from far away, rushed out to meet him and with tearful eyes embraced him. In a short while, the villagers, close-knit as they are, huddled around their child who had gone missing. The rustic folk in their simplicity hailed us with much warmth. Believing firmly in the principle that ‘institutionalization is the last resort,’ and striving perennially to uphold ‘the best interest of the child,’ this issue of E-Street Voice celebrates the reunion of Manjunath with his family. We wish him all the best and hope that all the children and youth estranged from familial bonds get the opportunity to belong there once again!



Fr. Prasad SDB

Third Quarterly Evaluation of BOSCO

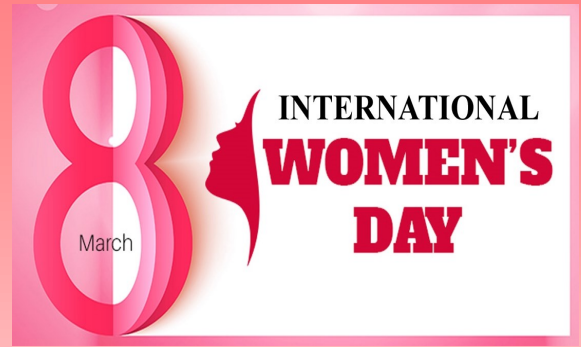


The third quarterly evaluation of BOSCO was held at BOSCO Yuvodaya, Bengaluru, on March 9, 2022. In his introductory words, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO, Bengaluru, shared a few

practical tips to bear in mind while working with the less privileged children and youth. The concerned coordinators presented reports of projects and programmes from the various areas and centres of BOSCO for the quarter. Major programmes to be held in the upcoming quarter, like summer camps for the centre children and youth, outing for the staff, capacity building of the staff on various child-related issues and acts, supporting child labour survey being organized by the Labour Department, etc. were discussed. All the managing directors of BOSCO and around seventy-five staff were present in the evaluation meeting.

Women's Day Celebration

International Women's Day was celebrated at BOSCO Nivas and BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli.



BOSCO Nivas



BOSCO Nivas celebrated Women's Day with the women from the community and mothers of children attending tuition classes on the theme, 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow', at JC Road on March 8, 2022. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru briefed about the challenges faced by women in their day-to-day life. He gave examples of women achievers who stood against all odds. Mary Triza, former staff, BOSCO, explained how gender discrimination begins at home itself. Fr Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO

Nivas narrated a story signifying the role of the mother in one's life. Vinnarasi, Team Member, Outreach Team working in Bus Stands spoke about the special rights of women under human rights, domestic violence, exploitation and sexual harassment, POCSO Act, and Equal Remuneration Act.

Party games were organized for all the mothers and prizes were distributed. Fr. Joshy Puttur, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli was present on the occasion. Eighty-five women participated in the Women's Day Celebration.



BOSCO Sumanahalli

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli organized Women's Day for the mothers of the children attending tuition classes, tuition children, and other women of Devaraja Urs area on March 27, 2022. Fr. Irudayaraj, Director, Support, Sumanahalli, appreciat-

ed the women for their valuable contributions to society and family. He said that every woman is like a lamp in the house. Fr. Joshy, SDB, Director, BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, highlighted the role of a woman as a mother in the lives of people.



Fr. Regi, Director, BOSCO Nivas, and Nilaya said that a mother is like salt in the food. She adds taste to life in the family. During the occasion, a short video was screened to the gathering with the message that mothers have a vital role in our lives. After watching the video, the participants were asked to share what they understood. Children performed cultural programs. Hundred and thirty women and children participated in the program.

Health Awareness at BOSCO Rainbow Home

Health awareness on Cancer was organized for the girls residing in the centre by BOSCO Rainbow Home and BOSCO Health Care Department on March 21, 2022. The purpose of the session was to increase awareness of cancer and its causes, to prevent cancer, remove the stigma and fear attached and help the children to recognize the early signs and symptoms of cancer. Uma Rai, Health Counsellor, St Martha's hospital spoke about the types of cancer - lung cancer, throat cancer, head and neck cancer, gastrointestinal, stomach cancer, colon cancer, breast cancer, etc. She explained how to have a healthy lifestyle, avoid exposure to known cancer-causing substances, and take medicines or vaccines that can prevent cancer from developing. Sr Susan, Coordinator, Health Care Pro-

ject, BOSCO Bengaluru was present in the session. Forty-nine children were benefitted from the awareness session.



