



E-Street Voice

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

Editorial Note...

Diwali: Celebration of Light Going Dark?

Diwali or Deepavali was celebrated across the nation towards the end of the month of October. Diwali is celebrated as a festival of light, a day to remember the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board had issued guidelines to control air and sound pollution levels in Bengaluru.

Despite the limitations placed this year by the government on the use of fireworks during the ongoing Deepavali celebration, Bengaluru's air pollution levels have noticeably increased in recent days, pushing the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) to "Poor" levels in some stations. The air quality in the national capital, Delhi had similarly worsened and continued to be in the 'Very Poor' category. As per analysis, the air quality this year has deteriorated compared to that of last year.

Other than the noise and air pollution concerns, fire-

cracker-related injuries reported in hospitals across the country during the season witnessed an evident spike. Dr. Sujatha Rathod, Director of Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, reported that 15 cases of eye injuries from Deepavali firecrackers have been reported to the

hospital, largely involving youngsters and teenagers. Only six of the patients themselves had burst crackers; the other nine were witnesses or bystanders.

As we reach out to the less privileged children and youth, it is our bounded duty to conscientize them to celebrate the festival in a safe manner. Slaying one's own inner demons and fanning one's inner flame would be an act befitting the name 'Diwali,' than making the environment polluted and uninhabitable for generations to come. Be an agent of light!



Fr. Prasad SDB

International Day of the Girl Child Celebrated



Bengaluru, on October 11, 2022. The celebration was centered on the theme, "Our time is now- our rights, our future". Speaking on the occasion, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru said, "This is the time to fight for the rights of the girl children. We need to ensure their rights and provide education and holistic development. The safety and protection of children are to be given utmost importance."

BOSCO organized the International Day of the Girl Child at BOSCO Rainbow Home, Wilson Garden, Mumtaz, Huntiar, Superintendent, Govt. Girls' Home, Bengaluru, said that a girl child is like a sun-

Awareness on Foster Care

BOSCO Foster Care Project organized awareness programmes for the Anganwadi Teachers at the Anganwadi centre, Chathrkhan Circle, Anekal, Bengaluru; ASHA Workers at the Primary Health Center, Ramachandrapura, Bengaluru and Primary Health Center, Srirampura, Bengaluru and Self-Help Group (SHG) members at the Anganwadi Center, Vivekananda Layout, Anekal, Bengaluru during October 2022. Mr. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Project explained in detail about the foster care programme. He explained how to foster a child and the procedures involved in submitting the application to the District Child Protection Unit. He requested



their support in disseminating the information. Twenty-two Anganwadi Teachers, twenty-seven ASHA Workers, and nineteen SHG members were present in the awareness programmes.

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International Day of the Girl Child



flower spreading happiness and positivity. Ms. Asha, Senior Asst. Director, Child Marriage Cell, Bengaluru, exhorted children to make the best use of all the opportunities. She appreciated the efforts of BOSCO and told everyone to avail the schemes of the government.

Dr. H.R Sudha, Principal, Alameen B. Ed College, Bengaluru opined that the day of the girl child is to be celebrated every day. She wished that every girl child may get opportunities to do well in life and achieve great heights. Mr. A Raju, Inspector, Wilson Garden Police Station said, "You can achieve anything in life. Have a dream, work hard and success will be yours, honor, dignity, and prosperity will be yours."

This programme began with a rally creating awareness through slogans and placards, followed by cultural programmes. Ms. Saroja welcomed the gathering and Sr. Jenny proposed the vote of thanks. Over 150 children and staff from the various centers of BOSCO participated in the programme.

Anniversary Celebrations at BOSCO Sumanahalli



BOSCO Sumanahalli celebrated its seventh anniversary on October 9, 2022. The celebration started with the lighting of the lamp and cutting the cake. Fr. Varghese, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru said the celebration invites better planning and implementation of programs. Fr. George Kannanthanam, Director, of Sumanahalli Society, appreciated the commitment and planning of the management and staff. Cultural programs were put up by trainees, computer students, and tuition children from the Devaraja Urs area. The trainees performed a skit based on the theme, 'Choose life. Not drugs.' Certificates were distributed to the computer students who completed the training. Prizes were distributed to the winners of different events. The celebration saw the presence of Fr. Anthayya SDB and Fr. Joshy, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli. Mr. Kalaiyarasu, a former student who is working in Amma Pastries at Electrical Unit interacted with the trainees. Twenty-two trainees, fifteen tuition children from the Devaraja Urs area, twelve computer students, and twenty-three parents were present on the occasion.

