

That they may have life...in all its fullness



Vol. 27 Issue 1

January to March 2022

STREET VOICE

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

EDITORIAL

In the Name of Love...

'Love goes by haps; Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps,' says William Shakespeare in his romantic comedy, 'Much Ado About Nothing.' However, the stark, real-life experiences in this hyperconnected world reveal that most of the arrows and traps that come in the name of love are devoid of the emotion in its true sense. Misrepresentations, concoctions, and definitions of love stemming from convenience often fill the February air.

"Ma, you are not able to understand me because you have never been in love," retorted a fourteen-year-old girl to her mother as the latter tried to dissuade her daughter from an untimely, unhealthy relationship. The helpless mother in tears said that after the death of her husband, she found it difficult to motivate her child to continue her education and keep her safe. "Sir, kindly help me, someone has uploaded my photos with objectionable, obscene comments on social media," reported a worried, seventeen-year-old girl child. The child later shared that the person who uploaded the photos was her friend on one of the online platforms. The person turned hostile and abusive as she had refused to give in to his demands.

The instances throw light on the effects of cyber grooming that happens under the pretext of love. The gullibility and vulnerability of children are exploited by people with vested interests and deviant mindsets. As per the recent study conducted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on "Effects (Physical, Behavioral and Psycho-Social) of using Mobile Phones and other devices with internet accessibility by children," 42.9% of the children have social networking account. Hence, our collective responsibility is to educate children to cultivate healthy friendships and relationships and demystify the false notions of love.

Fr. Prasad SDB

BOSCO DIARY

JANUARY TO MARCH 2022

- Awareness Campaigns
- Value Education Classes
- Life Skills
- Meetings
- Youth Parliament
- Training and workshops
- Celebrations- Don Bosco Month, Youth Day, Women's Day
- Health Camps
- Exposure Visits, Outings and Picnics
- Formation of Child Protection Committees
- National Essay Competition
- Course Completion Certificates
- Karate Belt Grading Exam
- Evaluation Meeting

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Foster Care Awareness for Religious Leaders

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



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Public Awareness at Ravindra Kalakshetra

On the occasion of Women's Day, the ICPS organized a programme 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 the general public enquired about CHILDLINE services. Posters regarding Child marriage, Prevention of Child labour, CHILDLINE 1098, and Child-friendly premises, and Child rights stickers were distributed to the public and different stakeholders.

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



Special Awareness Programme

Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) Project in collaboration with the 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 children at risk. Fr Johnson, Director, BOSCO ARSP Project, was present on the occasion. Forty stakeholders were a part of the programme.

MEETINGS

Foster Care Prospective Parents Meeting

Foster Care Prospective Parents Meeting was organized by the BOSCO Foster Care Programme at BOSCO Mane on January 11, 2022. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, thanked all the parents for their willingness to become foster parents. He said that every child has the right to grow up in a family and we have the responsibility to provide parental love to the children by placing them in families instead of placing them under institutional care. The Foster Care team will provide support during and after the placement of children in foster families and ensure that the children are given their rights.

Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas, said that some parents are seen disowning their own children and that it is heartening to note that some parents are showing willingness to foster children. Mr. Yogesh, PO – NIC, DCPU, said that he would help in the process of placing children in foster care.



Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, explained briefly about the adoption process, foster care concept, eligibility criteria for parents and children, child rights, weaning period, roles and responsibilities of parents, CWC Members, DCPO,

follow-up of children and parents with CWC, types of Foster Care, and termination. Twenty-four prospective parents participated in the meeting.

Meeting with KSRTC Officials

BOSCO Foster Care Programme conducted a meeting with KSRTC Ticket Collectors (TCs) and staff in collaboration with the outreach team working in the Bus Stand, at the KSRTC Bus Terminal, Majestic, Bengaluru, on January 18, 2022. Mr. Chandra Shekar, Divisional Controller, KSRTC, Bengaluru, expressed his happiness in being associated with BOSCO, Bengaluru for the past 40 years. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, addressing the gathering said that every child should grow up in a family. Institutionalization should be the last resort. He shared the data of the children rescued with the help of KSRTC and BMTC officials and also screened a video highlighting the activities of BOSCO.