Training Programme on Healthcare



Training programme on First Aid and Emergency Medical Care was organized by BOSCO Health Care Department for the staff of the organization at St. Martha's College of Nursing, Bengaluru, on March 23, 2022. Ms Deena, and the team, Faculties, St. Martha's College of Nursing, facilitated the session. Defining First Aid, the faculty said that it is an immediate treatment that is given to a person on an emergency basis.

They explained about the various health problems like nasal bleeding, foreign bodies in the eyes, ears and nose, epilepsy, fractures, injuries, dog bite, snake bites, fever, common cold, fire burns, etc., and the immediate treatment that could be given. Twenty-seven staff from different centres, areas and projects of BOSCO attended the training.

Parents' Meeting at BOSCO Nivas



A meeting was organized for the parents of the children attending tuition classes at the centre by BOSCO Nivas on March 25, 2022. The Nivas team discussed the vaccination to be administered to children above 15 years of age. The team also discussed the ongoing annual examinations for the children.

The parents were requested to keep a track of their children's exams, take care of their health, give them nutritious food, keep them hydrated, see that they do not panic during the exams, see that they follow a proper time table and also relax sufficiently during the exam times. Twelve mothers attended the meeting.

Special Awareness Programme



Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) Project in collaboration with Labour Department organized a special awareness programme on child labour for the stakeholders in Cantonment Railway Station (BNC), Bengaluru on March 5, 2022. Mr Vijay Kumar K S, Station Manager, BNC spoke about the presence of

child labourers in the station and lauded the work of BOSCO in rescuing and rehabilitating children in various difficult situations. Mr Harish, ASI spoke about the immediate need for combating child labour and assured support to BOSCO towards this end. Mr Santosh Hippargi, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Division 2, Bengaluru, explained about child labour and asked the stakeholders to call up 1098 for swift action towards protecting the child. Mr Ramaswamy, Coordinator, Gandhi Nagar Area Project facilitated a session on child rights, child protection mechanisms, child-related issues, child-related laws, and the role of BOSCO in protecting and rehabilitating the children at risk. Fr Johnson, Director, BOSCO ARSP Project was present on the occasion. Forty stakeholders were part of the program.

Public awareness at Ravindra Kalakshetra



On the occasion of Women's Day, the ICPS Organized a program at Ravindra Kalakshetra. The CHILDLINE team set up the CHILDLINE kiosk at the Ravindra Kalakshetra premises in collaboration with the ICPS. The different stakeholders like the Health Department, CDPOs, PHC staff, Anganwadi teachers, DCPU Staff, SHGs, Stree Shakti group, School teachers, and general public enquired about CHILDLINE Service. The posters regarding child marriage, Prevention of Child labor, CHILDLINE 1098, were distributed to the public and different stakeholders.

“Komal” video about Child sexual abuse, “Mughda” about Child found begging and movie about Adoption were screened. A video was screened regarding the safety of the children and the problems faced by the children. Around 300 public and 1000 different stakeholders benefitted from the program.

School Awareness Programme



BOSCO Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), in coordination with BOSCO Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, organized awareness in Government Higher Primary School, Kadapa Swamy Mutt, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bengaluru, on March 17, 2022. Basavaraju P N, Coordinator, BOSCO CSN Project gave awareness about JJ act, POCSO act, children's rights, their behavior in the school and outside of the school, and the role of parents in bringing up their children. Boregowda, ASI, K.P Agrahara Police Station, Bhagyamma P, Head Mistress, SJPU and CSN Team, and School Teachers were present in the program. Hundred and fifty children and thirty parents attended the awareness session.

In-house Training on POCSO Act

In-house training on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, was organized for the staff of BOSCO Mane on March 15, 2022. Facilitating the session, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, said that the POCSO Act was enacted in 2012 and is gender-neutral. It defines a child as someone below the age of 18 years. He said that the Act was unique because it places the burden of proof on the accused. The Act also increased the scope of reporting sexual crimes against children as it addresses a wider range of offences against children. The child-friendly procedures in the Act were discussed in detail. These included recording of the child's state-



ment, medical examination, designation of special child-friendly courts, provision of support persons, and the role of parents/guardians. Twenty staff of the centre attended the training.

Exposure Visit to Mercy Home



An exposure visit was organized for the children at BOSCO Rainbow Home to Sisters of Holy Cross Old Age Mercy Home, Kothanur and Sadgamaya Girls Home, Davis Road, Bengaluru on March 13, 2022. The superior, Sr. Annet, Holy Cross, Old Age Mercy Home shared about the services rendered at the institution. She said that the home aims to address the needs of neglected aged women and provide complete support to them.

