

That they may have life...in all its fullness



Vol. 28 Issue 4

October to December 2023

STREET VOICE

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

EDITORIAL

Of 'Rights' and Wrongs!

History demonstrates that not all dreams are realized 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 fight for freedom 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 organized to raise awareness about protecting and promoting 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. Conscientization and lobbying at various levels are required to address the issues of children effectively.

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.

Fr. Prasad SDB

BOSCO DIARY

OCTOBER TO
DECEMBER 2023

- Awareness Campaigns
- Value Education Classes
- Life Skills
- Meetings
- Youth Parliament
- Training and Workshops
- Campaigns and Celebrations- Gandhi Jayanthi, Provincial Visitation at BOSCO, International Day of the Girl Child, World Food Day, Dasara camps, Mental Health Day, Kannada Rajyotsava, Children's Day Celebrations, Child Rights Week, Anniversary Celebration at BOSCO Sumanahalli, International Human Rights Day, Christmas Celebrations
- Health Camps
- Exposure Visits, Outings and Picnics
- CPC Formation
- Certification Programmes

» AWARENESS PROGRAMMES «

Health Awareness Programmes

BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted a health awareness session on 'Personal Hygiene for the youths of the center in coordination with St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru, on October 10, 2023. Seventeen youths participated in the session.



In coordination with BOSCO Health Care Department, BOSCO Nilaya organized a health awareness programme on HIV/AIDS, the transmission modes, prevention, and care for the women and children of Vinobhanagar on December 27, 2023. Around thirty-two women and children from the area attended the awareness session.



Stakeholders Awareness at Bus Stand

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 on 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. Pamphlets were distributed to fifty-two BMTC bus drivers and conductors, twenty-six auto drivers, hundred and fifteen metro security guards, and home guards.



Community Awareness Programmes

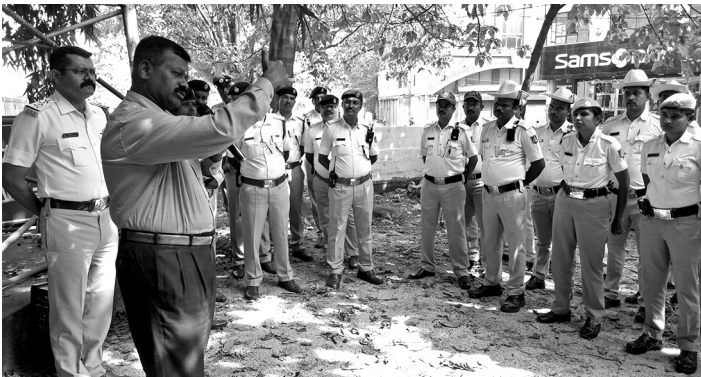
BOSCO ARSP Project (ARSP), BOSCO Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) conducted community awareness programmes in Kamakshamma Layout, Bengaluru, and on the premises of Banashankari Temple, Bengaluru during November 2023. The team conducted group and door-to-door awareness, imparting information regarding CHILDLINE, BOSCO activities, vocational training at BOSCO, and tuition classes. Around 35 homes were visited, and 30 devotees were given the awareness.



Awareness for Police Officials

Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru organized awareness programmes on child rights and child-related issues for the traffic police and KSRP police officials at Upparpet Traffic Police Station and Siddapura and Gandhinagar during November

and December 2023. Mr. Krishnamurthy, Police Inspector, Upparpet Traffic Police Station, was present for the programme. Forty traffic police and forty-two KSRP police officials attended the sessions.



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 and requested their support in identifying prospective foster parents and children needing a family atmosphere. Hundred and fifty-eight stakeholders attended the programmes.

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 the quarter. 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 thousand five hundred passengers, commuters, shopkeepers, and others benefitted from the awareness.



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 spoke about child rights, child laws, children in need of care and protection, and children in conflict with the law. They explained 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. 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.



CELEBRATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS

Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration

BOSCO Yuvodaya, Sumanahalli, Rainbow Home, Vikas, and Mane celebrated Gandhi 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.



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 distressed children. 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 we became self-sustainable owing to the challenges in getting project funds. Some staff expressed their gratitude and happiness for joining the BOSCO family.



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 had a special mention of the theme, 'Healthy Mind, Healthy Life'. Fr. Joseph Dandavathy, the Asst. Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli introduced the chief guest, Mr. Kishore Attavar, Social Science Research Consultant, Mangalore. 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 possible to motivate the trainees in 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. The trainees, computer trainees, and the children attending the tuition classes staged cultural programmes. 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.