Mr. Basavaraju PN, Rescue Coordinator, BOSCO Child Safety Net Project, briefed everyone about the JJ Act, Child Safety Net project, and Child rights, by citing relevant examples. Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, briefed everyone about the procedures for rescuing children, services provided to the children, producing the children before CWC, adoption procedures, foster care concept, children eligible for foster care, role of parents, CWC procedures, and the role of DCPO/Unit.



Mr. Srikanth, Assistant Traffic Officer, KSRTC, was also present during the meeting. Mr. Shivamallu welcomed the guests and the participants and proposed the vote of thanks. Thirty-nine KSRTC officials attended the meeting.

Virtual Visit by the Corporates to the Bakery Unit, BOSCO Sumanahalli



A virtual visit was made by the employees of the IBS software company to the Bakery Unit at BOSCO Sumanahalli, on January 21, 2022, to understand the functioning of the unit and to also promote the CSR activities of the company. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram,

Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, introduced BOSCO to the participants. Fr. Joshy Puthur, Director, BOSCO Life skill Training Centre, introduced the centre and its activities. Mr. Antony Das, Trainer, Bakery Unit, introduced the machines and the products made in the bakery. He expressed his happiness in working and training the boys in the bakery. Sr. Saleena, Coordinator, BOSCO Sumanahalli, explained the syllabus of the programme. She also facilitated the programme by playing the role of translator between the children and the IBS representatives. The trainees introduced themselves and explained their learning experiences in the bakery unit. Besides, they also explained how the items prepared in the centre are being distributed.

The employees of the company expressed their desire to support the expansion of the bakery unit. They also suggested commercializing the products. Five trainees, five staff members, Mr. Amal, Project Development Officer, Mr. Tino, Asst Project Development Officer, and IBS staff attended the virtual meet.

Online Meeting with Social Mobilizers

Foster Care online meeting via Google Duo Meet was held by the BOSCO Foster Care Project at BOSCO Mane on February 2, 2022. Mr. Shivamallu, State Project Coordinator, welcomed all the Social Mobilizers from ten districts of Karnataka.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, recommended conducting the online meeting once a month for the regular sharing of work done. He also appreciated them for conducting programmes, placing children in foster families, and

for achieving targets in their respective districts. He asked the teams to prepare case studies of the children placed in foster care and conduct meetings with the newly appointed CWC members. During his presentation, Mr. Shivamallu summarized the six-month programme report of the ten districts and informed about the State Level Stakeholders Meeting to be held at Yadagiri on February 12, 2022, and at Bengaluru on February 26, 2022. He also clarified all the doubts put forward by the social mobilizers.

State Level Stakeholders' Meeting



Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized State Level Stakeholders' Meeting at Don Bosco Centre, Yadagiri District and BOSCO Yuvodaya, Bengaluru, on February 12 and 26, 2022 respectively. Addressing the group, Dr Hanumanthaiah Karadi, Chairperson, CWC, Yadagiri, remembered the association he has had with BOSCO since his student days and appreciated the organization for its yeoman services towards the children and young at risk. Addressing the group in Yuvodaya, Ms. Nagaratna, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee 3, Bengaluru Urban, appreciated the work done by the Social Mobilizers for promoting the foster care concept and placing deserving children in foster families.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, explained the foster care concept, meaning, types, purpose, key players and their roles and responsibilities, the importance of networking, and the involvement of stakeholders in the programme. He also exhorted the stakeholders to disseminate information regarding foster care to all their friends, relatives, contacts and



community members, and help in identifying prospective parents and children. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, explained in detail about the procedures involved in foster care, adoption, eligibility criteria and so on. After the session, one participant from Chitradurga came forward to sponsor two children.

Fr. Praveen KJ, Director, Don Bosco, Yadagiri, Fr. Kuriakose, Rector, Don Bosco, Deodurga, Raichur District, Mr. Umesh, Outreach Worker, DCPU, Bellary, Mr. Veerappa, Social Worker, DCPU, Bengaluru, Ms. Savitha, Counsellor, DCPU, Ramanagara, Mr. Santosh, Social Worker, DCPU, Chitradurga, and Mr. Vital, Social Worker, DCPU, Mysuru, were present during the meetings.

