



E-Street Voice

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

A Unique Saga

Success Story | Page: 14

Editorial Note

March 31, 2023

Digital Literacy: Need of the Hour?

Clueless as to how to deal with issues faced by her two adolescent daughters, a young mother sought the help of CHILDLINE. Interacting with the counselors, she said that abusive and offensive posts about her children were becoming viral. The children had become friendly with unknown persons who turned hostile later on and began to upload abusive content online using their images. Despite the negative and harrowing experiences, the children were not ready to reduce their screen time or presence on social media platforms.

International Women's Day was celebrated with the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality," on March 8, 2023. The theme is in line with the theme for the upcoming 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, "Innovation and technological change, and education

in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

As per the reports of the National Crimes Record Bureau, there has been a sharp rise in cybercrimes against children. The top five states reporting cyber-crimes against children are Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Odisha. Lack of knowledge about the responsible use of technologies and lack of preparedness to enter the digital world increases the vulnerability of the target groups. When children are introduced to the online environment without adequate preparation, the possibilities for abuse are relatively higher. Hence, digital literacy in the classroom and at home is to be ensured to promote child rights protection and gender equality.



Fr. Prasad SDB

International Women's Day



BOSCO Yuvakendra youths celebrated International Women's Day at the centre on March 8, 2023. Mr. Rajasekar, Coordinator, BOSCO Yuvakendra spoke

about the importance of women in society, their achievements, contributions, and their role as mothers, wives, daughters, etc. A drawing competition was held for the youths regarding the importance of the day. A debate competition was also organized on the theme, "A woman is the form of Love and Sacrifice" by dividing the group into two. Fourteen youths participated in the events held as part of the International Women's Day celebration. BOSCO Sumanahalli organized a Women's Day Celebration in Devaraj Urs Community, Sumanahalli on March 12, 2023. Fr. Varghese, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru wished

PACT India Awards 2023

Prakhyata Abhinand Charitable Trust (PACT) India in collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) Bengaluru Urban held the 'Cohort 1' closure programme at Government Boy's Home, Bengaluru, on March 30, 2023. Awards were conferred to selected NGOs that use the 'Inclusive Approach' strategy for the rehabilitation of children with special needs. Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) housed in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) who have special physical, mental, and psychological needs were screened to identify the target group.

A team from PACT India conducted the screening of the children with special needs in thirty-eight CCIs across Bengaluru, short listed the CCIs and asked them to make presentations. Based on the 'Inclusive Approach' followed by the CCIs for the children with special needs, the CCIs were selected for the cash awards.

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre was recognized for implementing and sustaining inclusive practices for mainstreaming the CNCPs by skilling them in bakery, carpentry, electrical, two-wheeler mechanic, welding and computer training. The centre is eligible for Gold Category support by the PACT India in the year 2023-24 for the interventional needs of the identified children/ youths with special needs in the CCI.

BOSCO Rainbow Home was recognized for impactful work towards CNCP girls through holistic development approaches. The centre is eligible for Silver Category support by the PACT India in the year 2023-24 for the interventional needs of the identified girls



with special needs in the CCI.

The programme was presided by Ms. Bharathi Devi BS, DCPO, Bengaluru Urban. The Chief guest was Mr. VS Basavaraju, Former State Commissioner, RPwD Act, Government of Karnataka. Ms. Chitra Aravind, Well Wisher, PACT India and Dr. GV Basavaraju, National President Elect, Indian Academy of Pediatrics, were the guests of honour. Ms. Mumtaz, DCPO, Anekal, Mr. KC Thimmaiah, DCPO, Bengaluru North, Ms. Geethalaxmi, DCPO, Bengaluru South, Ms. Anitha, V. Superintendent, Govt. Shishu Mandir, Ms. Janaki, Superintendent, Government Boys Home, Bengaluru and dignitaries of PACT India were present for the programme.

