



E-Street Voice

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

Editorial Note

October 31, 2023

Investment in Girl's Rights: Need of the Hour

International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated with the theme, 'Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being,' on October 11, 2023. António Guterres, UN Secretary-General said, "Women and girls can lead us to a fairer future...let us amplify girls' voices, and recommit to working together to build a world where every girl can lead and thrive."

According to official data, Karnataka was among seven states where the secondary school dropout rate (14.6%) was greater than the national average of 12.6% in 2021-22. The data was compiled from the minutes of Project Approval Board (PAB) meetings held by the Ministry of Education to discuss the execution of the "Samagra Shiksha" plan in 2023-24.

According to another poll conducted in 2022 by UNICEF, 33% of girls in India drop out of school

due to domestic employment. It was also discovered that after leaving school, many children began working as labourers with their families or cleaning people's houses.

Margaret Alva, former Governor, and Union Minister speaking during the programme on the occasion citing her own example said that girls and women can contribute to society in a unique and significant manner. However, policy-level changes and setting aside gender biases are the need of the hour. Grassroots-level engagements, sensitization, and empowerment programmes are to be accentuated. In line with the adage, 'Charity begins at home,' let us as we reach out to the less privileged, strive to give adequate emphasis to the rights of the girl child.



Fr. Prasad SDB

International Day of the Girl Child Celebrated



BOSCO Bengaluru organized the International Day of the Girl Child at BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru, on October 11, 2023. The celebration began with the campaign roadshow flagged off by Mr. Lokesh and Ms. Shubha Punja, Kannada Cine Actors, and Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru. A signature campaign was organized along with the roadshow at Chamarajpet, Majestic Bus Stand, KR Circle, Corporation Circle, Town Hall, Kalasipalya, and KR Market areas of Bengaluru.

Delivering the keynote address, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram said that it is a day to remember the achievements and the contribution of girls to society. Margaret Alva, former Governor and Union Minister said, "Dear girl children, you should look towards the future."

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UNICEF Delegates Visit BOSCO

Delegates from the Assam Government and Sony Kutty George, Child Rights Specialist, UNICEF, visited BOSCO Mane and held discussions on the Foster Care Programme and foster care placements in Karnataka on October 17, 2023.

The delegates discussed the status of sixty foster children currently placed in Assam and the sixteen children who are in the process of being placed. They wanted to know the duration of placement of children in foster care in Karnataka, the procedures involved in selecting the potential parents and children, the role of the Government agencies, and the role of



BOSCO. Sony Kutty George appreciated BOSCO for its work with the children. Twenty-two delegates visited the foster care programme.

Stakeholders Awareness



The Outreach team working in the Majestic Bus Stand conducted awareness for the bus drivers and conductors, auto drivers, metro security guards, and home guards in October 2023. They imparted information regarding the different categories of children at risk, child helpline, child-related laws, and acts, child assistance centres at the BMTC and KSRTC Bus Stands, and the support expected from the stakeholder community in the rescue and rehabilitation of the children at risk.

They briefed about the organization, its services, and activities for the children in need of care and protection. Mr. Gowraknath, Metro Area Security Officer, and Mr. Devendra, Security Supervisor were present during the awareness programme for the metro security guards and home guards. Pamphlets were distributed to fifty-two BMTC bus drivers and conductors, twenty-six auto drivers, hundred and fifteen metro security guards, and home guards.

Exposure visit to Police Station



Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru arranged an exposure visit for the children of St. Mary's School to Govindrajnagar Police Station, Bengaluru on October 5, 2023. The purpose of the visit was to make the children aware of the concept of child-friendly police stations and the roles and responsibilities of CWPOs in assisting with child-related cases. Mr. Basavaraju P N, Project Coordinator, and Vinod Sandeep, Rescue Coordinator, BOSCO CSN Project coordinated with the school in taking them around the police station, introducing them to the infrastructure, and police personnel.