Fifty-two stakeholders from Yadagiri, Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar attended the meeting in Yadagiri and seventy-five stakeholders from Bengaluru, Bellary, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Mysuru and Ramanagara participated in the meeting in Bengaluru.

Review Meeting with the NGOs

Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), BOSCO Bengaluru, conducted a review meeting with the NGOs implementing the SJPU project, at BOSCO Mane, on February 21, 2022. Social workers of SJPUs expressed that they need support and co-ordination from the police department; the police should be sensitized about the SJPU project, roles, and responsibilities of social workers and the women's help desk; JJB and SJPU need to function in coordination; need space for counselling in the police stations; need to create child-friendly police stations and provide formal counselling report. Provision of Government ID cards for the staff, and funds for social workers from DCPO were also taken up for discussion.

Ms. Bharathi, DCPO, Bengaluru Urban, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. John MA, Director, BOSCO SJPU project, Sheela Devaraj, Director, APSA, Bengaluru,



and eight SJPU staff members representing BOSCO, APSA, and ECHO were present for the meeting.



Youth Meeting

BOSCO Nivas organized a Youth Meeting at the centre on January 12, 2022, as part of the National Youth Day. Priya Malini, Coordinator, BOSCO Nivas, briefed everyone about the significance of National Youth Day. She narrated the childhood story of Swami Vivekananda and his quotes on youth. She raised awareness on the need to ensure the participation of youth in the modern world while upholding their values. She highlighted the importance of yoga and meditation. She said that Swami Vivekananda believed that youth can transform the

fate of India through their hard work, education, dedication, and spiritual power.

Guidelines were given to the youth on how to be confident while writing the SSLC exam. They were motivated to study well. Sixteen boys and girls attended the meeting.

TRAINING



Orientation Programme

MSW Students from the Don Bosco College of Social Work, Kottayam, Kerala, visited BOSCO Bengaluru as part of their course requirement on January 7, 2022. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, explained about the history of BOSCO, its vision and mission, programmes, projects, activities, challenges, structure, system, etc. Students had an opportunity to interact with the children and staff. Twenty-six students attended the orientation programme.

Staff Induction Training

Human Resource Department, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized an Induction Training Programme for the new staff of the organization, at BOSCO Yuvodaya, on February 15, 2022. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, welcomed the trainees and gave the introductory words. Fr. John MA, Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru, facilitated the session on the programmes and services at BOSCO. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, engaged the staff in a session on the Preventive system of education of Don Bosco.

Mr. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, Gandhinagar area Project, and Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, conducted interactive sessions on child rights and child laws. Mr. Basavaraju PN, Coordinator, BOSCO CSN Project, facilitated the session on the procedures involved in producing the rescued children before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), the role of CWC, and the Juvenile Justice Act. The new staff members were



made aware of the HR Policy of BOSCO by Mr. Prashantha Murthy, HR Manager. Staff were given information about the leave system, the policy to prevent sexual harassment of women at the workplace, grievances, punctuality, regularity, attendance, and dress code. There were seventeen staff members and three student volunteers in the training session.

Stakeholders' Workshop

BOSCO Nivas organized a Stakeholders' Workshop at Ambedkar Bhavan, JJR Nagar, Bengaluru, on February 18, 2022, to build rapport and empower the stakeholders to help the children and young at risk. Fr Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru,



addressed the group by sharing his experiences associated with child labour at silk farms and factories near Magadi. Fr Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, explained the concept, and types and stages of growth in children. Mr Channakeshava, Area Leader, shared about his association with BOSCO during the Covid-19 pandemic, and thanked and appreciated the service of the BOSCO team. Mr Raj Kumar, PSI, JJR Nagar Police Station, spoke about a child-friendly society and child-friendly police stations. Shruthi, Social Worker, BOSCO SJPU Project, briefed everyone about the POCSO Act. Chaitra, Counsellor, CHILDLINE, explained about the JJ Act. CHILDLINE team requested the stakeholders to help the children and young at risk by availing the services of 1098, the child helpline number.

Parimala, Headmistress, BBMP school, shared about school dropouts. Asha workers and Anganwadi teachers explained about the health issues among young mothers. Disadvantages of online classes, misuse of social media, child labour, child marriages and child beggary during the pandemic were discussed in the meeting.

Sharing further, Ms. Parimala spoke about a child who was rescued from begging with the intervention of BOSCO in the area.