Sports Day for Youth



Sports Day was organized for the youth of BOSCO Yuvakendra at BOSCO Sumanahalli on March 2, 2023. The boys were given the general instruc-

tions and rules of the day. They were divided into two groups- Blue and Green. Events like the 100 mts running race, 4X100 mts relay, cricket, volleyball, and football were organized. Anil, Coordinator, BOSCO Yuvodaya conducted the events. Fr. CV George, Salesian In-charge, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Sr. Silvy, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, and Fr. Joshy Puttur, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli were present for the event. Twenty-one boys of BOSCO Yuvakendra and sixteen trainees of BOSCO Sumanahalli participated in the sports day.

Namma Poorva Ratnagalu: Past Pupils' Meet 2023



“Namma Poorva Ratnagalu”- Past Pupils' Meet was organized by BOSCO Sumanahalli on March 5, 2023. Fr. Joshy, Director, Life Skill Training Centre, welcomed the guests and the past pupils. Fr. Varghese, in his message, said, “It is good to see the old students supporting the organization in times of need. A sense of gratitude will always help one move forward. It’s a day of motivation for the trainees who are continuing

in the centre”. Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, quoting the words of Steve Jobs, said, “Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish. Never let go of your appetite for new ideas, new experiences, and new adventures.” Yunush, an Alumni, shared that he felt happy and proud to come back to Sumanahalli. The journey in the centre motivated him immensely to accomplish his dream. Currently, he is working in an Electrical shop in Gulbarga.

A group dance was performed by the trainees. A PowerPoint presentation was done recalling the past memories of the Alumni. Some of the trainees shared their enriching experiences and gave a glimpse of their present life. The Alumni enjoyed playing Cricket and Volley Ball. Fr. Jose, Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru was present for the program. Fifty Past Pupils, eighteen trainees, and the staff of BOSCO Sumanahalli participated in the programme.

Awareness on Oral Hygiene



BOSCO Vikas in coordination with Health Care Department, BOSCO Bengaluru organized an awareness session on oral hygiene for the boys of the centre on March 4, 2023. The doctors from BMRCI Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru spoke about the correct way of brushing teeth, maintaining oral hygiene and dental hygiene, and the importance of maintaining healthy teeth and gums. They suggested gargling with salt and warm water regularly to keep the mouth free from germs and bacteria. The resource persons also conducted some fun-filled games and activities and distributed prizes to the winners. Nine doctors from Victoria Hospital and forty-four children from BOSCO Vikas were present for the session.

Public Awareness Programmes



The outreach teams working in BMTC and KSRTC bus stand, Gandhinagar area, KSR Railway Station, and Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) project conducted awareness for the passengers and the commuters, shopkeepers, and people in adjacent communities during March 2023. The teams enlightened the public about child rights, child-related laws, and acts, and issues such as child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, child begging, missing children, child runaways, vulnerable children, and child helpline-1098 by distributing pamphlets. Around seven hundred and fifty public, passengers, commuters, shop keepers, and community people benefitted from the awareness.

Provincial Visitation at BOSCO

Fr. Jose Koyickal, Provincial, Salesian Province of Bangalore held a three-day canonical visit at BOSCO, Bengaluru from March 20 to 22, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, in his introductory speech, said, “Staff and Salesians in BOSCO were blessed to have the presence of Fr. Provincial at the organization. He is here to guide us, support us and give suggestions for the betterment of BOSCO’s Work”.

Addressing the staff Fr. Jose Koyickal said, “Always smile. It reflects our personality and makes us feel at home. The basic theme is to create a fraternity, a communion so as to bring in a family atmosphere. We belong to a big family of Fathers, Brothers, staff, and volunteers who have been relentlessly striving for over four decades towards helping the poor and the abandoned children/youth and transforming them into integrated citizens and responsible persons. Now is the time to give more visibility to BOSCO’s work”. He shared the golden rule of life- ‘Do for others what you want others to do for you.’



