



BOSCO
Bangalore Onyavara Seva Cooda

E-Street Voice

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

Editorial Note

August 31, 2023

Towards Breaking Shackles of Addiction!

The National YaR (Young at Risk) campaign 2022-23 with the theme, 'Choose Life, Not Drugs,' which focused on addressing substance abuse among children and young adults concluded on August 31, 2023. With the help of member institutions, Don Bosco organizations, and their partner networks, this national campaign aimed to reach three lakh children and adults through a range of activities and debates that happened in groups, online, and on social media.

As per the findings of a survey conducted in compliance with an order from the Supreme Court, 1.5 crore minors in India are in some kind of substance abuse. According to the survey, inhalants, which were used by 30 lakh minors, and opioids, which were consumed by around 40 lakh kids each, had the highest incidence among children. Similar numbers of children (30 lakh) also consume alcohol. Less than 1% of the population

used other dangerous drugs such as amphetamines, sedatives, cocaine, cannabis, etc.

The alarming information brought forth by studies and research emphasizes that the battle against drugs/substance abuse among children has to be continued relentlessly. As various factors like the positive portrayal of drugs/substance abuse in media, psychological factors, and peer influence contribute to the menace, a multipronged approach is essential to address the matter effectively. Creation of awareness at various levels, psychological support, and handholding are to be ensured. Reaching out to the less privileged children and youth, let us join hands in helping them break the shackles of addiction and mold them as responsible citizens who would contribute to nation-building.



Fr. Prasad SDB

Independence Day Celebrations



Independence Day was celebrated at the Centres of BOSCO between August 12 and 17, 2023. Independence Day celebration was organized in BOSCO Nila-

ya to create awareness about the significance of the day, on August 12, 2023. Dances, songs, fancy dress, and speeches were performed by the children during the cultural programmes. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, and Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO Nilaya, were present on the occasion.

BOSCO Mane and Vikas celebrated Independence Day in the presence of Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Vikas and Mane and Fr. John Peter, Administrator, BOSCO. Students from Bambala Outreach Programme, St. Joseph's College,

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National YaR Day Campaign

The closing of the National YaR Campaign of 2022-2023, the online launch of the campaign 2023 - 2024, and the celebration of the YaR Day were held on the theme, 'Choose Life. Not Drugs' on August 31, 2023. After the welcome and the prayer, Don Bosco Ashalayam, Howrah presented a mime show on, 'Choose Life. Not Drugs,' followed by a short film, 'Embrace Education, Avoid Drugs,' by Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Salem. Children from Snehalaya Centre for Child Rights, Guwahati performed a skit on the theme. A photo story, 'The Death Trap of Drugs,' was presented by Don Bosco Veedu, Trivandrum. Don Bosco Ashalayam, Delhi put up a mime show on, 'No to Drugs. Yes to Life.' The wrapping up of the campaign was done by Mr. Raj Parit followed by the pledge on, 'Choose Life. Not Drugs,' by all. Fr. Santiago Thomas, Provincial, Hyderabad launched the Campaign Poster, 'Healthy Mind. Healthy Life,' for the year 2023-2024. Fr. Joe Prabhu, Executive Director, DB YaR Forum gave a message on the theme.

On the occasion of YaR day, BOSCO Yuvodaya, BOSCO Yuvakendra, BOSCO Nilaya, BOSCO Nivas, BOSCO Yuvaspandana, BOSCO Sumanahalli, BOSCO Rainbow Home, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan,



BOSCO Mane and BOSCO Vikas organized sessions with children and staff on, 'Choose life. Not Drugs,' Drawing, painting, speech, essay competitions, and signature campaigns were organized for the children to mark the occasion. The staff and children of the centres attended the online meet and took part in the launch of the YaR Day Campaign.

Workshop on Knowledge Building



The Foster Care workshop of NGOs on Knowledge Building and Strategic Planning was held on August 11, 2023, at BOSCO Mane. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director. BOSCO Bengaluru presented the responsibilities and

qualities of the Social Mobilizers. He suggested that a virtual meeting of social mobilizers be organized to train them on counseling skills. Mr. Shivamallu, State Project Coordinator briefed the gathering about BOSCO activities, Foster Care concept and shared programme details to be covered each month.

The video on foster care was screened. Ms. Nandini, Asst. Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, briefed about the documents to be maintained in the project. Mr. Shivamallu welcomed the participants and Mr. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme proposed the vote of thanks. Twelve new staff from seven districts of Karnataka attended the workshop.