Outing to Bannerghatta National Park



A one-day outing was organized to Bannerghatta National Park, Butterfly Park, and the Holy Mary Study House, for the children and staff of BOSCO Yuvakendra on October 27, 2022. The boys went around the park enjoying the greenery, and watching

different animals, birds, reptiles, and insects. They enjoyed the Butterfly Park, and Museum, and watching the fish in the pond. Jungle Safari was the highlight of the park where the children saw tigers, lions, elephants, giraffes, etc.

The boys were also taken to Holy Mary Study House, a place for knowledge and discipline. The Sisters briefed them about the activities of the centre. Twenty-eight boys of the centre along with the staff were part of the outing. They were accompanied by Fr. CV George, Salesian In-Charge, BOSCO Yuvakendra, and Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra.

Awareness for Stakeholders



Child Safety Net (CSN) project, BOSCO Bengaluru conducted an awareness for the BBMP Sweepers of Ward No. 142, at the Kohinoor Ground on October 3, 2022. Basavaraj PN, Coordinator, CSN Project, briefed the stakeholders about BOSCO and its activities, child rights, child-related issues like child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, child rights violations, and the child helpline number -1098.

He explained the role of the stakeholders in creating a child-safe environment. He asked them to support BOSCO in rescuing and rehabilitating children at risk. Shankar, PSI, was present during the session. Thirty-two BBMP Sweepers participated in the awareness programme.

Parents Meeting at BOSCO Sumanahalli



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli conducted a meeting for the parents of the youths residing in the centre on October 9, 2022. Fr. Joshy Puttur, Director welcomed the parents. Vinnarasi, Social Activist, BOSCO Yuvodaya addressed the parents on the topic, 'Role of Parents in the upbringing of children.' She highlighted the importance of the care and attention needed to help the child grow better.

One of the parents was happy to share that her son who was once addicted to tobacco and smoking had stopped consuming them because of the efforts of BOSCO staff and his life had changed for the better. Parents had a chance to interact with their children. Twenty-three parents attended the meeting.

Parents Meeting at BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized a parents/guardian meeting at the centre on October 2, 2022. Ms. Saroja, Teacher and Night Warden, Vatsalya Bhavan welcomed the parents, children, and staff. General instructions and information about the rules and functioning of the centre were given. The parents/guardians were made aware of their roles and responsibilities and were given information about Dasara, Deepavali, and Summer vacations.

Saroja requested the parents/guardians to visit their children and make phone calls regularly so that the children feel accepted and cared for by them. She also told them to update the information required for making the Aadhaar cards, caste and income certificates, and bank accounts of their wards to avail the



benefits of the Government schemes. The parents and guardians spent time with their wards and the centre staff to get an update on the progress of their wards. Twenty-five parents and guardians attended the meeting.

Training Program for Peer Leaders



BOSCO Nilaya organized a training programme for the leaders from the peer groups of children addicted to drugs/substance abuse on October 19, 2022. Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, said that the participants would act as catalysts of social change. Dr. Sridevi, BHMS, Bhagavan Buddha Homeopathic Medical College, Nagarabhavi, said, 'Giving importance to personal dignity and by following various healthy habits like sports and games, one can get rid of addiction.' She spoke about the adverse effects of substance abuse, a way out from addiction, and adolescents' challenges. Some of the participants shared the experiences that led them to drug abuse. Ms. B S Geetha, Social Worker, Cheluvadipalya was present in the training. Forty-four peer leaders attended the training.

Awareness in Railway Stations



Public awareness programs were conducted by the BOSCO Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) team and Outreach team working in the bus stands at the platforms of Kengeri, Yelnahaka, and BNC Railway Stations, moving trains, BMTC and KSRTC Bus Stands and the adjacent communities during October 2022.

The main aim of the awareness programmes was to sensitize the public about runaway children and missing children. Information was given about BOSCO and its activities, CHILDLINE, missing children, runaway children, child rights, child protection mechanisms, and the child welfare committee. Over 1500 public and passengers were given pamphlets.

