



E-Street Voice

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

Editorial Note...

Join Hands to Free Their Hands!

As per a report published in the ‘Times of India,’ dated March 22, 2022, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Gujarat assembly in its report took serious note of the state labour and employment department for its lack of empathy towards child labour in the state. The report observed that surveys have to be held to identify child labourers and that the funds set apart for the cause are to be utilized optimally.

As per the report of the International Labour Organization (ILO), child labourers across the globe have increased to 160 million in 2021. In the last four years, 8.4 million children were forced to work, while around nine million children are at risk of being made child labourers because of the pandemic says the report. While reaching out to rescue children, though people cite poverty as the main reason for child labour, a host of other reasons like the lack of political will, illiteracy,

corruption, gender, lack of law enforcement, religion and other factors add to the gravity and magnitude of the problem.

World Day Against Child Labour was observed on June 12, with the theme, ‘Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour.’ BOSCO Bengaluru rescued 180 child labourers from the city in the past year in collaboration with the labour department. The organization joined hands with the labour department in conducting a survey to identify child labourers in the various areas of the city in April 2022. Concerted and sustainable action from Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations to eradicate child labour is the need of the hour.



Fr. Prasad SDB

BOSCO Observed World Day against Child Labour



BOSCO Bengaluru observed ‘World Day against Child Labour’, in Bengaluru on the theme ‘Universal

Social Protection to End Child Labour’, on June 12, 2022. Speaking on the occasion, Mr A H Umesh, Dy. Labour Commissioner, Bengaluru said, “Eradication of child labour is the responsibility of each and every citizen. Awareness campaigns and rescue operations are essential components in combating child labour.” Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, opined that the majority of the children who land in Bengaluru city from other states are coming in search of jobs. Mr Santhosh Hipparagi and Devaraj, Asst. Labour Commissioners and Smt. Kokila Chandrashekar, Corporator, Chamarajpet Ward, Bengaluru spoke on the occasion.

World Environment Day

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, BOSCO Vikas, BOSCO Mane, BOSCO Sumanahalli, BOSCO Nivas, and BOSCO CREAM Project celebrated World Environment Day at their centres and areas on the theme, 'Only One Earth' on June 4 and 5, 2022. The concerned Directors inaugurated the programme at the respective centers and spoke about the importance of the day. It was told that the day is celebrated to create awareness about environmental protection and to highlight the crucial role we play in protecting the earth.

Children staged programmes showcasing the importance of the day. Posters and slogans were displayed and saplings were planted to help children realize the importance of protecting mother earth. Through short videos and stories, children were told that small steps taken towards preserving nature and greenery would make a big difference in the years to come. Children promised to take care of nature in



their daily life. Centre children along with the staff participated in the programme in the different centres.

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BOSCO Observed World Day against Child Labour



placed them back home. Thus, there was a call for increased investment in social protection systems and schemes to protect children from child labour. All the participants took an oath to stop child labour and inform the concerned officials through the child helpline on seeing children being employed.

Rallies were organized in the Veerabhadranagar, Buddha Park, Nagarbhavi, Devaraj Urs community, Sunday Market, KR Market and Shivajinagar areas of Bengaluru. The public were made aware of their responsibility to send children to school instead of pushing them into child labour. Distribution of pamphlets, shouting slogans and exhibiting placards were taken up to disseminate the message. Children and staff from BOSCO performed street plays to create awareness to the public about child labor at

There are thousands of child labourers in various parts of Bengaluru. This year BOSCO has rescued a hundred and twenty-seven child labourers of whom twenty-two of them were under 14 years of age and

Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station, BMTC Bus Stand, Majestic, Satellite Bus Stand, KR Market, and Gandhinagar areas. More than two thousand public were reached out to through the campaign.

Annual Evaluation at BOSCO



service for the children and young at risk. He thanked the staff for the success of BOSCO. He said that the purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the programmes and activities of BOSCO during the last year and accordingly plan for the present year. So, he said that it would be a participatory meeting and requested everyone to contribute actively. He enumerated the achievements of BOSCO during June 2021 -May 2022 and the major plans that had emerged as a result of the evaluation during

the previous year.

The Annual Evaluation of BOSCO Bengaluru was held at BOSCO Yuvodaya, on June 17 and 18, 2022. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Anupama said that her association with BOSCO dates back to the early 2000s when she was an intern at the organization as part of her MSW Course. She felt that BOSCO plays an important role in eliminating child labour by way of awareness generation among the public and conducting rescue operations.