Community Awareness Programmes



BOSCO Nilaya conducted community awareness programmes in Ramanna Garden, Vyayam Shaale, Cement Huts, Rajgopal Garden, and Vinobhanagara to create awareness about the skill training programmes of BOSCO, on August 10 and 16, 2023. The team did group awareness and door-to-door awareness imparting information regarding CHILD-LINE, activities of BOSCO, vocational training at BOSCO, tuition classes, and Karate classes at BOSCO Nilaya. Thirty youths were motivated to join computer classes at BOSCO Nilaya and a few others

to various other vocational trades at BOSCO Sumanahalli. Around 300 pamphlets were distributed during the awareness.

BOSCO Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) organized awareness in the Bhangi Colony, Flower Garden, KP Agrahara and KG Nagar areas of Bengaluru on August 5, 7 and 20, 2023. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU Project spoke about BOSCO programmes, child-related laws, acts, child-related issues, child helpline number, vocational training at BOSCO, drug menace, how parents have to be vigilant about their wards' behaviour and see that they do not fall prey to drugs. Mr. Nagabhushan, Police Sub-inspector, Ms. Sumaya ,WPC, Ms. Sowbhagya H.S. and Ms. Sunitha H, Anganwadi Teachers, Mr. Swikruth, Police Sub-Inspector, Mr. Raghavan, Police Sub-Inspector, Mr. Raghu Kumar, Police Sub-Inspector and Mr. Guruswamy, Assistance Sub-Inspector were present during the awareness sessions. Ninety-five members from the communities attended the sessions.

BOSCO Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) Project conducted awareness in Dooravaninagar, KR Puram, Satyanagar, near SMVT Railway Station, Vasanthnagar areas on August 14, 17 and 31, 2023. The team spoke about child rights and child helpline and distributed pamphlets to hundred and forty-five people in the communities.

National Sports Day at BOSCO Sumanahalli

On the occasion of National Sports Day, BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre organized sports events for the trainees of the centre on August 29, 2023. The purpose of the event was to inculcate in the trainees the values acquired through sports, to identify and foster their talents in sports, and to provide recreation. Mr. Shyam Raj, Instructor, Carpentry Trade addressing the trainees said that sports are very important in the life of every individual. It has both physical and mental benefits. He advised children to be sincere and keep up the spirit of sportsmanship. Athletics, volleyball, and other team games were conducted for the trainees. The trainees were



divided into groups to foster a competitive spirit. Twenty-eight trainees were part of the sports event.



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Independence Day Celebrations

Bengaluru interacted with the children, organized party games, conducted activities, and distributed snacks and stationeries at BOSCO Mane on the occasion of Independence Day. Volunteers from Fly Higher NGO conducted a Life Skills session and organized activities for learning while playing, for the children from BOSCO Vikas on the occasion of Independence Day. Children staged cultural programmes like Fancy Dress and dances. Children from BOSCO Vikas gave a band performance.

BOSCO Yuvodaya celebrated Independence Day at the centre with the children of the open shelter. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya hoisted the flag and gave a message on universal brotherhood to the children and explained the importance of the day.

During the Independence Day celebrations at BOSCO Sumanahalli Fr. Jude Anand hoisted the flag and recalled the role of the great leaders of the country. The trainees of the centre sang a patriotic song. In the afternoon there was a cultural program by the trainees and computer students. Sundar, Asst. Sub Inspector, Kamakshipalya Police Station, addressing the gathering said, “The youth of today must be free from the clutches of drugs.” Fr. Pallipuram spoke on the issues of child marriage, addiction to drugs, mobile, etc. Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Asst. Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, said that it is important to ask what we have done for the nation rather than ask what the country has done for

“The youth of today must be free from the clutches of drugs.”

us. Certificates were distributed to the trainees and computer students. The Vermicompost unit was inaugurated. The trainees at the centre, computer trainees, and children attending tuition classes participated

in the celebrations.

Fr. Mathew Vadakel hoisted the flag and Fr. Dominic Sequeira, the Salesian in charge, delivered the message during the Independence Day celebrations at BOSCO Yuvakendra. Fr. Dominic congratulated those gathered on the occasion and highlighted the sacrifices of



the freedom fighters. He also discussed ideas and expressed that real freedom is achieved when people go beyond concepts like land, religions, customs, boundaries, etc. All the youths from centre were present for the programme. The youths visited Government Kannada and English Primary School and performed a dance at the school in front of a gathering of three hundred people.

