



## E-Street Voice

*Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru*

*Editorial Note...*

### Freedom for Children: A Distant Dream?

Former President of the United States, Ronald Reagan once said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

While interacting with the students and teachers of one of the large government schools in the city recently (where there are around 2000 students), it was learnt that there was a lack of drinking water and sanitation facilities among other basic infrastructural deficiencies. The matter has been brought to the notice of the concerned department. However, the story is not an isolated one.

As per the statistics of UNICEF India, there are high levels of malnutrition (38.4 per cent of children are stunted), poor learning outcomes (only 42.5 per cent of children in grade three can read a grade one text), vaccine-preventable diseases and child labour still persist in our country.

Children from underprivileged backgrounds, including those in rural areas, slums, urban poor families, scheduled castes, tribal communities, and other disadvantaged groups suffer from a variety of disadvantages, including poverty, malnutrition, access to quality health care, child marriage, low school attendance, poor academic performance, a lack of facilities for sanitation and hygiene, and a lack of improved water supply. The majority of child brides worldwide are from India. In terms of the prevalence of child marriage among the eight South Asian nations, India comes in fourth (after Bangladesh, Nepal, and Afghanistan).

As India completes 75 years of independence, may we have the courage to relentlessly lobby and fight for the protection and promotion of the rights of children who are the ‘citizens of today.’

*Fr. Prasad SDB*



### Independence Day: Towards Children's Freedom



The 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was celebrated at the Centres of BOSCO on August 15, 2022, on the theme, ‘Towards Children's Freedom.’ BOSCO Mane

and Vikas celebrated Independence Day in the presence of Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas and Fr. Jose Joseph, Director and Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram hoisted the flag and Fr. Prasad SDB, gave a message on the theme. Children sang patriotic songs and also performed on the occasion. Later in the day chance games were conducted and prizes were distributed to the winners. Course completion certificates were distributed to the trainees of the BOSCO Mane Computer programme.

## Independence Day

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan celebrated Independence Day in collaboration with Leelavathi Multi Specialty Hospital, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru. Dr. Harish MD, Leelavathi Multi Specialty Hospital, gave an inspirational speech on the importance of Independence Day. During the day, various programmes were organized wherein the children performed dance and songs highlighting the importance of the day. Deveri Manju, a past pupil of BOSCO, interacted with the children and spoke about 'Har Ghar Tiranga'.

Fr. Philip, SDB hoisted the National Flag along with Deveri Manju, BOSCO Past Pupil in BOSCO Yuvakendra. They spoke about the importance and meaning of Independence Day. Independence Day was also celebrated at Govt School, K. P Agrahara. The youth of the centre performed a skit and dance. Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, was present on the occasion.

BOSCO Sumanahalli celebrated Independence Day with the centre youths and the volunteers from France. Fr. Alexander hoisted the Indian flag. Master Harish spoke about India, its culture and the freedom fighters. The foreign volunteers were decked up in traditional Indian attire. The cultural programme was followed by a football match between the volunteers and the centre youth. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru and Fr. Joshy, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, were present during the celebrations.

Rev. Fr. Joseph SJ, Rector, St. Joseph Indian Institution hoisted the flag at BOSCO Rainbow Home. Children performed cultural programmes. Kumari Jeevitha was felicitated for her excellence in the SSLC examination. Fr. Jose Joseph, Director, BOSCO Rainbow Home, was present during the programme. Independence Day was celebrated at BOSCO Yuvodaya with the children at the open Shelter.

BOSCO Nilaya celebrated Independence Day at Veerabhadranagar Tuition Centre. The program started with a prayer song. Children talked about freedom fighters. 25 children participated in the program.

ARSP team celebrated Independence Day in MCT Quarters with the children attending the tuition classes in the presence of Ranjit Kumar, Area Leader, Laxman, DTO, KSRTC, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram,



Executive Director and Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO ARSP Project on August 14, 2022. Children performed dances and put up a fancy-dress show. Flags were distributed to the children. A rally was taken out in the surrounding areas.

