



E-Street Voice

Success Story

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Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

Editorial Note

Juy 31, 2023

Leave No One Behind!

“Imagine having all of your freedoms taken away, being forced to work against your will, and constantly living under the threat of violence - in short, being forced to live as a slave. Sadly, this situation is a reality for millions of children, women, and men each year as part of the global human trafficking industry,” says American Politician, Bill Flores.

A social activist once shared an incident where a group of children were rescued from a bag manufacturing unit. On receiving the tipoff, the team along with officials from the Labour Department and concerned Police Station reached one of the houses near a busy street in the city. The house looked like a building where residential spaces are rented out. However, the team on opening the door found a large hall in which over ten children from the North-

ern part of India were engaged in bag manufacturing. Over one hundred and sixty child labourers were rescued by the teams of BOSCO in the past year as per internal statistics.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was observed globally on July 31, with the theme, “Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind.” As per the statistics of the UN, in 2020, the detection rate dropped by 11%, and the number of convictions dropped by 27%, demonstrating a global slowing in the criminal justice system's reaction to trafficking. Let us strive to end the exploitation of the vulnerable sections and support the victims especially, children who are less privileged.



Fr. Prasad SDB

Health Awareness of Cancer



2023. Ms. Uma Rai and Volunteers from St Martha's Hospital discussed the types of cancer, and common treatment for breast cancer, lung cancer, and skin cancer. The team explained the prevention and treatment of cancer. They advised on immediate medical care that can be done to save a Cancer patient. Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO Nivas, and Sha-beena, Team Member, BOSCO

BOSCO Health Care Department organized a health awareness programme on Cancer for the community people in the vicinity of BOSCO Nivas on July 13,

Health Care Department were present during the session. Twenty-one men and women were a part of this awareness.

Parents' Meetings

BOSCO CRISP Project organized parents' meeting in GKPS, Ambedkar Nagar, Nelamangala on July 14, 2023. Mr. Joseph Raj, Coordinator, CRISP Project, briefed the parents about BOSCO and its activities, tuition classes, and about the need to send their children regularly to the tuition classes. He requested the support of the parents and the people in the community in identifying the school dropouts and enrolling them back in school. Basavaraj, Area Leader, Ms. Gowramma, SDMC President, Mr. Nagraj School HM, Mr. Anajanamurthy, Ward President, Ms. Pushpalatha Mare Gowda, Ward Member and Fr. Anand SDB, Director, CRISP Project were present in the meeting. Forty parents attended the meeting.



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli conducted a meeting for the parents of children attending tuition classes at Sumanahalli Society on July 19, 2023. The purpose was to create awareness about the importance of education to the parents. Fr. Joseph Dandavati, Asst. Director, BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, addressed the parents stressing the importance of the basic requirements in bringing up the children. He said punishment is not a solution or a way to teach children but it is the loving accompaniment of parents which helps them to become better individuals. Fr. Joseph spoke about the regularity of children for the tuition classes. Twenty-three parents were a part of the meeting.

BOSCO Yuvodaya and Railway CHILDLINE organized awareness programmes for the parents who visited the open shelter during the CWC sitting on July 3 and 24, 2023 respectively. Vinnarasi, Team Member, BOSCO Yuvodaya, and Chetan Kumar, Team Member, BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE Programme explained to the parents various issues related to children including child labour, child trafficking, child marriages, missing children, children into begging, etc. They explained child rights, child-related acts, and laws, the role of CWC, DCPU, DWCD, CCIs, and Government homes in the care and protection of children at risk. Around forty parents and guardians attended the sessions.

Volunteers Visit BOSCO Mane



The **BOSCO Resource Mobilization team** organized the visit of the volunteers from Arch Bishop Mitty High School California, USA to BOSCO Mane on July 11, 2023. Papaiah, Coordinator, BOSCO Vikas briefed the activities and programmes of BOSCO. BOSCO a Glance video was shown to the visitors. The volunteers interacted with the children and the staff and played fun games, football, and basketball with them. The centre children put up dance performances. The visiting team showed its willingness to support the education of the centre children. Around forty volunteers along with the management visited BOSCO Mane. Around seventy children of BOSCO Mane and Vikas were present during the visit.