At BOSCO Rainbow Home, celebrations began with the hoisting of the flag by Sr. Jenny, Coordinator, BOSCO Rainbow Home, along with the Headmistress, High School, in the school premises. During the day, a cultural programme was organized. Pramila, a student, BOSCO Rainbow Home, gave a speech. The staff of Rainbow Home and the children were present during the celebration.

The children attending tuition celebrated Independence Day at Ambedkar School, Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural. Children gave speeches during the Independence Day celebrations organized by the ARSP team at the tuition centre at MCT Quarters. The people from the community were also a part of the celebrations. The Outreach Team working in KSRTC and BMTC Bus Stands joined the officials of KSRTC and BMTC in the Independence Day programme. Children attending the tuition classes in Pillahalli and Veerabhadra Gudde celebrated Independence Day along with tuition teachers and people from the community.



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Independence Day Celebrations



BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan celebrated Independence Day at the centre with the children. The importance of Independence Day was briefed and children were exhorted to go ahead in a life filled with hope. Sweets were distributed to the children.

BOSCO Nivas held Independence Day celebrations on August 17, 2023, at the centre. Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO Nivas, briefed about the history of the country and the sacrifices made by our forefathers for freedom, fostering a deeper understanding of our national heritage. He also spoke about the importance of education and encouraged the children to set an ideal goal and work hard to achieve the same. Children performed patriotic dances and gave speeches on the importance of the day.

Birthday Celebration of St. John Bosco



The 208th birthday of St. John Bosco was celebrated in the BOSCO centres and areas on August 16, 2023. The Directors along with the children garlanded the statue of Don Bosco. The Directors and Coordinators spoke about the life of Don Bosco, his values, and the education system that he proposed. The children were guided to follow the path of nobility, treat others with kindness, courtesy, and charity, be humble and loving, and not harm anyone. Children were asked to follow the principle of Don Bosco - "Play, jump, and run but do not sin." Everyone prayed and expressed their love for the saint while a hymn was played. Special games were conducted for the children and youth. All the centre and area children, youth, children attending tuitions, staff, and management were part of the birthday celebrations.

Child Rights Awareness Programme



BOSCO Yuvakendra organized a Child Rights Awareness programme for the students of Bapuji School, Magadi Road on August 23, 2023. Mr. Rajasekar, Area Coordinator. Bro. Anil, Ms. Fathima, and Mr. Aron, Volunteers listed out the rights of the children. They said that the rights are meant to respect and value each other. No child should be deprived of their rights. They said that the children should be empowered to fight for their rights and bring the children's issues, if any, to the notice of the concerned so that prompt actions are taken.

The different child-related departments and agencies were made known to the children. Twenty children were a part of this awareness programme.



Awareness for Coolie Porters



Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) project, BOSCO Bengaluru conducted awareness for the Coolie Porters at SMVT Railway Station on August 26, 2023. Rangaswamy, Naveen Kumar, and Sumalatha, Team Members, ARSP 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. They explained the role of the stakeholders in creating a safe environment for children. They asked them to support BOSCO in rescuing and rehabilitating children at risk. Twenty Coolie Porters participated in the awareness programme.

Awareness for Parents



BOSCO Yuvodaya organized an awareness session for the parents who visited the centre during the CWC sitting on August 28, 2023. Ms. Bharathi, DCPO, Bengaluru Central addressing the parents, stressed the importance of creating conducive environment for the development of children at home. She exhorted that the parents ensure their children get an education as it is their right. The parents were made aware of the rights of the children and the various laws and acts related to children. Group counselling was also done for the parents during the programme. Fr. Johnson, Director, Yuvodaya and Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Director, BOSCO Bus Stand Area and BOSCO Gandhinagar Project were present during the session. Thirteen parents attended the awareness session.

Orientation Programme



Students (BSW Final year) from DON BOSCO College, Kerala, had come for an exposure visit to BOSCO Yuvodaya on August 16, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru orientated the group on BOSCO and its activities. He briefed them about the history of BOSCO, its vision and mission, programmes, and projects.

Students interacted with children at the open shelter and entertained them with dance and singing. They also expressed their interest in their block placement/internship at BOSCO. Thirty-seven students attended the orientation.

Awareness Programmes



BOSCO teams working in BMTC and KSRTC bus stands, KSR Railway Station and Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) project conducted awareness for the public, passengers, commuters, and shopkeepers, in the bus stands, railway stations, and moving trains in August 2023. The teams reached out to the public by way of distributing pamphlets containing information on child rights, child-related laws, and child helpline-1098. Around one thousand passengers, commuters, shopkeepers, and other public benefitted from the awareness.