Anto Michael Mattam, BEO, South Zone, Bengaluru, and Anjaneyalu, Labour Inspector, were present during the meeting. Ten men and thirty women from the community attended the meeting.

Training on Reporting and Documentation

BOSCO National Research and Documentation (BNRD) organized a half-day training on 'Reporting and Documentation' in collaboration with the HLK Department, BOSCO Bengaluru, for the staff involved in documentation in various capacities, at BOSCO Yuvodaya, on February 23, 2022. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram said that BOSCO constantly strives to maintain a system of documentation that is relevant and efficient. He emphasized the importance of documentation and said that training is necessary for developing the skills required to prepare reports.

Joshua, Coordinator, HLK, BOSCO Bengaluru, conducted a session on programme reporting. He explained the reporting format developed by BOSCO. Tino, Assistant Project Development Officer, BOSCO Bengaluru, gave a practical session on photo documentation, tips on taking good, relevant photos, and sharing the photos taken.

Fr. Prasad, Director, BNRD, facilitated the session on Documentation and Reporting Skills. He said that writing is refined thinking. He briefed everyone about the four branches of writing- Creative



writing, Journalistic writing, Academic writing, and Technical writing. He explained about the 'Inverted Pyramid Format' used in Journalistic writing and said that news reports should be actual, factual, and accurate. Mr. Prashanth Murthy, HR Manager, BOSCO Bengaluru, welcomed the gathering, and Deepa VasantKumar, Coordinator, BNRD, proposed the vote of thanks. Thirty-two staff members involved in documentation attended the training.

Training for Police Officials

BOSCO Child Safety Net (CSN) project conducted a training programme on Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and CWC/ JJB procedures for the Police Officials, West Division, Bengaluru, at BOSCO Yuvodaya, on February 28, 2022. In the inaugural address, Fr Varghese Pallipuram spoke about the activities of BOSCO and the involvement of the police department in the rescue and rehabilitation of children, and stressed the need for creating child-friendly police stations across Bengaluru. Mr. Kubera, PSI, Basaveshwar Nagar Police Station, spoke about the support of BOSCO in rehabilitating the children rescued under various circumstances by the police. Ms. Anitha Lakshmi, WPSI, Chandra Layout, recollected the previous child rescue operations in her police station limits jointly conducted by the police department, labour department, and BOSCO, and assured her support in the future also. Fr. Johnson also spoke on the occasion.

Mr Basavaraju PN, Coordinator, CSN Project, took a session on 'Care and Protection of Children and CWC Procedures'. He highlighted the protocols in the JJ Act and the rules that should be followed by a Child Welfare Officer, such as, keeping children in the police station, transfer of information to the Special Juvenile Police Unit



and social workers from respective NGOs, code of conduct of the police officials during a rescue, etc. Fr. Johnson Kanjirakattu, Project Director, CSN Project, and thirty-four police officials participated in the training.

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 about 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 to help in identifying prospective parents and children. He also distributed pamphlets to all the participants. Sixteen primary school teachers attended the programme.



In-house Training on POCSO Act

An in-house training on 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 statement, medical examination, designation of special child friendly courts, provision of support persons, and the role of parents/guardians. Twenty staff members of the centre attended the training.



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 team, Faculties, St. Martha's College of Nursing, facilitated the session. Defining First Aid, the faculty said that it is the immediate treatment that is given to a person on an emergency basis.



They explained about 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 members from different centres, areas and projects of BOSCO attended the training.

HEALTH CAMPS

Health Camps Organized



Health Care Department, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized a health camp during the quarter for the inmates of BOSCO Rainbow Home, BOSCO Sumanahalli, BOSCO Mane, BOSCO Vikas, Foster Care, and BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, in coordination with Dr. Abraham, Dr.



Uma Roy, and the team from St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru, and Dr. Pavithra, Dr. Saraneesh Raja, Ms. Devi, and Mr. Amartyaraja. The doctors did eye, ear, nose, throat, teeth, height, weight, and general health checks for the children. All were treated with Albendazole

tablets and Vitamin A syrup. Doctors suggested organizing an awareness programme for the tuition children and their parents regarding health and hygiene. They recommended that iron

supplements be given to the girl children. Medicines were given as per prescriptions. Two hundred and fifty-four children and youth of the centres and tuition centres benefitted from the health camps.

