



# E-Street Voice

Monthly Newsletter from BOSCO Bengaluru

## Editorial Note

### Of 'Rights' and Wrongs!

History demonstrates that not all dreams are realised when everything appears to be ideal for the visionary. On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King delivered the speech 'I Have a Dream' at a civil rights march in Washington to assert civil and economic rights and to end racism in the United States. When the freedom fighting was still ongoing, Gandhiji envisioned a liberated India. Dreams and successes were rarely thwarted by bleak realities and painful disappointments. Hence, in the current scenario where instances of violations of the rights of children have become commonplace, one shouldn't lose heart.

From November 10th to November 20th, BOSCO Bengaluru observed Child Rights Week. Several programmes were organised to raise awareness about the protection and promotion of children's rights. The

anniversaries of various Acts, UNCRC, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, etc., frequently spark conversations about the state of the rights journey. Disturbing are the stark, heartbreaking reports of children's

suffering and violations of their rights. In order to address the issues of children effectively, conscientization and lobbying at various levels are required.

May every social worker's fight for societal transformation be motivated by the realization that the journey is often as vital as the destination. May we find the courage to ensure all children's rights are protected at all times; it may be a slow process, but stopping would never speed it up!

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Fr. Prasad SDB

### Children's Day Celebration



BOSCO Bengaluru organized Children's Day celebration at St. Teresa's Girls High School, Near Royan

Circle, Anandapuram, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru, on November 19, 2023. This year's Children's Day celebration was based on the theme, **'Healthy Mind, Healthy Life'**. In the keynote address Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru said, "On this Children's Day let us work towards the mental well-being of children, especially the less privileged."

Speaking on the occasion, B Dayanand IPS, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, appreciated the yeomen service rendered by BOSCO and thanked the organization for the sensitization and training programmes organized for the police personnel from time to time.

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## Foster Care State Level Planning and Monitoring Meeting

Foster Care, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized State Level Planning and Monitoring Meeting at BOSCO Yuvodaya on November 4, 2023. Mr. Venkatesh, Member, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), Ms. Haleema, Project Director, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane and Master Manju, Foster Care Child, Bellary inaugurated the meeting by lighting the lamp. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, in his introductory words, said that the foster care program is being implemented in twenty districts of Karnataka. He felt that, for the programme to be a success, a good rapport with Child Welfare Committee, District Child Protection Officers, Unit Staff, Child Care Institutions, etc. is important. Mr. Venkatesh stated that foster care is a good program for the children without families. Ms. Haleema exhorted that all staff be thorough with the JJ Act and Mission Vatsalya guidelines. She shared some of the Acts, Sections, and schemes related to children.

Fr. Prasad facilitated the session on reporting and documentation. He briefed the gathering about the difference between minutes and report, lead, parts of



the lead, body of the report, case study format, and how to capture photos. Fr. John Peter, Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru spoke about the accounting procedures in BOSCO.

Foster parents and Manju from Bellary shared their experiences. Group discussions were held on the experiences of the district partners in dealing with the Government agencies, various stakeholders, strategies used in identifying prospective parents and prospective children and other issues. Mr. Shivamallu, State Project Coordinator welcomed the participants, and Ms. Nandini, Advocacy and Document Coordinator proposed the vote of thanks. Thirty-two participants from twenty districts of Karnataka participated in the meeting.

## School and College Awareness



Awareness programmes were organized by the BOSCO SJPU team, the Foster care team, and the CSN team at various schools and colleges in Bengaluru during November 2023. The coordinators ex-

plained in detail about the SJPU and CSN projects, their importance, and the support of the school authorities and children in identifying and referring children in distress. Information on Foster Care was given to the college students by Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, Foster Care Project. Ms. Asha, CRP, Chikkapete Cluster, Mr. Venkatesh, ASI, Byatarayanapura Police Station, Bengaluru, Mr. Manjanna, Head constable, Byatarayanapura Police Station Bengaluru, Mr. Vinayak, Principle, Mr. Yogish, Teacher. Ms. Bhagya Shree, WPC, the HMs, and the teachers were present during the awareness sessions. Around three hundred and fifty children attended the sessions.