The children performed a cultural program to entertain the inmates of the home. Sr. Jessica, the Superior of Holy Cross, Sadgamaya Girls Home addressed the gathering and allowed the girls of the Home and Rainbow Home girls to interact. Sr. Jenny Dias, Coordinator, and Sr. Shamala, Counsellor, BOSCO Rainbow Home accompanied the children. Seventeen children were part of the exposure visit.

Picnic to Fun World Amusement Park



BOSCO Management had organized a picnic for its staff at Fun World Amusement Park, Bengaluru on March 26, 2022. It was a good time for the staff to relax and enjoy the theme park especially, after the restrictions of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the morning the staff enjoyed playing the water games. Post lunch, they moved on to the dry games area. Irrespective of the age, professional hierarchy, or experiences, the mood of recreation was contagious.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, Fr. Johnson, Fr. John, Fr. Regi, and Fr. Joshy, Directors, BOSCO Bengaluru were present for the picnic. Hundred and twenty-one staff were a part of the one-day outing.

Training for Primary School Teachers



A training programme was organized by BOSCO Foster Care Project for the primary school teachers, Government Higher Primary School, Kadapa Swamy Mutt, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bengaluru, at the school office on March 4, 2022. Mr. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme explained in detail the foster care concept and the programme. He requested the teachers to spread the information regarding the foster care programme to the parents and the guardians and help in identifying the prospective parents and children. He also distributed the pamphlets to all the participants. Sixteen primary school teachers attended the programme.

Health Awareness



BOSO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli in collaboration with the Health Care Department, BOSCO Bengaluru conducted an awareness session on Cancer for the mothers of the children attending tuition classes in Devaraj Urs community on March 17, 2022.

Ms. Uma Rai spoke in detail highlighting the symptoms and manifestations of cancer that can affect a person. Thirty-four women attended the session. Fr. Joshy Puttur, SDB, Director, BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, Sr. Suzan, Coordinator, BOSCO Health Care Department, and two interns from Christ University were present in the session.

Parents' Meeting at BOSCO Vikas



BOSCO Vikas organized a meeting for the parents of the children residing in the centre on March 27, 2022. Speaking on the occasion Fr. Prasad, SDB, Director, BOSCO Vikas asked the parents to obtain and maintain the essential documents like birth certificate, Aadhar card, caste certificate, income certificate, etc. of the child as they are needed for further education, and for availing the benefits of the Government schemes. There was a discussion on the behavioural changes in the children for the better. Some of the children accompanied their parents for summer vacations. Around twenty-six parents and forty-six boys of the centre were present at the meeting.

General Health Check-up



BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan in coordination with BOSCO Health Care Department arranged a general health check-up for the children of the center on March 19, 2022. Dr. Pavithra, Dr. Saraneesh Raja, Ms. Devi, and Mr. Amartyaraja conducted the camp. Eyes, nose, throat, skin, body temperature, BP, height, and weight check-ups were done for all children.

Medicines were prescribed for a few children. Doctors suggested administering vitamin tablets and iron syrup to some children. Fifty-two children availed the benefits of the camp.

Foster Care Awareness for Religious Leaders



BOSCO Foster Care Project organized a programme for the religious leaders of Tavakal Masjid, Cottonpet, Bengaluru to make them aware of the foster care concept, on March 8, 2022. The programme was orga-

nized in collaboration with Basavaraj PN, Coordinator, CSN Project, BOSCO and Mr Mohammed Ghouse, Dargha Hazrath. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Project explained in detail about the foster care programme and requested the religious leaders to pass the information to the others in the community so that more and more parents would come forward for fostering children and it would also help in identifying children who require family care and support. After the programme, one parent came forward for fostering a child. Fifteen religious leaders attended the programme.

Face Exams Fearlessly



As school annual exams are fast approaching, a session was organized at the center for children in contact with BOSCO Nivas to prepare them to face exams without fear, on March 21, 2022. Orienting the children, staff from BOSCO Nivas spoke about preparing for the exam through regular reading, registering, and revising. They spoke about the necessity to have the right attitude, confidence, courage, and hope to face the exams and thus overcome exam fear.

Priya Malini, Coordinator, BOSCO Nivas, gave tips on study timings, preparing a study schedule, balancing study and play, giving enough rest to the mind, being relaxed, having food from time to time, and drinking sufficient water. Around forty-five students participated in the session.