Mr. Mahadev Dalawai, PSI, Govindrajnagar Police Station oriented the children about the functioning of the police station. Children clarified their doubts regarding child labour and children in conflict with the law. Twenty-eight children visited the police station.

International Day of the Girl Child Celebrated



Remember, a daughter is a daughter all her life. Let your inner lights shine bright always.” She added that the celebration of the day of the girl child is not a one-day affair, but an endeavor that has to continue throughout the year. Nagaveni, DCPO, South Bengaluru, applauded the achievements Alva and exhorted the girl children to imitate her example. Asha, DCPO, East and West, Bengaluru, and Lokesh spoke on the occasion. Around 150 children and staff from the various centres of BOSCO participated in the event.

The ARSP team celebrated International Day of the Girl Child programme at SMVT Railway station by distributing pamphlets to around 150 to 180 members. Mr. Dinesh Kumar, SMR, SMVT Railway station, Mr. Shivakumar, SI, GRP, SMVT Railway Sta-

tion, Mr. Mohammad ASI, RPF, SMVT Railway station, railway officials, TTE, coolie porters, shop keepers, maintenance staff and auto drivers were present in the programme. CSN Team organized the International Day of the Girl Child for New Public English School children at Sri Bala Gangadharanatha Swamiji ground, Govindaraja Nagar. Around 200 Children participated in the programme.

An awareness program on Girl Child Rights was organized for the youth of BOSCO Yuvakendra and the people of the surrounding communities. The outreach team working at KSR Railway Station conducted the campaign near the entrance. Dy. SMR, DCPO (Central) PO, and KSR staff, Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Director, BOSCO KSR attended the programme.

The BOSCO Nilaya team organized the celebration in KR Market in the presence of Fr. Anand SDB, Director, BOSCO Nilaya, and Nivas and Mrs. Manjula, Head Constable, City Market Police station. Mrs. Manjula spoke on the occasion. The celebration was organized near St. Basilica Church in Shivaji Nagar by the BOSCO Nivas team. Fr. Robert and Fr. Anand SDB explained the responsibilities of a girl child; and spoke about great women personalities like Onake Obava, Rani Chennma, and Jhansi Rani.

BOSCO SJPU team conducted a community awareness regarding the importance of the day in Kasturamma Layout, Kengeri. Ms. Nagaveni, Child Welfare Police Officer, and Mr. Shivakumar H.B, Head Constable were present in the programme. All the teams conducted a signature campaign.

World Food Day Celebrated

World Food Day was celebrated in BOSCO Yuvakendra with the youths of the centre on October 16, 2023. Awareness was given on World Food Day, the importance of food and nutrition in their lives. The youths were told to avoid wastage of food. An eating competition was conducted where the boys were asked to eat a variety of dishes in a span of three minutes. The boys enjoyed participating in the competition. Sixteen youths participated in the celebrations.



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre Turns Eighteen



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre celebrated its 18th anniversary at the centre on October 8, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru was happy that the centre had reached yet another milestone. He highlighted the training provided at the centre. He said that it is not only the skill training that is being imparted but the centre is also transforming the youths into productive individuals with values and morals. He had a special mention of the theme, 'Healthy Mind, Healthy Life'.

Fr. Joseph Dandavthy, the Asst. Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli introduced the chief guest, Mr. Kishore Attavar, Social Science Research Consultant, Manga-

lore. Mr. Kishore Attavar said that it is the responsibility of each student to acquire skills and values for life. He exhorted the Past Pupils to visit the centre whenever it was possible to motivate the trainees in the centre. He motivated the trainees to make use of the opportunities provided at the centre. Fr. Prasad called upon the trainees to reflect upon each one's life. He said, "A ship is not meant for the shore, but to be in the sea". Life is good and safe in a childcare institution but challenging outside. So, time spent here needs to be cherished.