Health Camps at BOSCO Bengaluru



The Health Care Department, BOSCO Bengaluru organized health camps and dental Check-ups at BOSCO Yuvodaya, BOSCO Mane, and Government School, Pillahalli Community in October 2022. Dr. Abraham, Dr. Kasturi, Dr. Prajwal, Dr. Bharath, and

MSW students, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru conducted the general health check-ups. The children and a few adults underwent general body check-ups including weight, height, temperature, BP, and oxygen levels. A few of the children were referred to hospitals with ortho, eye, ENT, skin, cold, and cough. One boy in Pillahalli was suspected of TB and referred to a specialist. All children were administered Vitamin A and Deworming tablets. Seventy-three boys from BOSCO Vikas and Mane, thirty-two boys from BOSCO Yuvodaya, and hundred and eight children and adults from Pillahalli Community attended the camps.

The dental camp for BOSCO Mane and Vikas children was conducted by Dr. Murthy and team, R and R Foundation, Bengaluru. A few children were referred for further treatment such as root canal treatment, cleaning, fitting, extraction, and other problems. Toothbrushes were given to all the children by the team. Twenty-eight boys from BOSCO Mane and forty-five boys from BOSCO Vikas availed the services of the camp.

Orientation to students



An orientation program was conducted for the students of Christ College of Arts and Science, Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru introduced BOSCO through videos like 'SHE' and 'This is Me.' He explained the history of BOSCO, its vision, and mission, programs, projects, activities, challenges, structure, and system. Prashanth Murthy, HR Manager, BOSCO Bengaluru briefed about the HR Policy of the organization. Students interacted with children. Some students expressed to take up their internship with BOSCO. Twenty-four MSW students and two staff participated in the program.

Training Programme for Police Officials



Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru conducted a training for the Police Officials at Kengeri Police Station, Bengaluru on October 19, 2022. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU Project facilitated the session on child rights and protection, JJ Act 2015, SJPU project, procedures, child-related documents, children in conflict with the law (CCL), roles and responsibilities of Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board. He spoke about the support needed from the police in dealing with the CCL and POCSO cases. Mr. Vasanth C, Police Inspector, Kengeri Police Station, fifty police officials, and two BOSCO staff were present during the training session.

Dasara Camps

BOSCO CREAM Project and BOSCO Nilaya organized a two-day Dussehra Camp on September 30 and October 1, 2022, at GKPS, Ambedkar Nagar, Sondekoppa, Nelamangala. Inauguration of the two-day camp was done by Mr. Thimmaiah, BEO, Nelamangala, Mrs. Jayanthi Sub Inspector, Nelamangala, Mr. Prakash, HM, Jakkasandra, Mr. Nagaraj, HM, GKPS Ambedkar Nagar, SDMC Members, School Teachers and Fr. Jude Anand, Director, Nilaya, by lighting the lamp. Children were divided into four groups. Children were taught action songs and dance. A creative craft session was facilitated by Fr. Joshy Puthur, Director, Life Skill Training Centre Sumanahalli. Sixty-five boys and fifty-five girls from two schools participated in the camp.

BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted a three-day Dasara camp for the youths of the centre from October 14 to 16, 2022. The Resource Persons- Vinod, Mahesh, Nagaraj, and Lakshmi from Dream a Dream facilitated the sessions during the camp. Youths performed cultural activities on the theme, 'Choose life. Not drugs.' Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Mr. Pragyajeeth, BOSCO Well-wisher, Ms. Jyothi, Advocate, Fr. CV George, Salesian In-charge, Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Mr. Thomas, and Well-wisher BOSCO were present on the occasion. Twenty-seven youths of the centre participated in the camp.

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized a seven-day Dasara Camp for the children of the centre to engage the children constructively and bring out their hidden talents, from October 3 to October 10, 2022. The activities in the camp included Creative Art and Craft sessions, Dasara Doll making, and Clay Modeling. Children prepared puppets and put up a puppet show. They composed a song on "Choose life Not Drugs". Children were given exposure to ATM, Canara Bank, Traffic rules, and Traffic signals. They had a chance to visit the Department of Public Libraries, State central library Bangalore. They also visited Museum, Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha. Village Vibe – a village environment was created on the theme. Students organized a math exhibition that included clock, multiplication, angles, months, heights, distance, modeling, addition, shapes, Pythagoras theorem, integers, etc. The science exhibition



presented by the school-going children included the Solar system, Water cycle, and Perfume making with chemicals. The children were introduced to jewelry making. An outing was arranged to Bull Temple and Cubbon Park during the camp. Audha Pooja was celebrated. Fifty children of the centre participated in the camp.