BOSCO CREAM Project conducted Independence Day through the child rights clubs' (CRCs) children at three schools and tuition children in Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural. Independence Day was also celebrated at Bhakshi Garden, Bengaluru.

CSN Team and the Project Director participated in the celebrations at Pillahalli GHPS. Grama Panchayath President, Members. SDMC President and Members, DSS Leaders participated. The children and the teachers took a procession in the area to create awareness about the day. Hundred and thirty-one children participated.

The Gandhinagar Area tuition children led by Ms Vijaya and Ms Priyanka gathered in BOSCO Yuvodaya and celebrated Independence Day on August 13, 2022. Children staged programmes on Patriotic themes. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, Mr. Prasanth, HR Manager, and Mr. Prasad, Programme Manager gave messages and Br. Lijo conducted action songs.

A digital poster was developed for the occasion and shared with all the network groups, stakeholders and friends via social media. All the centre children, area children and children attending tuition classes and the staff of BOSCO were part of the celebrations.



## Don Bosco's Birthday Celebrated



The 207<sup>th</sup> birthday of Don Bosco was celebrated at the BOSCO centres – Mane, Vikas, Vatsalya Bhavan,

Yuvodaya, Rainbow Home, Sumanahalli, Yuvakendra and Nilaya on August 16, 2022. The statue of Don Bosco was garlanded. The respective Directors of the centres spoke about the life of Don Bosco, his love for children and youth, the principles and values he practiced, and exhorted the children and youths of the centres to imbibe his values and tread his path to lead a respectful and decent life. Children performed cultural programmes like dances, drama, speeches, etc. honouring the great saint. They sang hymns describing the life of Don Bosco. Fr. Alexander from France spoke on the occasion in Vatsalya Bhavan. Sweets were distributed to the children and staff. All the centre children and youth, staff and directors of the respective centres were present for the celebrations.

## Virtual Meeting with Social Mobilizers



The Foster Care Virtual Meeting via Google Duo Meet with the social mobilizers of the ten districts of Karnataka was held at BOSCO Mane on August 10, 2022. In the introductory remarks, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru spoke about awareness generation, placement procedures, and policy level implementations related to Foster Care; After Care programme in Bengaluru; change of CWC members in all districts and rapport building with the Government officials.

Shivamallu, State Coordinator, Foster Care Programme discussed collecting and preparing the case studies, analyzing the outcomes of the programmes conducted, follow-up of the children placed in foster families, updating the checklist, data of parents and children, placement of deserving children in collaboration with DCPU, etc. Social mobilizers shared about the activities being organized in their districts.

## School Awareness



An awareness of the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) programme was organized by the BOSCO SJPU team at Shree Siddalingeshwara Kannada High School, Magadi Road, and BBMP High School, Byraveshwaranagar, Bengaluru on August 20 and 25, 2022. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, SJPU Project, spoke about child rights, child laws, children in need of care and protection, and children in conflict with the law. He explained in detail about the SJPU project, its importance, and the support of the school authorities and children in identifying and referring children in distress. Ms. Bindumala, HM, Shree Siddalingeshwara Kannada High School, Mr. Sundaresh, Head Master, BBMP High School, Byraveshwaranagar, Ms. Anita Lakshmi, WPSI and CWO, Mr. Basavaraju, ASI, Mr. Halappa, ASI and teachers were present during the awareness session. Around five hundred children attended the sessions.

## National YaR Day at BOSCO

The online launch of the National YaR Campaign 2022 - 2023 and celebration of the YaR Day was held on the theme- “Choose life. Not Drugs” on August 31, 2022. Fr. Tony Pellissery, Executive Director, DB YaR, and Rev. Fr. Santiago Thomas, Provincial, Hyderabad spoke on the occasion. Ms. Maheshwari Balan briefed the highlights of the campaign. The Campaign Poster was released on the occasion. Children from Margaret Bosco Bal Sadan, Paliem, Goa, DB Navajeevan, Vijayawada, DB Navajeevan, Vishakhapatnam, Anbuillam, Chennai and Shelter Don Bosco, Wadala, Mumbai performed on the occasion. A few children and youth shared their experiences during the event. A video compilation- ‘A Child’s View’ was screened. A pledge was taken by everyone, based on the theme.



Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru addressed the children of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan and spoke about the importance of the day and its purpose. He appreciated the children for participating in the competitions. Speech and Drawing competitions were organized. The participants spoke about the importance of choosing life and not drugs. The winners were given prizes. Fifty girls participated in the event.

Mahesh, Past Pupil, BOSCO Bengaluru engaged the youths of BOSCO Yuvakendra on the harmful effects of consuming drugs and shared insights on choosing life rather than falling prey to drugs. Youth from the Centre participated in drawing, speech and skit competitions.

BOSCO Yuvodaya participated in the online launch of YaR National Campaign on the day. The boys of the open shelter were briefed about the importance of the day and the theme. Eighteen boys attended the session.

CSN TEAM celebrated the YaR Day programme with the stakeholders at BBMP Ward No -128, Chandra Layout and with the students of BBMP PU College, Kalyana Nagar. PN Basavaraju, Coordinator, CSN

Project, spoke on the theme and urged the stakeholders to join hands with BOSCO in its fight against substance abuse. Police officials and around thirty-five stakeholders participated.

Mary Shamala, Counsellor, BOSCO Rainbow Home, introduced the theme for YaR Day and spoke about the importance of the day. Children became aware of the importance of life. They were also made aware of the danger of drugs and proper and responsible use of social media. Forty-three girls were present on the occasion.

BOSCO Vikas children participated in the drawing competition. A volleyball match was also played. The children also participated in the online launch of the YaR Campaign. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director and Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas were present during the event.

On the occasion of YaR day, BOSCO Nilaya, BOSCO Nivas and BOSCO Sumanahalli organised sessions with children and staff on the theme, ‘Choose Life. Not Drugs’. The teams conducted drawing, and speech competitions for the children and youth as part of the campaign.



## Life Skills Day



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli organized 'Life Skills Day' for the trainees at the centre on August 29, 2022. Fr. Joshy, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, briefed about the significance of the day. He said that every skill gets perfect when practiced and shared. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, in his speech said, "Making oneself and others happy is more important. Each one is unique in his/her own way. Even helping one another is also a talent."

The theme of YaR day - 'Choose Life - Not Drugs' was introduced by Fr. Varghese Pallipuram. He alerted the trainees about the bad effects of drugs. Various competitions like speech competition, solo singing, drawing, solo dance, smiling and crying competitions were conducted. Twenty-three trainees and the staff participated in the event.

## Meeting with the Police Officials



BOSCO Foster Care Programme conducted meetings with the police officials of Vijayanagar Police Station and East Division, Bengaluru, at Vijayanagar Police Station and Shishu Mandir, Kithganur, Bengaluru, respectively on August 23 and 26, 2022. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, Foster Care Programme, briefed about CWC, DCPO, types of children produced before the CWC, and the foster care concept. Ms. Sindhu Naik explained about adoption procedure, and Ms. Nagamani, Nodal Coordinator briefed the gathering about the JJ Act. Mr. Hemant Kumar, Member, CWC 3, Ms. Geetha Lakshmi, DCPO, East Division, and Mr. Subramani, Legal consultant, Shishu Mandir, were present during the meetings. A total of seventy-two police officials attended the meetings.

## Public Awareness at Railway Stations



Public awareness programs were conducted by the BOSCO Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) team at the platforms of Kengeri and BNC Railway Stations during August, 2022. The main aim of the awareness programmes was to sensitize the public about runaway children and missing children. Information was given on BOSCO and its activities, CHILDLINE, missing children, 1098, runaway children, child rights, child protection mechanisms, and child welfare committee. Around a thousand public and passengers were given pamphlets.