Certificates Awarded



BOSCO Computer Training Project, BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru organized a Certificate Distribution programme for the students who had completed the three-month Basic and Tally computer training course from the centre on March 26, 2022.

Addressing the trainees, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane Computer Training Programme explained the importance of receiving the certificate after having completed the course and requested the trainees to refer their friends and neighbours so that a large number of youths could avail themselves of the benefits of the course.

He also shared about starting life skills and Spoken English classes for the computer trainees during the coming months. Thirty trainees received the course completion certificates.



Homecoming



For many of us journey of life is rather good and comfortable, but for many it's a cup of tears and pain, loneliness and rejection. And for Manjunath S, a trainee at BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, life was a shattered one. Manjunath a soft-spoken, committed, and hardworking boy moved about with a heavy heart, thinking that he has no one on this earth to call his own. But at times had a ray of hope that in some corner of the world his brother is alive. With this faint hope, he continued his training as a two-wheeler mechanic.



As a child, Manjunath S was rescued by CHILDLINE in 2011 from a hotel at Jayanagar, Bengaluru. He was produced before the Child Welfare Committee and was referred to Government Boys Home for about three months. He was later referred to BOSCO and thereafter placed in a foster family, from where he completed his 6th grade. While in 7th grade he went away with another boy. Later, Manjunath was traced and was transferred from Tumkur CWC to Bengaluru Urban, which further referred him to BOSCO Yuvakendra. He remained in Yuvakendra for nearly six months and thereafter he was placed in BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre at Sumanahalli as he expressed his desire for skill training in August 2019. Currently, Manjunath has completed his training in the Two-wheeler Mechanic course and is ready to take up a job.

It was during this period that Manjunath expressed his desire to search for his family roots. So, Fr. Joshy Puthur SDB, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli took

initiative and suggested a staff of BOSCO Sumanahalli accompany Manjunath to Bannerghatta as he faintly remembered his brother staying there. But, his brother or his family was not found in Bannerghatta. However, one of Manjunath's mother's friend-Rathna offered to help and said that he is a native of Raichur and belongs to a Lambani Thanda. His mother had died of tuberculosis when Manjunath was very young and his father- Shivappa had also expired due to illness. One of his uncles was staying in Raichur. Ratna's son informed that Tulasi Thanda, to which Manjunath belonged, was close to Koppal.

Based on the information, one of the staff of BOSCO along with Manjunath headed towards Koppal in March 2022. They visited a few Thandas in and around Koppal and with the help of some of the elders of the community traced the whereabouts of Manjunath's uncle. Once the team reached his uncle's house, they were surprised to see that both his father and brother were alive and even the family members were pleasantly surprised to find that Manjunath who had left home as a child was still alive. This was to end Manjunath's 13-year long separation from his family and relatives.

As a symbol of acceptance to the Lambani Family, Manjunath's family, relatives and friends are organizing a ceremony during the local festival which will be held in the first week of April 2022. Its noteworthy that the entire family circle of his hometown is celebrating this event.

BOSCO also celebrates the reunion of Manjunath with his father and brother after thirteen long years. Gone are the days in the life of Manjunath when he used to think that he has no one to call his own. Manjunath says, "BOSCO always gave me life and hope. The training gave me assurance that I can secure a job and become independent in life." He is ever grateful to BOSCO and all the staff who patiently accompanied him in his journey of life and for the efforts of tracing his family.

BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS MONTHLY REPORT



March- 2022



-	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	245	42	287
Service provided	101	26	127
Grand Total	346	68	414

Center/Area wise New Children Contact Data:

Contact Point	Fresh		Repeated		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Railway CHILDLINE	97	15	01	00	113
Bus Stand BMTC	18	05	01	00	24
Bus Stand KSRTC	28	05	01	00	34
BOSCO Yuvodaya	01	00	01	00	02
BOSCO Yuvakendra	02	00	01	00	03
BOSCO Mane	01	00	00	00	01
BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan	00	01	00	00	01
CHILDLINE	05	05	00	00	10
CSN	16	00	00	00	16
SJPU	09	08	00	00	17
ARSP	63	03	00	00	66
TOTAL	240	42	05	00	287

Final Action Taken:

Placement	Boys	Girls	Total
Referred to BOSCO Centers	13	10	23
Home Placement	210	10	220
Produced before CWC (Admission)	17	22	29
Referred to OH	05	00	05
TOTAL	245	42	287

Classification Report:

Classification	Boys	Girls	Total
Accompanied	38	17	55
Unaccompanied	207	25	232
TOTAL	245	42	287