## Kannada Rajyotsava Celebration

BOSCO Bengaluru celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava with the children in the centres on November 1, 2023. The Centre Directors spoke about the importance of the day and shared the values and culture of Karnataka with the children. The children were motivated to spread the culture of Karnataka. A drawing competition and pick and speak competition were conducted for the trainees of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli. Youths of BOSCO Yuvakendra participated in the essay and singing competitions. BOSCO Nilaya Staff celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava with the neighbours and stakeholders in Ranasinghpeta, Bengaluru. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya spoke about the importance of the day to the children at BOSCO Yuvodaya. He motivated the children to spread the culture of Karnataka. Sports and games were organized for the children at BOSCO Mane and Vikas. The winners were given prizes. Special sweets were distributed to all the participants. Around two hundred



children and staff from the centres participated in the celebrations.

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## Children's Day Celebration



Sri. Master Anand, Cine Artist, and Director interacted with the children along with his daughter and child celebrity Vamshika. He exhorted the children to use social media responsibly and pursue their dreams in life. Fr. Rafael Bejarano SDB, Youth Ministry De-

partment, Rome, told the children that their future grows out of their own hands. Rev. Sr. Jessy Merlin, Provincial SMMI, Bengaluru spoke during the event.

During the event, Children who excelled in cultural, social, sports, and educational fields were awarded the Prathibha Puraskara Award.

Chance games and theme-based cultural programmes were organized. Stakeholders whom BOSCO identified for their contribution to the protection and promotion of child rights at the centers and areas of its service were awarded the

*Makkala Mitra* Award. Fr. Anand SDB, welcomed the gathering, and Fr. Joseph Dandavathi proposed the vote of thanks. Around eight hundred children from the various centres of BOSCO and localities of service participated in the event.

## Child Rights Week Organized

BOSCO CSN project, BOSCO CRISP project, BOSCO Bus Stand Team, BOSCO Nilaya, Nivas, Yuvakendra, Yuvodaya, Sumanahalli, Rainbow Home, Vatsalya Bhavan, Vikas, and Mane, began the Child Rights week with the celebration of Children's Day at their respective areas and centres on November 14, 2023. The Centre Directors, Department Officials, stakeholders, and staff members participated in the programme. The team gave awareness about Children's Day, UNCRC, child rights, acts, and laws.

During the week from November 14 to 20, 2023, awareness campaigns were held in public places, communities, schools, Government Boys' Home, health centres, etc., and stakeholders' meetings, rallies, tying of child rights bands to the stakeholders and children, distribution of pamphlets to the public and Photo Frame campaign, were also conducted. The week-long programme included essay, drawing, speech, and quiz competitions based on the theme, 'Healthy Mind Healthy Life'. Children from BOSCO Rainbow Home performed a prayer dance at Sambrama Sabangana as part of the Children's Day celebration organized by the District Child Protection Unit.



Mr. Manjunath, PSI, VV Puram, Mr. Kiran, Labour officer, and a team of Senior Labour Inspectors were present during the campaigns. Around a thousand children, Government Officials, Stakeholders, and the public were reached out to through the week-long programme.

## Life Skills Sessions



BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli organized life skill sessions on 'Team Work' and 'Communication' for the trainees at the centre on November 24, 2023. The team led by Miss Akhila, Mr. Emil, and Mr. Ujjawal, MSW Interns, Rajagiri College, Kerala conducted the session on Team Work. Games like Fish and Fisherman and Balancing the Balloon in the Air were conducted. Mr. Jujappa and Chandru, MSW Interns, KSRD-PRU College, Gadag conducted the session on Communication. Jujappa said that many a time our communication would not give clear messages to the receiver which could result in misunderstandings in the group. Twenty-three trainees participated in the sessions.

## Certificates Awarded



BOSCO Computer Training Project, BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru organized a Certificate Distribution programme for the students who completed the three-month Basic and Tally training course from the centre, on November 11, 2023. Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru, congratulated the students for completing the course and exhorted them to sharpen their skills.

The students thanked the organization for the training and said that it would stand in good stead for the future. Twenty-five trainees completed the computer course. Eighteen trainees were present on the occasion.