## Awareness for Auto Drivers



An awareness programme was organized for auto drivers by the BOSCO Bus Stand team on KSRTC Service Road on August 30, 2022. The team members enlightened the auto drivers about runaway children, child labour, child helpline number-1098, and bus stand booth activities. They also explained the activities and services rendered by BOSCO. The team requested the stakeholders to support the team in identifying and rescuing children at risk in the bus stands and surrounding areas. Twenty-seven auto drivers attended the session.

## Open House Programme Organized



CHILDLINE, BOSCO Bengaluru organized an open house programme at Govt High school Nelagadara-nahalli, Bengaluru, on August 11, 2022. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Prasad, Director, CHILDLINE Bengaluru, spoke about the objectives, role and responsibility of CHILDLINE. He briefed about the

purpose of the Open house Programme.

Ms. Shashikala, Education Officer, spoke on the occasion and informed that children should know about the government schemes which help them.

Mr. Siddu Hugar, Sub Inspector, Peenya Police Station, interacted with the children. He explained the ill effects of taking alcohol and drugs. He exhorted children to have dreams and work hard to achieve them.

Ms Nagamani, Nodal Coordinator conducted an open discussion with the children. The children shared various issues they face. The CHILDLINE team took the list of issues from the children and assured them that the team will follow up on the issues. Over 350 children and five school teachers were present for the programme.

## Awareness to Stakeholders



Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized an awareness for the BBMP staff – Sweepers and Supervisors, Bag Factory workers and Garment Factory employees at JJR Nagar, KR Market, Kamakshipalya, Upparpet, and Arundhathinagar Bengaluru during August, 2022. PN Basavaraju, Coordinator, CSN Project, spoke about the action to be taken to make Bengaluru, child labour free. He requested the support of the stakeholders towards identifying children employed, or children in difficult situations so that every child may have a safe and happy childhood. Lokesh, PSI, JJR Police Station, was present during the session. Hundred and eighty-two stakeholders attended the session.

## Police Sensitization



Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), BOSCO Bengaluru organized a sensitization for the police officials of Shankarapura Police Station, Bengaluru on August 17, 2022. Information on child rights, child protection mechanisms, child-related issues, child-related laws and acts, JJ Act, SJPU and procedures involved in the SJPU project, documents required to be maintained, and roles and responsibilities of the SJPU team was given to the police officials by Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU Project. Mr. M. Shivarama, SI, and Ms. Annapoorna, Woman PSI were present during the programme. A total of fourteen Police Officials were sensitized.



## Certificates Awarded

**BOSCO** Computer Training Project, **BOSCO** Mane, Bengaluru organized a Certificate Distribution programme for the students who completed the three-month Basic and Tally computer training course from the centre on August 15, 2022. Addressing the trainees, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram SDB, Executive Director, **BOSCO** Bengaluru,



explained the importance of receiving the certificate ceremony. Fr. Prasad, Director, **BOSCO** Mane, Fr. after completing the course and congratulated the Jose Joseph, Administrator, and staff and children of students for their success. Forty trainees completed **BOSCO** Vikas and **BOSCO** Mane were present on the course and 26 received the certificate during the the occasion.

## Distribution of Track Suits to Children



## Health Check-up at Yuvodaya



The Child Safety Net (CSN) team, organized the distribution of tracksuits to the children of Government School, Pillahalli, Bengaluru on August 12, 2022. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, **BOSCO** Bengaluru presided over the function. CSN team distributed tracksuits to a hundred and thirty-one children. Children were happy to be dressed in tracksuits. The School Management thanked **BOSCO** for its thoughtful service and support. The caring community members promised their wholehearted support to **BOSCO** for the welfare of the children. Mr. Krishnamurthy, SDMC President, Panchayath Member, ASHA workers, teachers, Fr. Johnson, Director, **BOSCO** CSN Project, and students were present on the occasion.

**BOSCO** Yuvodaya organized a health check-up for the children at the Open Shelter in coordination with the Health Care Department, **BOSCO** Bengaluru on August 22, 2022. Dr. Vishnu and Dr. Fayaz from St. Martha's Hospital conducted the camp. Three boys were referred to the hospitals for further treatment for skin and other medical complaints. All boys were administered deworming and Vitamin A tablets.