He interacted with the staff and looked into their experience of being associated with BOSCO. Fr. Prasad, Director, Mane welcomed the gathering, and Ramaswamy, Coordinator, SJPU Programme, proposed the vote of thanks. All the staff and Management were present on the occasion.

Day of Happiness



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, engaged the trainees in the Day of Happiness on March 21, 2023, to create awareness among the trainees about the importance of happiness in life. Ms. Namita, Counsellor, BOSCO Sumanahalli, explained the importance of the day. The theme of the day was highlighted as “Be mindful, be grateful and be kind”. She taught a few techniques to increase happiness in one’s life. She said that everyone is responsible for his/her own happiness. The trainees were given an opportunity to make others happy and laugh through their jokes, acting, etc. Nineteen youths participated in the programme.

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International Women’s Day

everyone on Women’s Day. He said women have come out with flying colors holding dignified positions like the President of India.

Mr. Thippanna, Leader, DSS said, ‘Women are very important in the society. We address the Earth as Mother Earth.’ Malathisri Mysore, Actress, performed a drama - “Amma Andre Saake” communicating the message – ‘no one can replace a mother’. Fr. Joshy, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli acknowledged the contribution of women in society and the efforts taken to build a healthy society. Children performed various cultural programmes. Twenty-one mothers of the children attending tuition classes and forty-five tuition children were part of the celebration.

BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE and Nilaya celebrated International Women’s Day on March 8, 2023. The importance of women in society, their achievements, contributions, and their role as mothers, wives, daughters, etc. was briefed. There was a cake cutting as part of the celebration.

Diamond Alumnae 2023



‘Diamond Alumnae 23,’ was organized by BOSCO Rainbow Home on March 12, 2023. The purpose of gathering the alumnae was to rekindle in them the spirit of Don Bosco, to know their existing status and also to motivate the children present at the centre. Sr. Jenny Dias, Co-ordinator welcomed the gathering.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, in his message, said, “It is good to see the past pupils and realize that they are children of Don Bosco. Every person who studied in BOSCO is carrying the spirit of Don Bosco in one

way or the other.” He said that past pupils could encourage others who are in need to get support from BOSCO in future. Ms. Pavithra, an Alumna, shared that she felt excited to come back to BOSCO Rainbow Home after four years. She remains ever grateful to BOSCO for making her what she is today. Other past pupils too expressed their gratitude to BOSCO for their success in life. Fr. Jose Joseph said, “BOSCO Rainbow Home is always open to its past students. Life is full of opportunities. Grab them and make use of them. Make use of all the experiences and learnings of Rainbow Home and become leaders. Be a role model to others.” The programme saw cultural programmes put up by the centre children. Eighteen past pupils, forty-five centre children and the staff of BOSCO Rainbow Home participated in the programme. The alumnae requested the management to organize past pupils’ meetings regularly every year.

Ugadi Celebrations at BOSCO



BOSCO Yuvodaya and Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli celebrated Ugadi at their respective centres to celebrate the new year and be in solidarity with the people of the land on March 22, 2023. The centres were decorated with neem and mango leaves. Special dishes were prepared for the day. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya and Fr. Joshi Puttur, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli explained the importance of the day and wished all the inmates a happy and prosperous New Year ahead. P. Thippeswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO Yuvodaya exhorted children to lead a life of sanctity, practicing universal brotherhood and mutual help. Around thirty children of the Open Shelter and nineteen trainees of the Life Skill Training Centre and staff were part of the celebrations.

Exposure Visit



The Two-Wheeler Unit of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli visited the Silicon Honda Showroom, Channasandra, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru, on March 10, 2023. It was a hands-on experience for the trainees. Youths worked with the tools which are used to repair vehicles. Advanced machines were introduced to the youths. The Manager, Mr. Venkatesh was happy to see the performance of the trainees working with the tools in the showroom. He interacted with the boys. The active participation of the trainees was appreciated by the employees and three trainees were selected to work in different units of their showroom. Seven trainees along with Mr. Narendranath, Instructor visited the showroom.