HEALTH CAMPS

Inauguration of Don Bosco's Month



Don Bosco's month, was inaugurated at the various centres of BOSCO, in the presence of children and youth, from January 1 to 5, 2022. The representatives of each centre and area along with their Directors garlanded the statue of the saint. The directors of the centres enlightened the children on the life of the priest, founder, father and teacher of the youth, St. John Bosco. They exhorted the children and youth to become independent and follow the path of the saint to become responsible citizens in the society. Fr. William D'Souza, SDB, Regional Youth Director, Karnataka, Dr. Ayub Ali Khan Zai, Medical Officer, Govt Leprosy Hospital, Arogya Soudha,

Magadi Road, Bengaluru, Mr. Shivananda, Sub Inspector, Traffic Police Station, Magadi Road, Bengaluru, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas, Fr. C.V. George, Salesian In-charge, Yuvakendra, Fr. Regi Jacob SDB, Director BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Mr. Ravichandran, Former Councilor, Wilson Garden, Fr. John. M.A, Director, and Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director In-Charge, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, graced the occasion.

Activities organized during Don Bosco's Month



The various centres of BOSCO- Mane, Vikas, Nilaya, Nivas, Vatsalya Bhavan, Rainbow Home, Yuvakendra, Sumanahalli, and Yuvodaya including the project in the Gandhinagar area, organized various activities for the children and youth during January 2022 as part of the Don Bosco month celebrations. Drawing, indoor sports, outdoor sports, dance, mime, skit, quiz, singing, poster making, collage making, rangoli competition, and pick and speak were conducted to learn more about Don Bosco and to inculcate his values. The activities were conducted to enhance the mental and social skills of

the children and youth and to increase their creativity. Prizes were distributed to the winners. Certification ceremony was organized for the Tailoring and Beautician students of the BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan Training Unit. Driving Licenses were issued to those who completed their driving course in BOSCO Yuvakendra and BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan. Around two hundred children and youth from the centres and two hundred children from the tuition centres, KR Market, Shivajinagar, and Gandhinagar areas participated in these events.

Past Pupils' Day

BOSCO Yuvakendra organized Past Pupils' Day at the centre to have a get-together of the past pupils of BOSCO, on January 26, 2022. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, expressed his happiness to meet a large number of past pupils who had gathered to show their gratitude to BOSCO. He exhorted them to register the past pupils' group as an association so that they could take up social responsibilities and continue to contribute to society more efficiently.

Fr. George Kollashany, one of the pioneers of BOSCO Bengaluru, appreciated the unity of the group and gave examples of other states where past pupils' groups are functioning. He was happy to have the presence of the very first youngster who was rescued by BOSCO in the initial years.

Past pupils shared their experiences and relationship with BOSCO. They also recalled their sweet memories and thanked the directors and staff for their support and guidance. A core committee of eight past pupils was formed to take responsibility for the formation of



the association. Other directors and staff members also shared their experiences with the past pupils and cherished the moments.

Fr. C.V. George, Salesian In-charge, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, Fr. John M.A, Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru, Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Sr. Sheeba, Director In-Charge, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Mrs. Mary Triza, Former BOSCO staff, and forty-two past pupils attended the meeting.

Feast of Don Bosco at BOSCO

Feast of Don Bosco was celebrated at the various centres of BOSCO, in the presence of children/ youth, on January 31 and February 1, 2022.

BOSCO Mane and Vikas organized the Feast of Don Bosco on January 31, 2022, in the presence of Mr. Lokesh, BOSCO, and Mr. Surya, Cine and TV artists of Comedy Kiladigalu fame. BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan conducted the Feast of Don Bosco on January 31, 2022. The celebration began with the lighting of the lamp by Fr. George PS, Fr. Paul, Principal Don Bosco Mithra, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, and Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director In-charge, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan. BOSCO Yuvodaya celebrated the feast of St. John Bosco in the centre on January 31, 2022. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, and Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, inaugurated the programme. BOSCO Nivas organized the Feast of Don Bosco at the centre on January 31, 2022. Fr. Regi Jacob, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, addressing the children, mentioned Don Bosco's quotes and motivated children to grow up in life as responsible citizens.