Community awareness



BOSCO Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) project conducted a community awareness programme for the people at Kamakshamma Layout near Yelahanka on July 13, 2023. Mr. Guruswamy and Mr. Hanumantha, ARSP staff, spoke about BOSCO and its services, child rights, children at risk, child-related issues, CHILDLINE, etc. They requested the support of the community members in identifying children in need of care and protection. Thirty community members participated in the programme.

BOSCO SJPU Project organized an awareness programme at Magala Community, Nagarbhavi on July 19, 2023. Interacting with the community members, Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU Project, introduced BOSCO and its programmes to the group. He also briefed about children in distress, child rights, and child-related laws and acts such as JJ Act, POCSO Act, etc. He explained the SJPU Project, the roles and responsibilities of social workers, and the creation of child-friendly police stations. He requested the support of the community people in reporting the atrocities against the children and helping BOSCO in the rescue and rehabilitation of the children at risk. Mr. Prakash, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Nagarbhavi Police Station, spoke about parents being vigilant when their children are active on social media, following traffic rules, not allowing minors to use the vehicles and the importance of education for children. Forty-five community people attended the awareness session.

Certificate Distribution and Orientation on Life skills

BOSCO Mane Computer Training Programme organized the distribution of certificates and orientation on Life skills and spoken English for computer trainees on July 8, 2023. The occasion started with activities. Ms. Geetha, Coordinator, Creating Futures explained the objectives of Creating Futures team and the importance of Life Skills and Spoken English training. Fourteen students received the certificates. Fifteen trainees are enrolled for a new batch of Life skills and spoken English training. Twenty – five trainees were present on the occasion.

Another Certificate Distribution programme was organized for the students who completed the three-month Basic and Tally training course from the centre, on July 26, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, congratulated the students for completing the course and exhorted them to make optimum use of the skills they have acquired during the course. Addressing the trainees, Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru, emphasized the significance of technology in the



profession and academics. Forty-four trainees completed the computer course. Thirty trainees were present on the occasion.

Capacity Building Programme for Staff

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre organized a capacity-building programme for the staff of the centre on July 15, 2023. Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane, and Vikas started the session with the quote of Don Bosco, “It is not with blows but with love and kindness will you win the youth to be your friends.” He explained the three Pillars of the Preventive System of Education of Don Bosco i.e., Reason, Religion, and Loving Kindness. He explained that the presence of the caretakers is very important. The physical presence of the educator among the children is essential in the Preventive System. He reminded them that actions speak louder than words. Two activities- ‘Colombian Hypnosis’ and ‘Trust Walk’ were conducted. He felt that it was the responsibility of the staff to create an environment of openness and love.



Fr. Joseph Dandavati, Asst Director, BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre facilitated a session on understanding the psychology of adolescent youth and the memory pattern of personality which influences the individuals. Thirteen staff attended the capacity-building session.

CRC Formation and Training



CRISP, BOSCO Bengaluru organized the formation and training for members of Child Rights Clubs at GHS, Prakash Nagar, and GMPS, Laggere, Bangalore Urban on July 21 and 22, 2023. Mr. Joseph Devaraj, Coordinator, BOSCO CRISP Project and Mrs. Bhagyalakshmi, Social Activist, BOSCO CRISP Project spoke on the importance of child rights, Child Right Clubs (CRCs), and UNCRC. They explained the process of formation of CRCs and thereafter formed the clubs. Children were made aware of the importance of upholding their rights. They were conscientious in bringing school dropout children back to school. Around two hundred children were present in the training programme.

Motivation Session on Discipline



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre organized a session on Discipline for the trainees of the centre on July 19, 2023. The session was conducted by Ms. Jeneba, Ms. Sneha, and Ms. Anjana, MSW Students, Amrutha College, Kollam. Ms. Sneha guided the group with breathing exercises to start the session. She introduced the theme to the group with its importance in their life. Ms. Jeneba asked trainees to share their views on the value of discipline. The trainees were given the knowledge of ‘discipline,’ and its importance in various situations in life especially in the workplace. A short evaluation of the session was conducted. The trainees expressed that the session helped in inculcating the value of discipline in their lives. Seventeen trainees were present in the session.