Quarterly Evaluation at BOSCO Bengaluru

The third quarterly evaluation of BOSCO was held at BOSCO Yuvodaya, Bengaluru on March 14, 2023. In the introductory remarks, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO, Bengaluru, briefed the gathering about major activities of BOSCO, events and programmes implemented and executed during the third quarter. He was happy to share some of the achievements and milestones reached from December 2022 to February 2023.

The concerned coordinators presented quarterly reports of projects and programmes of the various areas and centres of BOSCO. The Staff Sports Day conducted during February 2023 was evaluated. Forthcoming activities and campaigns to be implemented during the next quarter were discussed and planned. The three student interns from Kerala were introduced to the group. A common birthday celebration



was held for all the staff who celebrated their birthdays between December 2022 and February 2023. The programme Manager welcomed the gathering and proposed a vote of thanks. All the managing directors and around eighty staff of the organization were present during the evaluation.

Sensitization Programme for KSRTC Officials



The BOSCO outreach team working in Majestic Bus Stands organized a sensitization programme for the KSRTC officials at the KSRTC office, Terminal 2 on March 15, 2023. Mr. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, SJPU, Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster care Programme and Mr. Prasad, Programme Manager, BOSCO Bengaluru briefly explained child rights and laws, prevention systems and the current issue faced by children and how BOSCO is supporting the needy children on the street. Ms. Vijaya Rakini, Coordinator, Bus Stand Area spoke about the BOSCO Assistance Center, Bus Stand protocols and activities. Mr. Raju, Asst. Traffic Manager (ATM) informed the officials to support the bus stand team in its child rescue and rehabilitation activities. Forty-eight Assistant Traffic Supervisors, Assistant Electrical Engineers, Accounts Officers, Traffic Controllers and KSRTC office staff attended the sensitization programme.

Health Check-up at Yuvodaya



BOSCO Yuvodaya organized a health check-up for the children at the Open Shelter in coordination with the Health Care Department, BOSCO Bengaluru on March 26, 2023. Dr. Abraham from St. Martha's Hospital conducted the camp. A few of the boys had cold and cough. Dr. Abraham noted that there was an improvement in the health and hygiene of the children residing in the Open Shelter and there was better hygiene maintained in the centre. All the boys were prescribed multi-vitamin and vitamin A tablets. Forty-five boys availed the benefits of the camp.

Life Skill Session on Decision Making



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre conducted a life skill session on 'Decision Making' for the youths of the centre, in order to train the youth to make the right decisions, to equip the trainees to face the challenges of life and to mainstream the youth to achieve the dreams of their life on March 22, 2023. Fr. Joshy, Director, Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli welcomed Fr. Siju, Director, Street Children's Project,

Don Bosco, Mysore. Fr. Siju, started the session with an action song. The trainees were divided into three groups. The resource person gave a newspaper to each group and asked them to construct the tallest building. After the activity, the resource person shared that in making decisions each one needs to use the keywords 'SMART' (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-Bound). He said that while making decisions it is important to consult others who have the knowledge, and experience and analyze the situation for effective decisions and be prepared to face the challenges through creative ways. Another activity "Tug of War" was conducted for the youth. After the game, the resource person explained the concepts while initiating the plans like analysis of every situation, understanding the strengths of everyone, discussing and making decisions with self-confidence. Nineteen trainees were a part of this session.

Preparation for the Exams



BOSCO Rainbow Home organized a session on 'Exam Preparation' for the children of the centre on March 19, 2023. The session would guide the children to be thorough with the study curriculum and be prepared for the upcoming exam. Fr. Uday, SDB said that mental health is very important while preparing for the exam and also during the exam. One needs to spend time in revising and avoid last minute cramming or rushing through the topics. Planning is necessary while one prepares for exam and they also need to choose the best time, place and method to study for the exam. The session helped the girls to learn easy tips to prepare for the exams. Twenty-nine girls benefited from the session.