The Feast of Don Bosco was celebrated by BOSCO Yuvakendra on January 31, 2022. Fr. CV George, Salesian In-charge, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Mrs. Merry and Family, Sponsors, Mr. Satya, Choreographer, and Ms. Menaka, Dancer, graced the occasion. BOSCO Rainbow Home celebrated the Feast of Don Bosco on February 1, 2022. Mr. Lokesh,





TV and Cine artist, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Prasad, SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, Manjula Telagade, Programme Manager, Rainbow Home State Office, Manjula Ulla, State Education Coordinator, Rainbow Home, Mr. Jaikar, State Advocacy Officer, Rainbow Home, Manjula, Attender, Rainbow Home, Primary and High School Teachers, Bro. Isaac, Bro. Lijo and Mr. Peter, Volunteer, were present on the occasion. BOSCO Sumanahalli celebrated the feast on February 1, 2022, in the presence of Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO,

Rev. Fr. George Kannanthanam, Director, Sumanahalli Society, Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Vikas and Mane, Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, Fr. Regi, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, Fr. Joshy Puthur, Director, Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, and Fr. Irudayaraj, Director, Support, Sumanahalli.

Children and youth staged cultural programmes. Prizes were distributed to all the children. All the children from the centres and youth participated in the feast.

CELEBRATIONS

Republic Day at BOSCO

Republic Day was celebrated at BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, BOSCO Mane, and BOSCO Yuvodaya on January 26, 2022. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Regi SDB, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, briefed everyone about the importance of our Constitution. He exhorted the children to contribute towards the growth of the country as responsible citizens of India. Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, said, "We should be proud of our country and its constitution." Fr. John MA, Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru, was present on the occasion. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, hoisted the flag in BOSCO Yuvodaya and spoke about the importance of the day. Around 125 children and youth participated in the Republic Day celebrations.



Women's Day Celebration

BOSCO Nivas

BOSCO Nivas celebrated Women's Day with the women from the community and the 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 everyone 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 the 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 a Women's Day programme 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, appreciated 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 for 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 programmes. Hundred and thirty women and children participated in the programme.



EXPOSURE VISITS AND OUTINGS



Exposure Visit by Two-Wheeler Unit

BOSCO Sumanahalli organized an exposure visit to Silicon Honda Showroom, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru, for the youth of the two-wheeler unit, on February 22, 2022, so that they get an idea about the showroom, the activities, and the nature of work that takes place in a showroom. The youth worked with the tools and advanced machines. The exposure visit helped the trainees to get more familiar with the work. The employees of the showroom appreciated the active participation of the trainees. Mr. Venkatesh, Manager, expressed interest in employing the trainees as interns in the showroom. Five trainees and Mr. Narendranath, the Instructor, visited the showroom.

Exposure Visit to Mercy Home

An exposure visit was organized for the children of BOSCO Rainbow Home to the 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 programme 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 the 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 organized a picnic for its staff to 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 water games. Post lunch, they moved on to

the dry games area. Irrespective of age and professional hierarchy, 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 members were a part of the one-day outing.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Formation of Child Protection Committee

BOSCO CREAM project formed Child Protection Committee (CPC), to strengthen child rights supporters in the community, at GUEHP School in Gangondanahalli, Bengaluru, on February 4, 2022. Mr. Yahiyah Ahamad Khan, Local Leader, welcomed the gathering. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Devaraj gave an introduction about BOSCO, its services, and the CREAM Project. He briefed everyone about child rights, child rights violations, child helpline numbers, and explained about CPC and the role of stakeholders in the society. Asha workers, Anganwadi workers, PHC members, School teachers, SDMC members, Local leaders, parents, SHG group members, BRC, and CRP were inducted as CPC members. Twenty-six CPC members were present on the occasion.



Karate Grading Exam



BOSCO Nilaya conducted Karate Grading Exam for the students attending Karate classes, at BOSCO Sumanahalli, on February 13, 2022, to assess the students and allow them to move to the next

level. Fr. Regi spoke about the discipline, humility, and hard work required to achieve success in life. He said, "Karate should be taught to girls mainly to empower them for self-defense and protection." Fr. Joshy motivated the children to work hard and achieve success by giving examples of Olympians. Karate Instructors and students performed the Karate demo.