In his introductory words, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO, Bengaluru, was happy to share that BOSCO had completed 42 years of its

The new Directors – Fr. Jude Anand and Fr. Jose Joseph, Brothers- Bro. Jaison Jerome, Br. Sebi Varghese, Bro. Ashley, Sr. Archana, and other staff were welcomed to the BOSCO family. The activities of twenty-seven departments were evaluated on the basis of the reports presented. Major events, campaigns, and activities to be organized during the year were planned. There was a discussion regarding the way forward. The birthdays of some of the staff were celebrated on the occasion. All the managing directors of BOSCO, coordinators, and staff were present for the programme.

Parents' Meeting

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized a meeting for the parents of the children at the centre on June 26, 2022. Addressing the parents, Fr. Prasad, SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, exhorted them to prioritize their children's lives, despite their own daily struggles. He added that parents/guardians visit their children and make phone calls on a regular basis so that the children feel valued and appreciated by their parents. He told them to update their phone numbers with the staff at the Centre in case of any change. He also emphasized the importance of relevant documents for children like Aadhaar cards, caste certificates, etc. in order to avail the benefits of the



Government schemes. In a one-on-one meeting with each parent or guardian, the coordinator provided an update on the progress of their wards. Twenty-five parents and guardians attended the meeting.

Exposure Visits

The trainees of the Bakery trade at BOSCO Life skill training Centre, Sumanahalli, were taken to Amma Pasteries, Kachakaranahalli, Bengaluru on June 14, 2022. Mr. Frederik John, the Chef, introduced bread, snacks, packing, and chocolate production units. He introduced the machines that are used and explained the daily routine of the bakery. He also answered the queries of the trainees. Eight trainees along with Mr. Antony Das, Bakery Instructor visited the bakery unit. The trainees from the Carpentry Unit, BOSCO Sumanahalli, were taken to Om Shakthi Wood Works, Sumanahalli, Bengaluru on June 14, 2022. It was a hands-on experience for the trainees to work with the tools and other equipment that are used to cut wood. They were exposed to advanced machines. Trainees came to know about the various types of woods which are used in carpentry work and became aware of the advanced designs, woodcraft, beading, types of mica sheets, etc. The workshop personnel expressed inter-



est in placing the trainees at the workshop. Five trainees and Mr. Shyam Raj, Carpentry Instructor, visited the workshop.

Certificates Awarded



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli organized the distribution of Certificates of Completion to the trainees of various trades conducted at the centre on June 20, 2022. Fr. Joshy Puthur, Director, appreciated the trainees for completing the course successfully and wished them a good future. He congratulated Master Rohit for being job placed in Amma Pastries. Mr. Dominic, one of the well-wishers, reminded boys the importance of saving money for their better future. Seven of the trainees who received the certificates expressed their gratitude to BOSCO and the trainers for guiding them during the training period.

Magic Show at BOSCO Mane



A magic show was organized for the children and youth of BOSCO centres- Vikas, Mane, Sumanahalli, Yuvakendra and Vatsalya Bhavan by One AXA-Hearts in Action, Bengaluru at BOSCO Mane on June 24 and 25, 2022. Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas, explained the purpose of the gathering and introduced the group to the children. Children were happy to see the magician and enjoyed the tricks shown to them. A drawing competition was held by the One AXA group for the children and prizes were distributed to the winners. Around seventy –five children from the centres, around 30 employees of One AXA, Fr. Joshy Puttur, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, and staff of BOSCO participated in the magic show.

Foster Care Training for Project Partners



Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru organized training for Project Partners, Social Mobilizers, and NGO Supporting Staff at BOSCO Yuvodaya, Bengaluru, on June 25, 2022. The program started with a prayer dance by BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan children followed by the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries.

In his address, Mr. Ramu, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Bengaluru Rural, shared his work experience as a social worker in Don Bosco Tumkur and expressed his belief that institutionalization should be the last resort for children. Hemanth, Member, Child Welfare Committee, Bengaluru Urban, commended BOSCO for pioneering the Foster Care Program in Karnataka and said that family plays a key role in every child's life. Deepu, Assistant Director, BREADS, Bengaluru stated that every child should grow up in a family.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director of BOSCO Bengaluru, explained the foster care journey of BOSCO from 2012, including the current status of the children, major activities, challenges, and future plans. Mr. John Joshua Nirmal, Hub Coordinator, HLK Programme presented Home Link Child Miss documentation. Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Program, presented the statistical data and placement of children over the past year.

Post lunch, Ms. Jincy Thomas, Project Coordinator, Children Development and Family Impact Network (CDFIN) led the session through an activity on how childhood trauma can affect a child. Ms. Karen Grace Paul, Founder, Director of Child Development and Family Impact Network (CDFIN) conducted the session on Trauma and Child Development. Social Mobilizers presented the challenges and achievements of the foster care programme being implemented in the ten districts of Karnataka. A booklet, 'The Journey of Foster Care – A Bird's Eye View,' was released on the occasion.

Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator welcomed the participants, and Mr. Ramaswamy, Outreach Officer, BOSCO Bengaluru proposed the vote of thanks. Thirty-five members from the ten Districts of Karnataka participated in the training.

School awareness Programmes

Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru organized awareness programmes in Government High School, Police Colony, Magadi Road, St Mary's High School, Secretariat Layout, Vijaya Nagar and St. Anne's High school, Rajajinagar during June 2022. PN Basavaraju, Coordinator, BOSCO CSN Project, spoke about the issues related to children – child marriage, child labour, child abuse, child trafficking, etc. He made them aware of child rights, child laws and child helpline number -1098. He asked the children and the teachers to report to the child helpline number whenever they came across cases of child rights violations. Ms Sumangala, WPSI, Magadi Road Police Station, Mr Nanje Gowda, PSI, Magadi Road Traffic Police Station, Madhusudhan, PSI, Magadi Road, Prakash, ASI,



Magadi Traffic Police and the Head Masters of the respective schools were present during the awareness programmes. Around five hundred children attended the programmes.

International Yoga Day at BOSCO

BOSCO Sumanahalli and BOSCO Yuvakendra celebrated International Yoga Day at their respective centres and the Tuition Centres with the youths and children on June 21, 2022. Fr. Joshy Puthur, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli introduced 'Yoga' and the theme for the year "Yoga for Humanity" to the trainees. He said that yoga unblocks our infinite possibilities and power. We can find physical and mental relaxation through yoga. It helps in developing strength and resilience. To create awareness of yoga and its benefits, various yoga asanas were introduced to the trainees. Trainees were encouraged to perform various asanas familiar to them. Twenty-one trainees, fifteen tuition children, and staff of the centre participated in the celebration.



Geethamala, Counselor, BOSCO Yuvakendra briefed the youth about the importance of the day and the health benefits of practicing yoga on a regular basis. Bhujangasana, Sirsasana, Natarajasana, Halasana, Vajrasana, Virabhadrasana, Chakrasana, Tadasana, Paschimottasana and Setu Bandha Sarvangasana were taught to the youths. Twenty-one youth took part in the Yoga Day Celebrations.

Awareness for BBMP Workers



BOSCO Child Safety Net (CSN) Project organized an awareness for the BBMP workers of Cholarapalya, Bengaluru on June 3, 2022. Basavaraju PN, Coordinator, CSN Project, BOSCO Bengaluru addressed the group about the various existing child issues and protecting children from child labour, trafficking, abuse, etc., and enrolling them in schools. He requested the stakeholders to be watchful about the presence of child labour, child begging, child trafficking, etc., in and around their areas and bring it to the notice of the concerned officials through the child helpline. Mr. Srinivas, In-charge, of BBMP Sweepers, was present during the awareness. Thirty-three BBMP Sweepers were part of the awareness.

Training for School Teachers



BOSCO Foster Care Project organized training for primary school teachers of Arya Vidya Shaale, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru on June 2, 2022. Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Bengaluru, addressing the group, spoke about BOSCO and its services, foster care concept, and the procedures involved in fostering children. He requested the teachers to support BOSCO in identifying potential parents and children so that such children find a place in the family and grow up in a healthy family environment. Ten primary school teachers participated in the training. Two of them showed interest in fostering children in need of care and protection.

Orientation Programme



Students from St. Claret College, Department of Humanities, Bengaluru and Smt. VHD Central Institute of Home Science (Autonomous), Bengaluru visited

BOSCO Yuvodaya, to understand the working of the organization on June 4 and 23, 2022. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, explained the history of BOSCO, its vision, and mission, programs, projects, activities, challenges, structure, system, etc. It was good exposure for the student as they could relate theory to the actual functioning of the NGO. Students clarified their doubts regarding the projects, JJ Act, CWC procedures, etc. Students also had an opportunity to interact with the children and staff of the centre. Forty-four students attended the orientation programme

Adolescent Girls' Meeting



A meeting was organized for the adolescent girls attending tuition classes by BOSCO Nivas at the centre on June 21, 2022. Ms. Kalaivani and Ms. Girija, Community Organizers, BOSCO Nivas, educated the girls about safety measures for self-security. Girls were told about the precautionary measures to be taken before using the internet and social media, the advantages and disadvantages of using cell-phone and to be cautious in publishing personal information on social media.

The resource person explained the advantages and disadvantages of using the internet and social media. Nine children attending tuition classes participated in the meeting.

Health Camp at BOSCO Yuvodaya



BOSCO Yuvodaya, in collaboration with the Department of Health Care, BOSCO Bengaluru organized a health camp for the open shelter boys at the centre on June 11, 2022. Dr. Akshaya and Dr. Keerthi, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru conducted the camp. The doctors exhorted the children to improve their oral hygiene.