Dr. Vishnu noted that there was an improvement in the health and hygiene of the children residing in the Open Shelter and that the children currently present in the centre were not addicted to any substance abuse such as gutka, chewing tobacco, etc. Fifty-two boys availed the benefits of the camp.

# In Safe Hands...



“Seven years ago, my husband tied me in the house and took my daughter with him.” “My wife went to the Anganwadi where our child studies in and forcefully took her away without my knowledge”; two different stories, two different lives, and a child who struggled to find herself in the midst of the clamour and confusion, an eight-year-old Asha (name changed).

Asha’s parents’ relationship had been on the rocks since the beginning. Asha’s mother is her father’s second wife, and they separated when Asha was still a baby. For the first few years of her life, Asha was taken care of by her father, his third wife, and his family in Chikkanahalli till one day her mother took her away to her house in Kalegowdanahalli without the father’s knowledge when Asha was around five years of age, after forcing the child to complain to the police about her father.

Life for Asha began anew at the age of five, this time with her mother. Asha’s mother worked as a domestic

help in her landlord’s house. Asha’s relationship with her mother was more anchored in fear than in love. She was afraid of her mother and the way she expressed her displeasure, and her mother’s habitual drinking made matters worse. So, when her mother came to know that Asha was complaining about her, it aggravated an already tense relationship. She became the target of her mother’s anger and punishments, and finally unable to bear her anger anymore, Asha ran away from home. She was sheltered by the local temple priest for two days after which he informed CHILDLINE about the child. Asha was then rescued by CHILDLINE and sent to an NGO in Nelamangala as per the order of the CWC.

It was in 2020 that Asha went to the NGO, and once there, the staff from the organization visited both the mother and the father in an attempt to understand their lives and issues better. A truth became painfully evident, that Asha was never ever going to get her family back. The chasm had widened, the problems multiplied, and among the cacophony of their conflicts, the child was unattended to. Asha was clearly afraid of her mother and did not want to live with her anymore. So, she continued in the NGO for the next two years before being transferred to BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan as per the order of the CWC, in 2022.

Asha, with the adaptability that only a child can muster, quickly settled into the new environment and routine with ease. Asha is currently a 5<sup>th</sup>-standard student in one of the reputed English Medium schools in the city. ‘A smart student, a lovable child, and a good friend,’ are the phrases used by the staff and children of BVB to describe the child. She actively participates in all the activities of the centre and makes the most of the opportunities available. Only Asha’s father’s younger brother is in touch with the child and the centre sometimes. Life is still full of questions for little Asha, but as she finds her answers, BOSCO accompanies her, step by step, in her quest to build her life again.



# BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS MONTHLY REPORT



**August- 2022**



--	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	279	39	318
Service provided	52	18	70
Grand Total	331	57	388

## New Children Data of Contact Center/Area:

Contact Point	Fresh		Repeated		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Railway CHILDLINE	133	08	04	00	145
Bus stand BMTC	35	02	00	00	37
Bus stand KSRTC	18	06	00	00	24
BOSCO Yuvodaya	03	00	00	00	03
BOSCO Sumanahalli	03	00	00	00	03
BOSCO MANE	02	00	00	00	02
BOSCO Rainbow Home	00	04	00	00	04
BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan	00	01	00	00	01
CHILDLINE	03	05	00	00	08
CSN	14	00	00	00	14
SJPU	11	08	00	00	19
ARSP	52	05	00	00	57
Gandhi Nagar	01	00	00	00	01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>318</b>

## Final Action Taken:

Placement	Boys	Girls	Total
Referred to BOSCO Centers	19	11	30
Home Placement	234	16	250
Produced before CWC (Admission)	16	11	27
Shishumandir	01	00	01
Referred to OH	07	00	07
Referred to Hostels	02	01	03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>318</b>

## Classification Report:

Classification	Boys	Girls	Total
Accompanied	27	14	41
Unaccompanied	252	25	277
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>318</b>