The exam started with warm-up exercises and testing of skills by Mr. Marlinga, Karate Instructor and his team. Belts, certificates, and prizes were distributed to all. Three children were promoted to green belt, one child was promoted to purple belt, five children were promoted to orange belt, four to brown belt, and twenty children were promoted to yellow belt from the Nilaya team. A total of thirty-three children – seventeen girls and sixteen boys from Bakshi Garden and Jolly Mohalla areas participated in the Karate grading exam.

Face Exams Fearlessly

As school annual exams are fast approaching, a session was organized at the centre on March 21, 2022, for the children in contact with BOSCO Nivas, to prepare them to face exams without fear. 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.



ANNUAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2021 - 22

BOSCO Bengaluru organized an essay writing competition for college students spanning from October to January 2021-22. Around 140 colleges/universities from across India were contacted, and students from undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels of various disciplines like management, social work, sociology, media, economics, engineering, law, commerce, psychology, and life sciences participated. The competition was intended to be an open platform for students to express their ideas and communicate their thoughts about issues of current social and cultural relevance, and three such issues formed the core of the competition. The Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on children, Online education and cyber safety, and Climate change and what it could mean for our future

generations were the topics chosen for the competition. The essays were judged by a panel of 3 external judges on the criteria of Originality of Content, Creativity, Clarity of Expression, Adherence to Theme, and Writing Style, and the first prize was awarded to Moumi Das from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. The second place was secured by Sharbari Ghosh from Banaras Hindu University, and the third prize went to Arushi Srivastava from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. The BOSCO Essay Writing Competition 2022 offered a detailed look and new insights into three areas of urgent concern and was a refreshing reflection of the perceptions and perspectives of today's youth.

Thus, Spake Winners...

Moumi Das First Prize



I remember that I decided to participate simply because I found all of the topics for the essay really interesting and I wanted an opportunity to read about them further. Climate change seems like an issue that is still far away from us, but it is closer than we think it is and we need to take immediate action: not just individual, but collective. It helped me understand the matter more and from an extremely essential but less-talked about perspective. I loved the fact that the essay topic specified future generations because the

intergenerational aspect of this catastrophe needs to be addressed given that majority of policy decisions are being taken by older generations who would not bear the burden of dealing with scarcity, pollution, and many more ordeals climate change would entail. Research is the key to writing about any complex issue at hand as it ensures we are using the right sources to establish our perspective and ideas, and that we are providing readers with correct information. I got a glimpse into how to research for essays in general while writing for the competition. Moumi is a student of MA/MSc Analytics at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, who intends to continue in the field of social sciences and work in research roles in the future.

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Sharbari Ghosh Second Prize

Participating in the competition was both exciting and intimidating. All three themes for the competition unanimously stated the present harrowing scenario amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, but I opted for 'Online education and cyber safety' among the three topics. With the regular shifting from laptops to desktops to cell phones for joining classes, downloading research materials, and uploading assignments, students, including myself, have often unconsciously risked our devices with malware. So, to highlight the recurring unsafe online mode concerning the privacy infringement of both devices

and users, I chose to delve into the topic and draw upon online education and safety-related queries while simultaneously detailing a range of pertinent solutions to drive away the online issues. While laying out the essay's framework, I came face to face with the horrifying present-day digital classrooms through articles from various newspapers, and through the research behind the essay, I realized that the digital world still needs to be groomed better in alignment with the educational policies of inclusivity and safety. While addressing the gendered politics prevalent in the digital space through the essay, in the future I aspire to become a professional to fight against the chaotic gendered problems and speak for the human rights of all, and aim to advocate for an inclusive society in terms of education, speech and freedom. Sharbari is a final year M.A. student of English Literature at the Banaras Hindu University.