Foster Care Awareness



Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru organized awareness programmes for Anganwadi mothers, SHG members, school teachers, PRI members, and ASHA workers in Bengaluru's Rural and Urban Districts during July 2023. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme introduced the con-

cept of Foster Care, the need for alternative family care for children in child care institutions, the legal procedures involved in fostering children, the difference between adoption and foster care, and BOSCO and its programmes. He also requested the support of the stakeholders in popularizing the foster care concept in the communities and society at large and help BOSCO in identifying the prospective parents and children for the foster care programme. Seventeen Anganwadi mothers, ten school teachers, nineteen SHG members, fourteen ASHA workers, and fourteen PRI members attended the awareness sessions.

Life Skill Session



A life skill session was conducted by Dr. S R Chandrashekar, Institute of Speech and Hearing for the trainees of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre on July 15, 2023. Ms. Saleena, Coordinator BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, welcomed the resource team. Ms. Alphonsa Joseph introduced her team to the group. The session started with a fun activity - Bombing the city. Four groups were made and they were asked to write down their goals and share their fears which hold them back from achieving their aspirations. Another activity included passing the cap. According to the color of the cap they had to speak about different emotions and future plans. The session was activity oriented and was well-understood by the trainees. Two staff members, Nandini, Jayashree, and thirty student trainees from the Institute were present during the programme. Twenty-two trainees participated in the life skill session.

Accenture Team Visits BOSCO Mane



Accenture team as part of their CSR initiative visited BOSCO Mane on July 22, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, and Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas, oriented the team about BOSCO and its activities. The team organized a small talent show where the children of the centre were asked to showcase their singing, dancing, and acting skills in the form of passing the Ball game. Fun games like balancing the balloon, who am I, were organized to encourage physical activity and team spirit among the children. The children of BOSCO Vikas staged a dance performance. The Accenture team distributed snacks to the children. Nirmala, Resource Mobilization Team, BOSCO arranged for their visit. Around twenty-five volunteers from Accenture visited BOSCO Mane. Over seventy centre children were present during their visit.

Health Camp at BOSCO Centres

BOSCO Yuvakendra in collaboration with **BOSCO Health Care Department** organized a health camp for the boys at the centre, on July 13, 2023. The camp was conducted by **Dr. Abraham**, **St. Martha's Hospital**, **Bengaluru**. The height, weight, and temperature levels of the boys were checked. Ten boys needed dental check-ups. Six boys had skin infections and were prescribed medicines. One boy was referred for a psychiatric opinion. A few boys were given medication for colds, coughs, etc. Twenty-five boys attended the camp.

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan organized the health camp in coordination with the Health Care Department of **BOSCO** at the centre on July 15, 2023. **Dr. Abraham**, **St. Martha's Hospital**, **Bengaluru**, conducted the camp. The children's height and weight were measured and a general examination was performed. The doctor advised the staff to include more green vegetables in the food given to the children as well as vitamin and iron tablets/syrup, as all the children require them. Sixty-two girls benefitted from the camp.



A general health check-up camp was organized in **BOSCO Yuvodaya** by the **BOSCO Health Care Department** in association with **St. Martha's Hospital** on July 17, 2023. **Dr. Abraham**, **St. Martha's Hospital**, **Bengaluru** checked the height, weight, temperature, oxygen levels, BP, etc. of the children in the centre. Forty-five availed the services of the camp.

Orientation for Tuition Teachers



BOSCO Nilaya organized a half-day orientation program for tuition teachers at the centre on July 8, 2023. **Fr. Jude Anand**, **Director**, **BOSCO Nilaya** and **Nivas** trained the teachers on the general rules and regulations followed in the tuition centres increasing the attendance of children in the centres and making the learning process interesting and attractive.

He also gave tips on improving their teaching skills. Eleven tuition teachers, ten staff and one student volunteer attended the training session.