Twenty-seven boys were referred to a dentist, three boys to an ENT specialist, two boys to an ophthalmologist, and seven to a dermatologist for further treatment. All the boys were administered Vitamin A tablets. Forty-nine boys and eight staff benefitted from the camp.

A Recipe for Life: Optimism, Hard work and Persistence!

Orphaned at a young age, Rohit was left in the care and protection of his elder brother. Son of Mr. Namdev, Rohit hails from Bijapur, Karnataka. Unable to take care of Rohit, his elder brother placed him in an orphanage in Belgaum. Rohit was supported by the orphanage till his 10th standard. In the first attempt, he was not able to clear the SSLC exam. As he could not perform well in his academics, CWC, Belgaum referred him to Life Skill Training Centre at Sumanahalli for skill training in December 2020. As Rohit was interested in cooking, he began his training in Bakery Trade.

Rohit, now 18 years of age, soft-spoken and gentle, is observant and quick in learning. He has an aptitude for learning and experimenting with new things. Staff at the centre provided him with constant guidance and motivation, through personal accompaniment, counselling and various life skill training sessions.

Owing to the COVID Pandemic, for the most part of 2020 and 2021, the bakery training was temporarily halted. He appeared again for the SSLC exam the last year at Belgaum, so he had to be away from the centre for about three months. Unfortunately, he was not able to get through the exam for the second time and returned to BOSCO Sumanahalli to continue with his training. His perseverance and dedication paid off and he successfully completed the course in June 2022. It was during this time that the bakery unit trainees were taken for an exposure programme to Amma Pastries, at HBR Layout, Bengaluru. As luck would have it, the owner of the bakery showed interest in placing Rohit to work in the pro-



duction unit.

Currently, Rohit is working in Amma Pastries with a starting salary package of ₹ 12,500/- per month with food and accommodation. Rohit is happy with the opportunities provided to him at the workplace. He has taken the first step toward leading an independent life. He is grateful to BOSCO and all those instrumental in shaping his life. His journey is yet another example of success resulting from hard work, persistence, loyalty and perfection!



PUC

EXAM RESULTS



Gagana, a native of Hosakote, hails from an economically poor family. She completed her PUC at St. Joseph College, Bengaluru. She had chosen the HEPS combination for PUC and scored 58 %. She is talented in the fine arts. She is great full to BOSCO Rainbow Home for the care she has received. She expressed her desire to continue higher education, secure a good job and support her family.

58 %



60.3 %

Kaushik lost his mother when he was very young and had to be under the care of his father who was struggling to make both ends meet with some odd jobs. He was rescued and brought to Don Bosco Ajjanahalli. He did his schooling in Don Bosco Ajjanahalli from his 3rd standard till SSLC. He completed PUC in the Arts stream and stood first in BBMP Government College, Magadi Road. He scored 60.3%. He wants to do a part-time job and continue his studies.

Sushmita hails from Kollegal, Chamarajnagar District. She was placed in BOSCO Rainbow Home by her mother as her meagre income was not able to sustain the family. Sushmita lost her father as a child. She took up HEPS combination for her PU course and scored 45% securing 270 marks. She aspires to continue her studies. She attributes her success to BOSCO and the staff of Rainbow Home.

45 %



BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS MONTHLY REPORT



June- 2022



	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	305	26	331
Service provided	57	28	85
Grand Total	362	54	416

Center/Area-wise Contact Data of New Children:

Contact Point	Fresh		Repeated		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Railway CHILDLINE	136	11	02	00	149
Bus Stand BMTC	28	01	00	00	29
Bus Stand KSRTC	18	01	01	00	20
BOSCO Yuvodaya	02	00	00	00	02
BOSCO Yuvakendra	04	00	00	00	04
BOSCO Sumanahalli	06	00	00	00	06
BOSCO Mane	01	00	00	00	01
BOSCO Nilaya	01	00	00	00	01
BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan	00	01	00	00	01
CHILDLINE	10	03	00	00	13
CSN	13	00	00	00	13
SJPU	01	00	00	00	01
ARSP	82	09	00	00	91
TOTAL	302	26	03	00	331

Final Action Taken:

Placement	Boys	Girls	Total
Referred to BOSCO Centers	46	02	48
Home Placement	239	07	246
Produced before CWC (Admission)	16	16	32
Referred to OH	01	00	01
Referred to Hostels	01	00	01
Recommended to Hostel	01	00	01
Counselled and Sent/ Went off	01	01	02
TOTAL	305	26	331

Classification Report:

Classification	Boys	Girls	Total
Accompanied	101	14	115
Unaccompanied	204	12	216
TOTAL	305	26	331