Abhi Surya, Imran, Pawan, and Rajkumar, Past Pupils shared their experiences. They thanked BOSCO for what they are today. The trainees, computer trainees, and the children attending the tuition classes staged cultural programmes. The Past Pupils spent time in the centre playing cricket. Saleena, Coordinator, BOSCO Sumanahalli welcomed the gathering and Ms. Pramila, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Sumanahalli proposed the vote of thanks. Forty-eight children attending tuition classes, forty-one Past Pupils, eight computer trainees, thirty skill training youth, and twelve staff were part of the celebration.

Provincial Visitation at BOSCO

Fr. Jose Thomas Koyickal, Provincial, Salesian Province of Bangalore held a three-day visit to BOSCO, Bengaluru from October 3 to 5, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, welcomed the provincial to the organization and introduced him to the staff of BOSCO.

Fr. Provincial visited all the centres and areas of BOSCO and interacted with the Confreres, staff, and coordinators. Addressing the staff, he said, "Don Bosco wanted all those associated with children to possess Cheerfulness and Warmth." He expressed his happiness and thanked the staff for being a part of the BOSCO family. He said that the strength of BOSCO lies in its staff. He exhorted the staff to be proud and happy about their work which is purely a service for the children in distress. He asked the staff to absorb the spirit and qualities of Don Bosco which would help in enhancing their service to the children.



He said, "Let's build mansions not for ourselves but for our future generations". He shared a few good practices followed in the institutions of Don Bosco. He also said that it was high time that we became self-sustainable owing to the challenges faced in getting funds for the projects. Some of the staff expressed their gratitude and happiness for being a part of the BOSCO family.

Orientation Program



MSW Students from Don Bosco College Kottiyam, Kollam had an exposure visit to BOSCO Bengaluru, on October 12, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru orientated the group on BOSCO and its activities. He briefed about the history of BOSCO, its vision and mission, programs, and projects. Students interacted with the children of the open shelter at Yuvodaya. Fr. Joby Mathew, Head of the Department of Social Work, Don Bosco College, Kottayam discussed with the Executive Director and HR Manager about making an MOU with the organization.

The exposure visit helped students learn more about community development and working with children who need care and protection. Thirty-six students and three faculty members participated in the orientation program.

Adolescent Girls' Meeting



BOSCO Nilaya organized meetings for the adolescent girls of Anandpuram community on October 10, 2022. Ms. Bindu and Ms. Archana, Staff, BOSCO Nilaya, spoke about menstrual hygiene, personal safety, safe and unsafe touch, and online safety. Some videos on acts like the POCSO act were shown to the group. Twenty girls attended the meeting.

BOSCO Nivas conducted a meeting with the adolescent girls of the Sagayapuram community on October 17, 2023. The meeting included topics on personal hygiene, consumption of nutritious food and adequate water, adopting a healthy lifestyle, peer pressure, and depression. Through an interactive session, the team tried to put forth the aforesaid topics to the group. Thirty-two girls were part of the meeting.

Consultation with the Parents

Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), BOSCO, Bengaluru organized a consultation meeting with parents of children in conflict with the law, of the West Division as part of a regular follow-up, at BOSCO Mane on October 20, 2023.

Ramaswamy, Coordinator, SJPU, BOSCO, Bengaluru exhorted the parents to be supportive of their children and guide them properly. He enquired about the changes in the lives of the children after they came out of the observation home. He briefed about the roles and responsibilities of the parents. He explained about the life skills training facility available in the organization. He requested the children to make use of the opportunities provided to them. Fifteen parents and twelve children participated in the discussion.



Parents Meeting



Parents' Meeting was organized at BOSCO Rainbow Home on October 1, 2023. Sr. Shamala Mary, Counsellor, BOSCO Rainbow Home, spoke about making learning a priority at home, establishing routines and schedules that enable children to complete homework, read independently, get enough sleep, and have opportunities to get help from their parents. She said that the parents should interact with their wards regularly to know about their performance in the school and regularly meet the teachers. Fr. John Peter explained social entitlements like Aadhaar cards, caste income certificates, and birth certificates which enable them to utilize the government schemes. Twenty-three parents attended the meeting.