Adolescent Girls' Meetings



BOSCO Nilaya and **CRISP Project** organized Adolescent Girls' Meetings in **BBMP School Cottonpet**, **GHS Prakash Nagara**, and **GMPS Laggere** during July 2023. The team spoke about menstrual hygiene, personal hygiene, girls' safety, safe-unsafe touch, child helpline, drug/substance abuse, and safety measures to be taken while using social media. The **Komal** video was screened during the sessions. Hundred and twenty-five adolescent girls participated in these meetings.

Certification Programme



A programme was organized by the Life Skill Training Unit of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan to distribute course completion certificates for the Beautician Course trainees at the centre on July 14, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru,

congratulated the trainees on the successful completion of the course. He also spoke about the ethics of the beauticians in the saloon, as well as the hard work that would be required to attract customers and offer them the best services possible. Ms. Roopa, Lakme, the Chief Guest, also encouraged the future beauticians to be hardworking and trustworthy, and she assured assistance to the trainees in opening their own salon. Course completion certificates were distributed to the trainees. Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Ms. Deepika, Trainer, Lakme were present on the occasion. Eighteen trainees received the certificates.

Sensitization for the Traffic Police



BOSCO Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) project conducted awareness for the Byatarayanapura Traffic Police on July 24, 2023, to create awareness about SJPU roles and responsibilities, child rights and child protection, and JJ Act. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU Project, discussed children in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection. He briefed about BOSCO and its activities, the JJ Act, the role of social workers in the SJPU project, and being vigilant and rescuing children being employed and begging on the streets. Mr. Nagaraj C, PSI, Byatarayanapura Police Station spoke about road safety and precautionary measures to be taken in avoiding accidents, especially, involving children. Twenty police officials were present in the sensitization programme.

Session on Effective Leadership



BOSCO Rainbow Home arranged a session on 'Effective Leadership' for the girls of the centre to teach the children effective time management, stress management, and goal-setting skills in relation to their work and prepare them to be effective leaders on July 4, 2023. The session started with a leadership game – doing threadwork blindfolded. Fr. Uday SDB, Youth Director illustrated how some of the elements can soften and delicately combine with other ingredients. Potatoes, eggs, and coffee seeds were used for illustration. Some people are quite harsh and nasty in the beginning, but as they develop positive character traits, they eventually learn to be kind and modest toward others. Through PPT he explained the leadership goals; leadership theories, leadership styles, leadership qualities, leadership challenges, and how to be an effective leader. Nineteen girls benefitted from the session.

Student Volunteers Visit

BOSCO Mane



Fr. TC George and volunteers from Meghalaya visited BOSCO Mane on July 23, 2023. After a round of introductions, Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane, and Vikas briefed the visitors about BOSCO and the programmes and activities of BOSCO. The volunteers interacted with the centre children, played fun games, taught songs to the children, put up dance performances, and distributed prizes to the winners. They sponsored sports items and snacks for the children. The centre children thoroughly enjoyed the company of the visitors and thanked them for the gifts. Forty-four children were a part of this programme.

Children's Sports Day



As part of their CSR activity, Morgan Stanley organized Children's Sports Day for the children attending tuition classes and for the trainees of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, to entertain the youth and children through various sports activities on July 2, 2023. A brief introduction about the centre, the trainees, and the training provided was given to the Morgan Stanley Volunteers by Saleena, Centre Coordinator. A number of games like cricket, volleyball, passing the ball, running races, etc., were conducted for the children and the trainees. Thirty-eight children attending tuition classes and twenty-two trainees of the centre participated in the sports event.

Awareness for GRP Force



BOSCO Railway CHILDLINE (BRCL) programme conducted awareness for the GRP officials at KSR Railway Station on July 21, 2023, to establish a rapport with them, and brief them about BOSCO and their role in the rescue of children at risk. The team explained the various issues of children like child labour, child beggary, child trafficking, missing children, run-away children, etc, child rights, child-related acts, CWC, and procedures involved in child rescues. The support of GRP in the rescue and rehabilitation process was discussed at length. Eighteen GRP officials attended the session.