Community Awareness



Staff and Volunteers of **BOSCO** Nilaya conducted awareness for the people of Ramanna Garden and Vyayam Shaale on March 3, 2023. The team gave awareness about **BOSCO**, its activities and services, **CHILDLINE**, Tuition classes, Karate classes, and Vocational training at **BOSCO** Nilaya. Two hundred people were given pamphlets. Three children were motivated to join karate, tuition, and vocational skill training classes. Follow-up of the same is being done.

CHILDLINE Awareness Programmes

On the occasion of Women's Day, the ICPS organized a program at Ravindra Kalakshetra on March 8, 2023. The CHILDLINE team set up a kiosk at the Ravindra Kalakshetra premises in collaboration with the ICPS. The stakeholders like CDPOs, Anganwadi teachers, supervisors, and the general public enquired about CHILDLINE service. The pamphlets and child rights stickers, were distributed to the public and different stakeholders. Around a hundred public and two hundred stakeholders benefitted from the program.

CHILDLINE team conducted an awareness program at Govt Primary School, T Dasarahalli Bengaluru on March 09, 2023. Mr. Vinod Sandeep, Team Member, facilitated a session on CHILDLINE, child rights, CALPRA, and CMPA. After the session, CHILDLINE and child rights pamphlets were distributed to the students. A total of ninety-six students and three teachers participated in the awareness program.

CHILDLINE organized community awareness at Ashwathpura community, T Dasarahalli, on March 10, 2023. The team provided information regarding CHILDLINE and child rights. The team informed the parents that every child should be sent to the school. CHILDLINE pamphlets were distributed to



the people in the area. Around seventy people benefitted from the awareness program.

CHILDLINE conducted shop-to-shop awareness at Byappa Circle, T Dasarahalli Bengaluru, on March 11, 2023. The team provided information on CHILDLINE and distributed CHILDLINE pamphlets to the shopkeepers. A total of fifty shopkeepers benefitted from the awareness.

Anti-Tobacco Awareness program



Health Care Department, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized an Anti-Tobacco Awareness Programme at BOSCO Yuvakendra for the youth of the centre on March 15, 2023. Dr. Farzana and the team from Indian Cancer Institute conducted the awareness. She explained the dangers of tobacco chewing and smoking which leads to mouth cancer and lung cancer using a PowerPoint presentation. The boys were given caps with a message. Eighteen boys attended the session.

Awareness to BBMP Staff



Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized an awareness for the BBMP staff – Pourakarmikas and Supervisors of BBMP Ward- 127 at Moodalapalya, Bengaluru, on March 21 and 28, 2023. 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 in identifying needy children. Fifty-seven Pourakarmikas and Supervisors attended the session.

Parents' Meeting at BOSCO Sumanahalli



A meeting was organized for the parents of the trainees at BOSCO Sumanahalli on March 26, 2023. Fr. Joshy, Centre Director welcomed the parents and the resource person of the day, Malathisri Mysore, Asha Kirana Trust, the resource person addressed the parents on the topic, "Role of parents in the upbringing of children". She told the parents not to thrust high expectations upon their children, make them understand the struggles in life, and assure them of their love, support and care.

Mr. Ramesh, one of the parents spoke about his son who is currently being skill trained in the centre. He

observed that after his son joined the training there were some significant changes noticed in his son. He thanked the organization for continuing to help his son to tread the path of nobility and truthfulness. Trainees performed cultural programmes. Malathisri Mysore put up a drama - 'Amma Andare Saake'.

On the same day, the team organized a programme to award the course completion certificates to those youths who had successfully completed the skill training at the centre on March 6, 2023. Malathisri Mysore appreciated the efforts taken by the trainees and trainers for the completion of the training. Fr. Joshy Puthur, briefed about the various programmes that are organized for the trainees for their holistic development. A total of ten trainees received the certificates. Twenty-one trainees, thirty-two parents and staff were present on the occasion. Ms. Devi, Computer Trainer, BOSCO Sumanahalli proposed the vote of thanks. Thirty-two parents and siblings of the trainees attended the meeting.