Eye Check-up Camp



BOSCO Health Care Department in coordination with Prahba Eye Clinic and Research Centre organized an Eye Check-up camp for the children and staff of the centre and St. Joseph's Public School at BOSCO Sumanahalli on October 25, 2023. Dr. Ajinkya, an Eye Specialist, and his team conducted the camp. It was conducted to identify the issues related to vision faced by the children.

The doctor also gave awareness on the use of mobile and television. Those identified with vision problems were referred to the hospitals and prescribed medication. Ninety-one children, youth, and staff availed the services of the camp.

Accenture Team Visit BOSCO Mane



In collaboration with RMT, BOSCO, the Accenture team from the UK visited BOSCO Mane on October 11, 2023. During the visit, Ms. Nirmala, RMT Coordinator explained the objectives of BOSCO. They conducted party games for the children. An interaction session was conducted with the children. Children enjoyed the party games and learned from the activities. They provided snacks for the children. The team appreciated the work of BOSCO and assured that they will support BOSCO in the future.

Thirty-one children and staff were present.

Health Camp



BOSCO Child Safety Net (CSN) Project organized a health camp for the children of Government Higher Primary School (GHPS), Nagarabhavi on October 31, 2023. Dr. Theresa, Physician, and Ms. Priya, Staff Nurse, PHC, Gangondanahalli conducted the camp. Weight, Height, BP, and Physical Health check-ups were done for all children. Children were advised to take homemade food rather than junk food. They exhorted the children to consume fruits, green vegetables, milk, and eggs every day. Twenty children benefitted from the camp.

Certification Programme



Certificates were distributed by the Life Skill Training Unit of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan to the trainees who completed training in Tailoring, on October 20, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, congratulated the trainees on the successful completion of the course. Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, was present on the occasion. The trainees expressed their gratitude to the organization for the training and the sewing machines provided to them. Twenty-two students received certificates, and four of them received sewing machines so they could start their own businesses and become entrepreneurs.

Formation of CPC



BOSCO CRISP Project formed a Child Protection Committee (CPC) in order to strengthen the child rights supporters in the community at Yantaganahalli Panchayath, Bengaluru Rural, on October 12, 2023. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Devaraj, Coordinator, BOSCO CRISP Project gave an introduction about BOSCO and its services. He explained the CPC, child rights violations, and the role of stakeholders in society. He motivated them to provide information regarding children in difficult situations to CHILD-LINE. He spoke about the four fundamental rights of children. He also gave information about skill training programmes, and tuition classes available at BOSCO. Twenty-four ASHA Workers, Anganwadi Workers, School Teachers, Parents, SHG Group Members, and PDO were inducted as members of CPC.

Child Rights Club Formation



BOSCO CRISP Project was involved in the formation and training of the Child Rights Club (CRC) for the children attending tuition classes in Vinoharanagar on October 30, 2023. The session was conducted by Ms. Bhagyalakshmi, Community Organizer, CRISP Project, on the importance of child rights, child rights clubs, and UNCRC. She explained the process of formation of CRCs and thereafter formed the group. Children were made aware of the importance of upholding their rights. Forty children were given the training.

Exposure visit by Welding Unit



The Trainees of the Welding Unit of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre were taken to Sai Fabrications, Ullal, Bengaluru as part of their exposure visit on October 16, 2023. Mr. Lokesh, the owner explained various kinds of work that take place in the shop on a regular basis. One of the trainees at the centre was offered a job in the shop. Four trainees along with Mr. Prakash, Welding Instructor visited the shop.

Dasara Camps

Dasara Camps were organized for the children at the BOSCO centres and areas on the theme, 'Healthy Mind, Healthy Life', from October 13 to 21 October 2023. Dasara camp was organized at BOSCO Sumanahalli for the children attending the tuition classes in Devaraj Urs, Sajjepalya, and Gandhi Nagar areas of Bengaluru on October 13 and 14, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, the Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru and Fr. Joseph Dandavathy, Asst. Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli were present in the camp. Eighty-five children attending the tuition classes participated in the camp. BOSCO Rainbow Home organized Dasara Camp for the children at the centre from October 13 to 16, 2023. Fifty-two girls participated in the camp.