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Arushi Srivastava
Third Prize

Participating in the essay competition was quite an exciting and enriching experience. It gave me the space to express my views and share them with people. I strongly believe that personal growth is a journey we all consciously and deliberately engage in with

our efforts and desires, and anything that provides us a medium to expand our skills, knowledge, and thought process, either for our betterment or for that of others, counts as growth, and I have surely grown through this experience. The predilection for the topic 'The Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on children' arises from my background in Psychology. Generally, only the peripheral issues of children affected during the pandemic are brought to attention, while how these issues can also lead to serious ramifications in the days to come is being somewhat ignored, and I thought of this as an excellent opportunity to shed some light on this aspect. The major takeaway from this experience has been to merge critical thinking with creativity; to hold a stance of respectful disregard on critical aspects of issues mentioned in the essay while framing a certain narrative around the issue to capture the reader's attention. Overall, it has been an engaging process where I got to experiment with my writing style and capture the literature pertaining to this particular issue. Arushi is a student of M.A. Applied Psychology (With Specialisation in Clinical and Counselling Practice) at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, who plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Affective/Social Psychology.

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BOSCO BAGS YAR NATIONAL AWARDS AGAIN





There are eight HUB Coordinators among the eleven Don Bosco provinces across India. Bangalore HUB covers Karnataka and Kerala states. The Homelink Child MISS program consists of a network of nineteen organizations, both Don Bosco YaR centers and other NGOs working with children in Bengaluru. Presently fourteen of these organizations are active. Homelink Child MISS program helps to have easy access to children-related organizational documents and to follow a common documentation system.

BOSCO, Bengaluru received a memento as the Best Organization in the Bangalore Province in recognition of its over forty years of untiring service towards the children on the streets, child labourers, abandoned/orphaned children, victims of drug abuse, victims of child abuse, begging children, rag pickers, run-aways, trafficked children, out of school children, etc.

It was a proud moment for BOSCO Bengaluru as three awards were conferred by National YaR Forum for the year 2021 under different categories during March 2022 at the National YaR Office, New Delhi.

John Joshua Nirmal, Homelink Child MISS Program Bangalore HUB, INK Province was adjudged the Best HUB coordinator for 2021.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Bengaluru City Police East Division awarded Ms. Vinnarasi, Staff, BOSCO Bengaluru with the 'Stree Suraksha Chakra' Award for her service in the field of Child Rescue and Rehabilitation on March 8, 2020. She was felicitated for safeguarding the rights of children and bringing about a change in the lives of various children. In recognition of her work in the social field, National YaR Forum presented Ms. Vinnarasi with an award of appreciation.

SUCCESS STORY



Homecoming

For many people the 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 the BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, life was a shattered one. Manjunath a soft-

spoken, committed, and hardworking boy spent a good part of his life thinking that he had no one on this earth to call his own. But there was always a small ray of hope that in some corner of the world his brother would be alive, and with this faint hope, he continued his training as a two-wheeler mechanic.

In 2011, Manjunath was rescued as a child by CHILDLINE from a hotel in Jayanagar, Bengaluru. He was produced before the Child Welfare Committee and referred to the 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 the 7th grade he left his foster family and went away with another boy. Later, Manjunath was traced and transferred to Tumkur CWC and then to Bengaluru Urban, which further referred him to BOSCO Yuvakendra. He remained in Yuvakendra for nearly six months, after which he was placed in the BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre at Sumanahalli in August 2019 as he had expressed a desire to do skill training. 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 know more about his family and his roots. So, Fr. Joshy Puthur SDB, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, took the initiative and sent Manjunath to Bannerghatta, accompanied by a staff member of BOSCO Sumanahalli as he faintly remembered that his brother stayed somewhere in that area. But he did not find his brother or his family there. However, he did manage to find one of his mother's friends-Rathna- who told him about a past he had not known till then. Through her he came to know that he is a native of Raichur and belonged to Lambani Thanda. His mother had died of tuberculosis when he was very young and his father- Shivappa- had also passed away due to an illness. But one of his uncles stays in Raichur, and

Rathna's son informed him that Tulasi Thanda, to which Manjunath belonged, was close to Koppal.

Based on the new information, one of the staff members of BOSCO along with Manjunath headed for 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 the family members were equally surprised to find Manjunath who had left home as a child, 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, and his entire family in his hometown will be celebrating the event.

BOSCO also celebrates the reunion of Manjunath with his father and brother after thirteen long years. Gone are the days when Manjunath 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 members for their persistent efforts to trace his family and for patiently accompanying him in his journey of life.

“*Everything and everyone is won by the sweetness of our words and works.*”
St. John Bosco



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Published by BOSCO Bangalore

Printed @ www.dbigact.com