CRC Leaders Training

Child Rights Club (CRC) Leadership training was organized at Hosahalli, Kotebeedi, Narasipura, Soladevanahalli, Bairanayakanahalli, GHS Police Colony, Magadi Road, Vijayanagar and Tyamagondalu areas of Bengaluru during March 2023. The purpose of the training was to make the children aware of their rights and learn effective leadership skills in achieving their goals and to bring out the best abilities in children through team building and motivate them to work together by setting goals.

Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO CREAM Project, briefed about child rights and children at risk, child marriage, child labour, child helpline number 1098, preparing for exams through SMART reading, leadership skills, effective communication skills, accepting challenges, working with team spirit and ability of proper decision making. The SQ3R reading method would help children during the time of ex-



ams. Devaraj, Coordinator, BOSCO CREAM Project taught action songs to the CRC members. A total of two hundred and sixty-eight CRC members received the training.

Parents Meeting at BOSCO Rainbow Home

BOSCO Rainbow Home organized a meeting for the parents of the children residing in the centre on March 5, 2023. Sr. Jenny Dias, Coordinator, BOSCO Rainbow Home gave awareness on child rights and child safety. Ms. Sara, Team Member, BOSCO Rainbow Home explained in detail the role of CWC and informed the parents that only with the permission of CWC children are allowed to go home even for any major reason. She also shared about the progress of the children with the parents. She requested the parents to keep in touch with their children either through phone calls or by coming to the centre. Sr. Jenny gave some tips about taking care of the children when they go home for the summer vacation. She also presented the annual programme report to the



parents. The parents were happy to learn about the progress of their wards. Twenty parents attended the meeting.

Orientation Program



An orientation program was organized for the students from Norway, Rajgiri College, and Don Bosco College, TC Palya on March 23, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru facilitated the session for the students. He explained the history of BOSCO, its vision and mission, programs, projects, activities, organizational systems, etc. Videos related to BOSCO's work were also screened. Students expressed their willingness to be part of BOSCO through the internship programme. Orientation was given to five students from Norway and five students from Rajgiri College and Don Bosco College, TC Palya.

World Hearing Day



An ear-checkup camp was organized by BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli in coordination with BOSCO Health Care Department on March 25, 2023. A team of specialists from Dr. Chandrashekar Institute of Speech and Hearing, Lingarajapuram conducted the camp in order to create awareness about World Hearing Day. The team checked the ears of the trainees of Sumanahalli centre, BOSCO Vikas boys and the children attending the tuition classes. Some were identified as having hearing loss and other related issues. They were asked for a further follow-up at the Speech and Hearing Institute. A total of ninety-three beneficiaries including life skill trainees, computer trainees, children from BOSCO Vikas, the tuition centres and the general public from slum areas were screened at the camp.

SJPU Organizes Parent's Meeting

Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), BOSCO, Bengaluru organized a consultation meeting with parents of children in conflict with the law, of the West Division at BOSCO Mane on March 19, 2023. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, SJPU, BOSCO, Bengaluru welcomed the gathering. Mr. Hanumantharaju, Advocate, JJB DLSA Panel Bengaluru exhorted the parents to be supportive of their children and guide them properly. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru explained in detail the SJPU project, roles, and responsibilities of the social workers. Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, and CHILDLINE briefed about the roles and responsibilities of the parents. Ramaswamy explained child protection, child rights, POSCO Act, child mar-



riage, and child trafficking. Fr. Jose Joseph, Director, SJPU Project was present at the meeting. Tulasi, Social Worker, SJPU Project proposed the vote of thanks. Fourteen parents and eleven children participated in the discussion.