BOSCO Nilaya, Nivas, and Yuvaspandana organized the Dasara Camp on October 20 and 21, 2023 at BOSCO Yuvaspandana. Hundred and six boys and hundred and twenty-three girls from Jolly Mohalla, Giripuram, Anandapuram, Ramannagarden, Vinobhanagara, Rajgopalgarden, Sagayapuram, Ambedkar Huts, Vyayam Shaala, Cement Huts, Bhakshi Garden participated. The camp was conducted under the leadership of Fr. Anand, Director, BOSCO Nilaya, Nivas, and Yuvaspandana.

BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted a three-day Dasara camp – 'Path Finders,' for the youths of the centre at Door of Hope NGO at Satanur, Kanakapura, from October 20 to 22, 2023. Mr. Mahesh, Dream A Dream, conducted the camp. Nineteen youths attended the camp.

BOSCO Vikas and Mane organized the Dasara camp from October 20 to 24, 2023, at the centre. The camp was inaugurated by Mr. Harshil Kaushik, Cine Actor,

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, and Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane, on October 20, 2023. Mr. Lokesh, Cine Actor, and Brother Anugrah were the main resource per-



sons for the camp. BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan conducted the camp for the children at the centre from October 20 to 24, 2023. Thirty-three girls attended the camp.

The children from the ARSP tuition centre visited Bannerghatta Biological National Park on October 20, 2023. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO ARSP Project, accompanied the children along with the staff. Thirty-seven tuition children were a part of the outing.

Child Safety Net (CSN) conducted Dasara Camps for the tuition children at Veerabhadra Gudde and Pilihalli. Mr. Devaraja Urs, ASI, Girinagar Police Station, Mr. Suresh, ASI, Jnanabarathi Police Station, and Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO CSN Project were present on the occasion. Around a hundred children participated in the camp.

Drawing, painting, quiz, craft, embroidery, fun games and life skill sessions were organized. Children of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan were taken to the HAL Heritage Center and Aerospace Museum. Children visited the Mercy Home- an old age home managed by the Sisters of Holy Cross at Kothanur and interacted with the inmates. They went to the ETA Mall to watch a movie.

Children of the centres were also taken out for picnics to Talakadu, Muttatti, etc. All the children and youth of the centres and the children attending tuition classes attended the camp.



Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration



BOSCO Yuvodaya, Sumanahalli, Rainbow Home, Vikas, and Mane celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanthi on October 2, 2023, at their respective centres. Fr. John Peter, Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Vikas and Mane, and Fr. Joseph Dandavathy, Asst. Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli spoke about the life of Mahatma Gandhi, garlanded the photo of Gandhiji, and gave a message to the children. The celebration concluded with the National Anthem. Party games, drawing competitions, and Swacchh Bharat campaigns were organized for the children. All the centre children participated in the celebrations.

Mental Health Day Organized



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli organized 'Mental Health Day' at the centre on October 10, 2023. It was aimed at observing World Mental Health Day with the theme, 'Our Minds, our Rights' and creating awareness among the trainees regarding the importance of mental health. Ms. Namita, Counsellor, BOSCO Sumanahalli welcomed the group and introduced the topic of the day. She narrated the characteristics of a mentally healthy person. A short breathing exercise was conducted for the trainees. A resolution was made by the trainees on maintaining good mental health. Twenty-five trainees were a part of this programme.

Life Skill Session



A Session on 'Team Work' was organized for the trainees of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre on October 11, 2023. Ms. Celine Antony, Botanist shared about the importance of teamwork in their personal and professional life. The youth were divided into four groups. Two activities – a balloon race and an egg drop challenge were conducted. Through these activities, they learned the importance of teamwork and how to achieve goals even with limited resources. Twenty-five trainees were a part of this session.