## Training Programme for Caregivers



BOSCO Bengaluru organized a training programme for the Coordinators and Caretakers of Child Care Institutions on November 29, 2023. The training program was facilitated by Ms. Ramya, Chief Executive Officer, We Live Foundation, an NGO working for the rehabilitation of Care Leavers of Child Care Institutions. The main objectives of the training program were to prepare children in the CCIs to move out when they reach 18 years; understand the steps involved in the transition of care leavers from the CCIs of BOSCO and understand the needs of young people

who have completed 18 years of age and how to address the issues effectively.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram introduced the resource person to the participants. The participants were divided into five groups and each group was given a topic to discuss. The topics given for discussion were Education and Vocational Training, Physical Well-being, Emotional Well-being, Social support and Interpersonal skills, and Financial Independence and Career. Some of the issues that emerged during the discussions were presented. There were discussions relating to the preparation of children as they leave the CCI and the steps involved in the transition process from the CCI to society.

Mr. Papaiah, Coordinator, BOSCO Vikas, thanked the resource person and the participants. Twenty participants representing BOSCO Sumanahalli, BOSCO Yuvakendra, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, BOSCO Vikas, BOSCO Rainbow Home, and BOSCO Yuvodaya, attended the training program.

## Community Awareness Programmes

BOSCO ARSP Project conducted community awareness programmes in Kamakshamma Layout, Bengaluru on November 19, 2023. The team conducted group awareness and door-to-door awareness imparting information regarding CHILDLINE, activities of BOSCO, vocational training at BOSCO, and tuition classes. Around 35 homes were visited and given the awareness.

BOSCO Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) organized awareness on the premises of Banashankari Temple, Bengaluru on November 29, 2023. Tulasi PS and Nayana AP, Social Workers, BOSCO SJPU Project spoke about BOSCO programmes, child-related laws, and 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. Ms. Bharathi Huballi, WPS was present during the awareness session. Thirty devotees attended the session.



## Parents' Meeting



BOSCO Nivas held a meeting of the parents of the children attending tuition classes in Rajiv Gandhi Colony on November 15, 2023. The Nivas team discussed about the academic performance of the children in the school and the tuition classes. They also spoke about the strengths and weaknesses of their wards. The team gave useful tips on parenting skills like being encouraging, responsive, interactive, showing respect, and being a role model to the children. Guidance was given to the parents to take proper care of their children during and after the exams. Twenty-two mothers attended the meeting.

## Adolescent Girls Meeting



BOSCO Nivas team organized a meeting with the adolescent girls of Moulana Azad School, Shivajinagar on November 22, 2023. The team focused on menstrual hygiene, food habits, maintaining cleanliness, drinking water frequently, etc. They also spoke about depression and ways to combat depression. The session aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle. Twenty-eight girls took part in the meeting.

## Awareness for Traffic Police



Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru organized an awareness programme for the traffic police at Upparpet Traffic Police Station on November 13, 2023. The objective of this programme was to raise awareness regarding child rights and child-related issues. PN Basavaraj, Coordinator, CSN Project spoke on identifying child labourers and protecting them. He requested the support of the traffic police in making the Gandhinagar area child labour free. Mr. Krishnamurthy, Police Inspector, Upparpet Traffic Police Station was present in the programme. Forty traffic police attended the session.

## Trip to Kerala



A two-day picnic in Kochi, Kerala was arranged for the college students of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan from November 16 to 18, 2023. Students had a chance to visit stunning beaches, houses of religion, parks, museums, water rides, and hill stations. Kerala's delicious cuisine was the highlight of the trip. The students were introduced to the rich cultural heritage of Kerala. Girls were excited to travel on the train. Fourteen girls along with two staff of BOSCO were part of the trip.



## Capacity Building for the Police Officers

Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), BOSCO Bengaluru, organized a training programme for the Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPOs) of the West Division at BOSCO Yuvodaya, on November 2, 2023. Mr. Rohith CJ, Police Trainer, and Ramaswamy, Coordinator, SJPU, facilitated the training. The activities of BOSCO, Roles, and Responsibility of SJPU, POCSO Act 2012, Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, procedures involved for the children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law, JJ act rules, child rights, missing children, foster care concept, forms, and proceedings were covered during the training. Mr. Ramesh K.M, Asst. Commissioner of Police, West Division requested the CWPOs to be sensitive in handling juvenile cases. Ms. Nagaveni, DCPO, Bengaluru South, said that the DCPU and CWC be informed



about the POSCO cases. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, was present in the training Programme. Fifty-nine CWPOs were trained.