A Tribute Power Star – Appu



Children of BOSCO Vikas gave a stage performance at Dharmaram College, Bengaluru in a programme organized for the religious leaders of Karnataka, on June 22, 2023. The Management of the college had invited the children to give a stage performance during the visit of Fr. TC George, Meghalaya, and the volunteers. The children performed the songs of the Power Star - the Late Puneet Rajkumar and thus gave a tribute to the great star. The performance received great accolades and applause from the audience.

Learning to Let Go of a Painful Past!

Success Story

I don't want to beg; I want to study; that was the plea of 11-year-old Seema (Name Changed) who was found begging at the KSR railway station in Majestic. A native of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh, Seema was born to an alcoholic father and a mother. Seema's father used to work as a bus driver, but slowly the alcohol he was addicted to took over his job, his marriage, and his family. Tired of fighting a losing battle, Seema's mother decided to end the problem once and for all and left the house. Seema's mother remarried and her new husband resorted to begging for a living.

Seema's stepfather did not go for any other work. His whole livelihood and income were based on begging. Seema's mother who previously used to work as a domestic worker decided to give it up after her second marriage. Soon, Seema too was forced to beg along with her parents. All three of them would beg during the day and spend the night in the market on the street. Once while begging, Seema was spotted by a traffic policeman and taken to the CWC from where she was sent to the Peddapadu Girls Home in the district of Kurnool. Seema studied there till the 3rd standard after which her parents stopped her education, took her out of the hostel, and brought her to Bengaluru with them.

Seema had vivid accounts to recount of long days spent among the changing faces at crowded signals and public places carrying the chewing tobacco her father would give her to sell. One day while selling her merchandise in the Majestic railway station she was spotted and rescued by BOSCO. Seema's parents were not with her when she was rescued, and weeks after bringing her to BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan on the 27th of January, 2023, for shelter, they were still not with her.

While efforts were being made to find Seema's parents on the one hand, all that Seema was able to say was a few place names in Andhra Pradesh that seemed to have had some significance in her life. She initially mentioned the name of Kotipi near Hindupur in Andhra Pradesh, but after contacting the CHILDLINE and police station there, Vatsalya Bhavan staff were no closer to finding her identity. Many days later, Seema happened to mention Kurnool district and Peddapadu hostel in one of her conversations with the counsellor. BVB staff contacted the Kurnool CWC and the child was identified as one of the previous residents of the Girls' Home in Peddapadu. She was taken to Kurnool on the 1st of June, by a BVB staff member, and handed over to the committee for further procedures.

Though her parents are still missing, Seema has found a home in the hearts of the many people she has met along the way. The staff of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan testify that with guidance and counselling, she had begun to let go of the residual guilt and shame that was left over from her time on the streets. She had left the centre with a new determination to not let anyone or anything drag her back into the same helplessness she had spent an entire childhood fighting.



BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS Monthly Report

July- 2023



	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	415	66	481
Service provided	52	23	75
Grand Total	467	89	556

New Children Data of Contact Center/Area:

	Fresh		Repeated		
Contact Point	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Railway CHILDLINE	147	24	02	00	173
Bus Stand BMTC	33	02	00	00	35
Bus Stand KSRTC	17	05	00	00	22
BOSCO Yuvodaya	01	00	00	00	01
BOSCO Sumanahalli	11	00	00	00	11
BOSCO Mane	01	00	00	00	01
BOSCO Nivas	02	00	00	00	02
BOSCO Nilaya	19	01	00	00	20
BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan	00	01	00	00	01
CHILDLINE	00	04	00	00	04
CSN	22	06	00	00	28
SJPU	34	04	00	00	38
ARSP	127	18	00	00	145
TOTAL	413	66	02	00	481

Final Action Taken:

Placement	Boys	Girls	Total
Referred to BOSCO Centers	28	34	62
Home Placement	350	18	368
Produced before CWC (Admission)	19	14	33
Referred to OH	17	00	17
Counselled and Sent/ Went off	01	00	01
TOTAL	415	66	481

Classification Report:

Classification	Boys	Girls	Total
Accompanied	41	16	57
Unaccompanied	374	50	424
TOTAL	415	66	481