BOSCO CREAM Project, BOSCO Nivas, and BOSCO Nilaya organized a two-day Dussehra Camp at St. Theresa Church, J C Road on October 7 and 8, 2022. Fr. Baskar, Parish Priest, St Theresa Church J C Road, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, and Fr. Anand Director, Nilaya and Nivas inaugurated the camp on October 7, 2022. Ten tuition Teachers and eight BOSCO staff carried out the camp under the leadership of Fr. Anand. The activities included action songs, dance, crafts, sessions on value education, child safety, karate performance, and a quiz competition. Fifty-nine boys and fifty-three girls from ten communities participated.

A four-day Dasara Camp was conducted for the children of BOSCO Mane and Vikas from October 5 to 8, 2022. The children were divided into four groups during the camp. Students from St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru, celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi with children. They cleaned the surrounding along with the children, conducted games, and activities, and provided gifts and sweets to the children. Eighty children participated in the camp.

Turning Tears and Blood into Medals of Gold!

Success Story

Sathya, 16 years old, from Bengaluru, is studying in 10th standard. She hails from an economically poor family. Her mother is a vegetable vendor in K.R. Market. Satya is the eldest in the family, with three younger sisters and a younger brother. When her father left home she was only nine years old, studying in the 3rd standard in a government school in Nayandanahalli. Due to family issues and financial trouble she had to drop out of school and take care of her siblings. One day when she was in K.R. Market with

her mother she met the Social Mobilizer of BOSCO Rainbow Home, who spoke to them and found out about their situation at home. She told Satya's mother about BOSCO Rainbow Home and suggested placing her and her younger sister Suji for shelter and education. Satya's mother agreed and the children were admitted to Rainbow Home.

She was very sad to leave her mother and siblings as she had never stayed away from them. In the beginning, she used to feel very lonely. However, after a few days at the centre, she learned to accept that she had to stay there to help her family and began mingling with the other children and staff. She attended the bridge course for two months and became more interested in her studies. All the centre staff and school teachers started appreciating



her hard work and also encouraging her to take part in other extracurricular activities. Currently, she shows interest in dance, sports, drama, art, craft, etc.

She is good in sports as well as cultural activities and has participated in several programmes within BOSCO as well as outside the organization. Recently she participated in the South Asian Rope Skipping Championship 2022 in Nepal and won the gold medal. She received a medal for being the 'Topper' in her class. Every year she is selected to participate in state-level Kabaddi and Kho-Kho inter-school competitions. She took part in the National Level Rope Skipping Competition held in Delhi from October 16 to 19, 2022, and won the gold medal.

BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS MONTHLY REPORT



October- 2022



| | Male | Female | Total |
|------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Children rescued | 291 | 49 | 340 |
| Service provided | 47 | 11 | 58 |
| Grand Total | 338 | 60 | 398 |

New Children Data of Contact from Centers/Areas:

| | Fresh | | Repeated | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Contact Point | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Total |
| Railway CHILDLINE | 135 | 22 | 01 | 00 | 158 |
| Bus Stand BMTC | 21 | 03 | 00 | 00 | 24 |
| Bus Stand KSRTC | 23 | 02 | 01 | 00 | 26 |
| BOSCO Yuvodaya | 02 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 02 |
| BOSCO Sumanahalli | 01 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 01 |
| BOSCO MANE | 01 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 01 |
| BOSCO Rainbow Home | 00 | 03 | 00 | 00 | 03 |
| BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan | 00 | 01 | 00 | 00 | 01 |
| CHILDLINE | 03 | 09 | 00 | 00 | 12 |
| CSN | 15 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 15 |
| SJPU | 20 | 03 | 00 | 00 | 23 |
| ARSP | 68 | 06 | 00 | 00 | 74 |
| TOTAL | 289 | 49 | 02 | 00 | 340 |

Final Action Taken:

| Placement | Boys | Girls | Total |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Referred to BOSCO Centers | 42 | 24 | 66 |
| Home Placement | 210 | 20 | 230 |
| Produced before CWC (Admission) | 23 | 05 | 28 |
| Referred to OH | 16 | 00 | 16 |
| TOTAL | 291 | 49 | 340 |

Classification Report

| Classification | Boys | Girls | Total |
|----------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Accompanied | 32 | 25 | 57 |
| Unaccompanied | 259 | 24 | 283 |
| TOTAL | 291 | 49 | 340 |