Exposure Visits to Automobile Units

The trainees of the Two-Wheeler Trade unit of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre were taken to Silicon Honda Showroom, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru on August 9, 2023, to create awareness about the showroom activities and the nature of work that takes place usually in a two-wheeler showroom. It was a hands-on experience for the trainees. Youths learned about advanced machines. Mr. Venkatesh, Manager interacted with the boys. He appreciated the trainer and trainees. He was happy to see the performance of the trainees working with the tools in the showroom. Trainees interacted with the past pupils who are working in the showroom. One of the trainees was selected for the work in the unit. Four trainees and Mr. Narendranath, Instructor, Two-wheeler Trade, were part of the exposure visit.

Another exposure visit was organized where the trainees of the Two-Wheeler Unit of BOSCO Sumanahalli were taken to Madhu Motors and Automobiles, Andhrahalli Main Road, Bengaluru on August 26, 2023.



Shivaraj, Sales Manager welcomed the trainees cordially. Trainees were introduced to tools in the showroom. It was a hands-on experience visit. They were exposed to the advanced machines. One trainee was selected for the work in the unit. Eight trainees and Mr. Narendranath, Two -Wheeler Instructor visited the showroom.

College Awareness Programme



BOSCO Foster Care Programme conducted an awareness programme on Foster Care for the MSW students of Bangalore University on August 23, 2023. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme explained about BOSCO, the ten centres of BOSCO, and its programmes for children and young at risk. He explained in detail about the CHILDLINE Programme, SJPU Project, and Foster Care Programme. The students ensured their support for the programme by disseminating the foster care information during their fieldwork in the communities and referring deserving parents and children to the foster care team. Sixty-eight MSW students attended the programme.

Virtual Meeting with District Directors



The Foster Care Virtual Meeting with the district directors via Google Duo Meet was held at BOSCO Mane on August 7, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, briefed about the district bifurcation of staff in the twenty districts. New districts implementing the foster care programme included Vijaynagar, Bengaluru Rural, Haveri, Shivamogga, Hassan, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Tumkur, Chamarajanagar, and Mandya. Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme welcomed and proposed the vote of thanks. Directors of twenty districts attended the meeting.



School Awareness Programmes



BOSCO Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) conducted awareness for the children and teachers of BBMP Girls High School, J.J.R Nagar and K.V Temple Road, Cottonpet on August 5 and 8, 2023, regarding the SJPU project. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU project explained in detail about SJPU, the JJ Act, the POCSO Act, and about safe and unsafe touch. Mr. Chandru, Head Constable, Ms. Mahadevi, WPC, Mr. Satish P.A, A.M, Mr. Hari, ASI and Mrs. Vijayamma, and Head Mistress were present during the sessions. Around two hundred children and teachers attended the awareness sessions.

Meeting with Government

Officials



BOSCO Foster Care Programme had a meeting with the Government officials of the CDPO Office at Doddaballapur, Bengaluru Rural on August 19, 2023. Mr. Obalesh K, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme briefed about BOSCO activities, adoption procedures, foster care concept, eligibility of children and parents, follow-up procedures, documents to be maintained, and role of CWC and DCPO. Mr. Suresh Kumar, CDPO, Doddaballapur supported BOSCO in organizing the meeting. Nine officials attended the meeting

Session on Career Guidance



A session on Career Guidance was conducted for the youth of BOSCO Yuvakendra at the centre, to make them aware of the filmmaking industry on August 23, 2023. Bro. Ashley briefed the group about the different roles in the film Industry, career opportunities, pay scale of various roles, marketing of films, and revenue generation. He said that the filmmaking industry consists of different roles based on skill sets. The revenue generation of the same is based on the collection at the box office. Children became aware of filmmaking and were interested in how the editing part takes place in movies. Twenty-two youths participated in the programme.

Health Awareness at Nilaya



BOSCO Nilaya in coordination with the BOSCO Health Department organized a session on 'Personal health and hygiene' for the children of the centre on August 19, 2023. Uma Rai, a Social Worker, and six MSW Volunteers from St. Martha's Hospital conducted the session. Uma explained about personal hygiene, first aid, its meaning, the first aid to be given for snake bites, electrical shocks, high fever, nasal bleeding, wounds, burns and fractures of hands and legs. Health issues were explained through an action song and dance, '*Arogyave Bhagya*'. Fifty-eight children attended the session.