## Foster Care Awareness



BOSCO Foster Care Project organized nine awareness programmes for the Self-Help Group (SHG) Members, PRI Members, Anganwadi mothers, ASHA Workers, Anganwadi teachers, and School teachers in Bengaluru Urban and Rural during November 2023. Mr. Obalesh K, Social Mobilizer, introduced the concept of foster care and adoption to the stakeholders. He briefed about the procedures and processes involved in foster care and adoption and requested the support of the stakeholders in identifying prospective foster parents and children in need of a family atmosphere. Hundred and fifty-eight stakeholders attended the programmes.

## Value Education Sessions



BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted value education sessions on 'Sharing and Caring' and 'Honesty,' for the center's youths on November 3 and 14, 2023. Ms. Anjelin and Mr. Harisankar said that sharing and caring create bonding between people. A video was shared on how sharing and caring are important in various aspects of life like personal development, career development, and family situations. Ms. Vimala Rani and Mr. Rajasekar gave the example of how our shadow follows us wherever we go. They compared shadow with honesty. They exhorted that the youths be honest in their endeavors so that they achieve nobility. Twenty boys were a part of the value education sessions.



## Rally Organized



Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru conducted a rally highlighting the importance of edu-

cation to the public, shop owners, and the parents of the school dropouts in and around the vicinity of Government High School, Chikkepet, Bengaluru on November 4, 2023. BOSCO CSN team along with Ms. Asha, CRP, Chikkepet Cluster, BEO, South Division, Bengaluru, Ms. Sheela Rani, HM, GHS Chikkepet, and the children of the school went around the area shouting slogans, holding placards highlighting the importance of education and prevention of child labour and children into begging. The rally also aimed at re-enrolling the school dropouts. Forty-three children participated in the rally.

## Value Education on Responsibility



BOSCO Rainbow Home conducted a value education session on 'Responsibility,' for the girls at the centre on November 22, 2023, to instill a sense of social responsibility in them and motivate them to actively participate in their job. Sr. Mary Shamala, Counselor, BOSCO Rainbow Home screened an inspirational short movie on Social Responsibility. She spoke about the importance of being responsible. She stated that the term 'responsibility' indicates the obligation to have control over someone or something. Being responsible, for the results of one's duties supports in this regard. Thirty-five girls were a part of the session.

## Public Awareness Programmes



BOSCO teams working in BMTC and KSRTC bus stand, Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) project, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas conducted awareness for the public, passengers and commuters, shopkeepers, in the bus stands, railway stations, and market areas during November 2023.

The teams reached out to the public by way of distributing pamphlets containing information on 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. Around a thousand passengers, commuters, shopkeepers, and other public benefitted from the awareness.



# BOSCO: Homelink Child MISS Monthly Report

## November- 2023



	Male	Female	Total
Children rescued	361	33	394
Service provided	58	03	61
Grand Total	419	36	455

### New Children Data of Contact Center/Area:

Contact Point	Fresh		Repeated		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Railway Station	04	02	00	00	06
Railway Station DCPU staffs	08	00	00	00	08
Bus stand BMTC	48	01	00	00	49
Bus stand KSRTC	28	05	00	00	33
BOSCO Yuvodaya	01	00	03	00	04
BOSCO Summanahalli	03	00	00	00	03
BOSCO Nivas	61	01	01	00	63
BOSCO Nilaya	53	02	01	00	56
BOSCO Vatslayabhavan	00	02	00	00	02
CSN	17	02	00	00	19
SJPU	17	02	00	00	19
ARSP	116	16	00	00	132
TOTAL	356	33	05	00	394

### Final Action Taken

Placement	Boys	Girls	Total
Referred to BOSCO Centers	54	06	60
Home Placement	282	21	303
Produced before CWC (Admission)	15	06	21
Referred to OH	07	00	07
Shishu Mandir	01	00	01
Referred to Hostels	02	00	02
TOTAL	361	33	394

### Classification Report

Classification	Boys	Girls	Total
Accompanied	21	07	28
Unaccompanied	340	26	366
TOTAL	361	33	394