No Smoking Day Observed



“No Smoking Day” was observed by BOSCO Sumanahalli on March 8, 2023, by providing awareness of the ill effects of smoking to the trainees at the centre. Alan Wilson, Lijo Philip, Basil Eldho, and Shone Paul, Interns, De Paul College, Kerala conducted the session. The PowerPoint presentation and video made the session meaningful and lively. The main points shared were the data on smoking among adolescents, the various types of diseases caused by smoking, passive and active smoking, and the effects on organs due to smoking. Fr. Joshy SDB, Director, BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli thanked the resource persons for the informative and interactive session. Eighteen trainees were a part of this session.

Session on Responsibility



BOSCO Rainbow Home conducted a value education session on ‘Responsibility,’ for the girls residing in the centre on March 1, 2023. Mary Shamala, Counsellor, BOSCO Rainbow Home said that responsibility is a quality that enables one to handle difficult situations, set goals and achieve them. It helps an individual to become a better person. She told children to be on time for school, to be regular in doing their homework, to take care of themselves, and to keep their personal belongings safe and hygienic. She taught them fundamental principles such as respect, honesty, empathy, compassion, and integrity. This helped the children learn values like cooperation, self-direction, inner discipline, and open-mindedness to develop skills on their own. Forty-three girls participated in the session.

International Day of the Unborn Child

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre organized an awareness session as part of observing the International Day of the Unborn Child for the trainees of the centre on March 25, 2023. Ms. Saleena, Centre Coordinator introduced the topic. An exercise was conducted where the trainees were asked to hold their breath for a few seconds and share their experiences. She said that breath is a free gift given by God and no one has the right to take it away from us. The significance of the day was shared with the trainees using PowerPoint. She brought to the notice of trainees the magnitude of the problem of abortion in the world. She made them reflect on the value of life and realize the importance of parents who gave birth to us. The videos regarding the growth and develop-



ment of foetus and abortion gave more insights to the trainees. Twenty-one trainees attended the session.

Outing to Cubbon Park



BOSCO Child Safety Net (CSN) Project organized a one-day outing to Cubbon Park for the children attending tuition classes at Veerabhadra Nagar on March 18, 2023. Children enjoyed the flora and fauna, the bamboo, and the exotic and aesthetic buildings situated in the park. They also visited the State Archeological Museum. The children enjoyed playing games, sports, action songs, and dancing. The one-day outing was a fun-filled activity and a pleasant refreshment for the children. Thirty-eight children accompanied by Fr. Johnson, Director, CSN Project, CSN Team, and Volunteers were part of the outing.

Session on Development



BOSCO Yuvakendra organized a value education class on 'Development' for the youths of the centre on March 6, 2023. Sr. Deepthi, St. Joseph's College, took the session on the importance of development with awareness, knowing oneself to become a leader, and self-realization for efficiency by conducting some activities. She asked the youths to understand themselves, identify and recognize their skills and goals and work towards achieving them. Ten youths of the centre participated in the session.

Holi Celebration



The staff and trainees of BOSCO Sumanahalli celebrated Holi – the festival of colours at the centre on March 8, 2023. Fr. Joshy, Centre Director explained to the trainees the significance of the festival which was to celebrate the triumph of good over evil. He directed the youth to use colors and water in a healthy manner respecting the freedom of one another. The place was set ready for the rain dance. Suitable songs were played so that the trainees could make the maximum use of the time and opportunity provided to them. This helped build team spirit and unity among the youth. It was also a day of relaxation and enjoyment for them. Eighteen trainees and nine staff played holi.

Outing to Biological Park



BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized one-day outing to Biological Park, Bannerghatta, Bengaluru for the Transit Home and Bridge Course children of the centre on March 27, 2022. Children strolled around the park enjoying the greenery, watching different animals, birds, reptiles and insects. Later during the day, they visited Lakshmi Venkateswara Temple situated on a hill near Bannerghatta. Sr. Sheeba Thomas, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan and four staff joined the children for the outing. Around fifteen children were part of the outing.