Session on Self Awareness



BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted a session on ‘Self Awareness’ for the youth of the surrounding areas at the centre on August 27, 2023. Sr. Silvy, Director of the Centre gave an introduction about BOSCO Yuvakendra and its activities. Divya, Teacher and Motivator, BOSCO Yuvakendra started with the ice-breaking session. She explained how to acquire better communication, better decision-making skills, develop confidence, gain job satisfaction, hone leadership skills, and better choices, through a PowerPoint presentation. The youths were divided into two groups and a few activities like drama, dance, etc. were conducted. Fifteen youths were present in the session.

International Youth Day



International Youth Day was celebrated in BOSCO Nilaya and Yuvakendra on August 12 and 18, 2023 at their respective centres. During the celebrations at BOSCO Nilaya, Fr. Jude Anand spoke about developing good values and habits and becoming responsible youths in society. Dances, songs, fancy dress, and speeches were performed by the children during the cultural programme. Hundred and eighty-nine children were a part of this programme.

In the programme at BOSCO Yuvakendra, Ms. Patricia Christina John, BSc Computer Science, spoke on green skills, sustainable living, sustainable farming, pollution such as air, noise, water, deforestation, how to prevent the above problems and achieve sustainability. She played a video on sustainable farming and mainly focused on growing plants and trees, segregation of waste, saying no to plastics, and prevention of using CNG vehicles. Twenty-three youths participated in the programme.

General check-up

A general health check-up was organized for the girls of BOSCO Rainbow Home at the centre on August 19, 2023. Dr. Abraham and the team, St. Martha’s Hospital, Bengaluru conducted the camp. The doctor advised nutritious food to be given to the children at the centre. Some were advised to drink more water. A few girls were asked for calcium tablets to be administered every week. Fifty-six girls availed the services of the camp.





Fully Charged!

High-spirited, enthusiastic, and energetic, with an infectious smile that captivated hearts, was Ramkumar (Name Changed), the young boy who came to BOSCO Sumanahalli to join the vocational training in Electricals. Ramkumar had not begun his life in the midst of an abundance of hope but from the daily disappointments of a small village in Bihar. Soon, the problems that surrounded his life in the village drove him from its disturbing confines to the infinite possibilities of Delhi. Once in Delhi, he was rescued and referred to Salaam Baalak, a Child Care Institution in the city, and from there to WeLive Foundation.



Ramkumar had always been interested in learning electrical work, and it was that interest that finally led him to BOSCO Sumanahalli and the course in Electrical work offered there. He underwent training at the centre for six months, a period that he used to not only learn the skill of his choice but also to acquire knowledge in different areas that would help him in the future, work on various personal skills, and make the most of every opportunity that he was presented with.

Committed to growing, Ramkumar picked up Kannada during his time at the centre, and became proficient in speaking, reading and writing the language. He also discovered his aptitude for Karate during this period and obtained a Yellow Belt with gold medal. The additional courses and sessions of counselling, life skills, value education, and language, offered at the centre helped him develop the confidence,

character traits, and competencies required to position him for the future. He was also encouraged to develop and define the leadership attributes that were inherently present in his disposition.

Ramkumar's commitment and consistency over his training period helped him secure a job as an electrician in DivyaSree Apartments in Koramangala with a salary of ₹16,000/- per month. But his dreams do not end there. He wants to complete his education along with his job and is now preparing to appear for the 10th standard board exams through the WeLive Foundation. But even as Ramkumar resolutely moves ahead and steadily gains new ground, he never forgets to look back with gratitude to the organization that gave expression to his dream to excel.



BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS Monthly Report

August- 2023



	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	391	46	437
Service provided	62	13	75
Grand Total	453	59	512

New Children Data of Contact Center/Area:

Contact Point	Fresh		Repeated		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Railway CHILDLINE	161	17	01	00	179
Bus Stand BMTC	26	02	00	00	28
Bus Stand KSRTC	24	00	00	00	24
BOSCO Yuvodaya	06	00	01	00	07
BOSCO Sumanahalli	07	00	00	00	07
BOSCO MANE	01	00	00	00	01
BOSCO Nilaya	31	05	00	00	36
BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan	00	05	00	00	05
CHILDLINE	01	00	00	00	01
CSN	16	00	00	00	16
SJPU	24	06	00	00	30
ARSP	92	11	00	00	103
TOTAL	389	46	02	00	437

Final Action Taken:

Placement	Boys	Girls	Total
Referred to BOSCO Centers	44	13	57
Home Placement	295	30	325
Produced before CWC (Admission)	41	02	43
Referred to OH	11	01	12
TOTAL	391	46	437

Classification Report:

Classification	Boys	Girls	Total
Accompanied	30	16	46
Unaccompanied	361	30	391
TOTAL	391	46	437