Session on Self Awareness



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli organized a session on 'Self Awareness' for the trainees of the centre on October 26, 2023. Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, introduced the Resource Person - Fr. Dilip, Professor to the group. Fr. Dilip started the session with an ice-breaking session. The difference between the animals and human beings was explained. He exhorted that the youths use their thinking and reasoning power in life. He explained how to use self-awareness for the growth in each one's life. The activities and games were interesting. Twenty-seven trainees attended the session.

Health Awareness



BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted a health awareness session on 'Personal Hygiene for the youths of the centre in coordination with St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru on October 10, 2023. Ms. Uma Rai, Social

Worker discussed the 5Fs that contribute to overall personal hygiene –Food, Fluid, Fingers/Figures, Feces, and Flies. She exhorted that eating clean and balanced food is important as it contains all the necessary nutrients like vitamins, carbohydrates, proteins, and minerals in proper proportions. She asked the youths to drink thirteen glasses of water every day to maintain fluid levels in the body. She asked to restrict poking sharp objects in the ears. She explained the importance of brushing one's teeth twice a day, taking a bath daily, wearing washed clothes, and avoiding exchanging clothes. Seventeen youths participated in the session.

Parents meeting at BOSCO Mane



Parents' meeting was conducted at BOSCO Mane on October 14, 2023. Mr. Papaiah, Coordinator, BOSCO Vikas, welcomed the gathering and explained the purpose of the meeting. He exhorted the parents to ensure that children spend their time at home constructively. Dr. Niveditha, Physician, Royan Hospital, briefed the gathering about health and hygiene and basic information regarding cleanliness. She suggested healthy food habits and exhorted them to avoid junk food. The parents cleared their doubts. Ms. Sujatha Counsellor, BOSCO Mane explained that the parents must apply for the required documents like Caste and income, Aadhaar Card, Birth Certificate of the child, and other social entitlements. She expressed that these are valid docu-

ments that are helpful for the parents to acquire Government benefits and schemes. Even these certificates will help to get scholarships and government jobs in the future.

Ms. Usha Nayak Coordinator explained about the Child's rights and the responsibility of the parents. Mr. Prasad Social Mobiliser Bosco Vikas, expressed that some of the parents regularly visit the center. If the parents are not visiting it would affect the child negatively. He also suggested to the parents that they could visit the children fortnightly. The parents agreed they would take proper care and responsibility for the children during the holidays. Fifty- eight parents participated in the meeting.

BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS Monthly Report



October- 2023



	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	339	54	393
Service provided	56	15	71
Grand Total	395	69	464

New Children Data of Contact Center/Area:

	Fresh		Repeated		
Contact Point	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Railway Station	50	11	01	00	62
Railway Station DCPU staffs	16	08	00	00	24
Bus Stand BMTC	34	01	00	00	35
Bus Stand KSRTC	27	02	00	00	29
BOSCO Yuvodaya	02	01	00	00	03
BOSCO Yuvakendra	01	00	00	00	01
BOSCO Sumanahalli	08	00	00	00	08
BOSCO Nivas	20	05	01	00	26
BOSCO Nilaya	25	00	01	00	26
BOSCO Rainbow Home	00	02	00	00	02
BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan	00	02	00	00	02
CSN	23	00	00	00	23
SJPU	21	06	00	00	27
ARSP	109	16	00	00	125
TOTAL	336	54	03	00	393

Final Action Taken

Placement	Boys	Girls	Total
Referred to BOSCO Centers	44	37	81
Home Placement	265	11	276
Produced before CWC (Admission)	26	06	32
Referred to OH	03	00	03
Shishu Mandir	01	00	01
TOTAL	353	34	387

Classification Report

Classification	Boys	Girls	Total
Accompanied	18	11	29
Unaccompanied	321	43	364
TOTAL	339	54	393