Foster Care Awareness



A meeting was organized by BOSCO Foster Care Programme for the nursing staff of Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru on March 10, 2023. The meeting was arranged with the permission of Dr. Srinivasa R, RMO and Ms. Kavitha, Superintendent, Victoria Hospital. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme introduced the concept of Foster Care to the nursing staff. He briefed them about the foster care and adoption procedures, legal procedures, documents required, the role of CWC and DCPO and the eligibility of children and parents to be considered under the foster care programme. Twenty-one nursing staff attended the meeting.

Sensitization of Stakeholders



BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE team organized sensitization programmes for the coolie porters, auto drivers, and shop keepers during the second week of March 2023. The team gave awareness on child-related issues, runaway children, missing children, eloping cases, orphaned children, and children on the streets and child helpline -1098 by way of distributing pamphlets. Nineteen coolie porters, twenty-five auto drivers, and twenty-eight shopkeepers were reached out to through the awareness programmes.

A Unique Saga

For 16-year-old Mohan (Name Changed), the second son of his parents hailing from Bengaluru, education was just an obligatory burden that came with growing up. A child with memory and attention issues, Mohan faced a lot of difficulties and challenges trying to fit into an educational system that refused to understand him. Battling against the odds, Mohan studied till the 9th standard in a regular school, and though his learning differences often baffled his teachers and worried his parents, their concern never led them to take the initiative to understand the cause of the child's difficulties.



Mohan was brought to the BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre in Sumanahalli by his parents, to seek clarity about the best way forward for their son. Their elder son had chosen to join a computer course, and the parents had come to the centre looking for advice about the possibility of a similar avenue for their younger son. Understanding Mohan's issues, the Director of the centre recommended he join skill training where along with learning a new trade, his underlying problems could also be explored and explained.

In keeping with the Director's recommendation Mohan joined the Bakery training offered at the centre. With regular counselling and follow-up, Mohan is showing gradual but steady signs of improvement. His progress is being monitored closely and daily assessments are done to understand the pace of his growth in the different personal and social habits that he had previously struggled with, and along with teaching him to respect every positive addition to his life, he is also being encouraged to recognize and develop his strengths and talents. Mohan has always

enjoyed dancing, but after coming to the centre he is slowly discovering his aptitude for sports as well. Along with giving Mohan the confidence to navigate the present challenges he is faced with; every effort is being made to ensure that he is equipped to lead a life of dignity and self-sufficiency in the future also. Professional counselling at NIMHANS to get a thorough understanding of his learning needs, parental counselling to prepare his parents to support him in his future journey, the support and guidance required to complete his vocational training, placement in a job that can sustain him and his family, and regular monitoring and follow-up, are some of the strategies being put in place to complete his transition into independence. Through regular counselling, short evaluations, feedback from the vocational instructor, and life skill training, Mohan is gradually being taught to break free from the expectations that had oppressed him his whole life and to embrace and celebrate his own uniqueness and identity.

BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS Monthly Report

March- 2023



	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	376	39	415
Service provided	50	18	68
Grand Total	426	57	483

New Children Data of Contact Center/Area:

	Fresh		Repeated		
Contact Point	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Railway CHILDLINE	152	14	00	00	166
Bus stand BMTC	22	03	00	00	25
Bus stand KSRTC	15	04	03	00	22
BOSCO Sumanahalli	02	00	00	00	02
BOSCO Nilaya	26	00	00	00	26
BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan	00	02	00	00	02
CHILDLINE	01	02	00	00	03
CSN	15	03	00	00	18
SJPU	19	05	00	00	24
ARSP	118	06	00	00	124
Gandhi Nagar	01	00	00	00	01
TOTAL	373	39	03	00	412

Final Action Taken:

Placement	Boys	Girls	Total
Referred to BOSCO Centers	40	15	55
Home Placement	315	16	331
Produced before CWC (Admission)	14	05	19
Shishumandir	01	00	01
Referred to OH	05	00	05
Referred to Hostels	01	03	04
TOTAL	376	39	415

Classification Report:

Classification	Boys	Girls	Total
Accompanied	23	18	41
Unaccompanied	353	21	374
TOTAL	376	39	415