Mental Health Day Organized

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, organized 'Mental Health Day' 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 day's topic. 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.



International Day of the Girl Child Celebrated



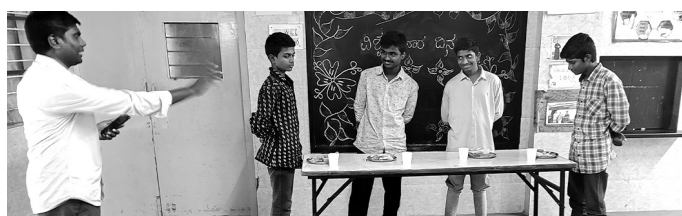
BOSCO Bengaluru organized the International Day of the Girl Child at BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Chamaraipet, Bengaluru, on October 11, 2023. The celebration centered on the theme, 'Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being,' began with the campaign roadshow flagged off by Mr. Lokesh and Ms. Shubha Punja, Kannada Cine Actors, and Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru. A signature campaign was organized along with the roadshow at Chamaraipet, 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. Remember, a daughter is a daughter all her life. Let your inner lights shine bright always." She added that celebrating 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 of Ms. Alva and exhorted the girl children to imitate her example. She said that if sustainable development goals have to become a reality, the development of the girl child has to become a reality. Asha, DCPO, East and West, Bengaluru, and Lokesh spoke. Around 150 children and staff from the various centres of BOSCO participated in the event.

The ARSP team, CSN team, Team working in KSR Railway Station, SJPU team, Nilaya, Nivas, and Yuvakendra celebrated International Day of the Girl Child programme at their respective areas of intervention. Mr. Dinesh Kumar, SMR, SMVT Railway station, Mr. Shivakumar, SI, GRP, SMVT Railway Station, Mr. Mohammad ASI, RPF, SMVT Railway station, railway officials, TTE, Dy. SMR, DCPO (Central) PO, and KSR staff, Mrs. Manjula, Head Constable, City Market Police station, Ms. Nagaveni, Child Welfare Police Officer, Mr. Shivakumar H.B, Head Constable, coolie porters, shop keepers, maintenance staff, school children, teachers, community people, and auto drivers 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.



UNICEF Delegates Visit BOSCO

Delegates from the Assam Government and Sony Kutty George, Child Rights Specialist, UNICEF, visited BOSCO Mane and discussed 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 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.



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. The children were engaged in various activities to use their time constructively and hone their talents during the Dasara vacations.

The children were taught the history and significance of the festival of Dasara. Children were taught action songs and dance. Sessions on child rights and responsibilities and good and bad touch were conducted. Drawing, painting, quizzes, crafts, embroidery, fun games, and life skill sessions were organized. Children were taken to Bannerghatta Biological National Park, HAL Heritage Center, and Aerospace Museum for an outing. 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.



Kannada Rajyotsava Celebration

BOSCO Bengaluru celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava with the children in the centres on November 1, 2023. The Centre Directors spoke about the day's importance and shared the values and culture of Karnataka with the children. The children were motivated to spread the Karnataka culture. Drawing and pick-and-speak competitions were conducted for the BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre trainees, Sumanahalli. Youths of BOSCO Yuvakendra participated in the essay and singing competitions. BOSCO Nilaya Staff celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava with the neighbours and stakeholders in Ranasinghpeth, Bengaluru. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya spoke about the day's importance 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.





Children's Day Celebration at BOSCO Bengaluru

BOSCO Bengaluru organized a 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 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.

Sri. Master Anand, a 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 Department, 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 essays, drawings, speeches, 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 contacted through the week-long programme.

Rally Organized



Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru conducted a rally highlighting the importance of education to the public, shop owners, and the parents of the school dropouts in and around the vicinity of Government High School, Chikkapet, Bengaluru on November 4, 2023. BOSCO CSN team, along with Ms. Asha, CRP, Chikkapet Cluster, BEO, South Division, Bengaluru, Ms. Sheela Rani, HM, GHS Chikkapet, and the children of the school, went around the area shouting slogans, holding placards highlighting the importance of education and prevention of child labor and children into begging. The rally also aimed to re-enroll the school dropouts. Forty-three children participated in the rally.

International Human Rights Day

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, a session was conducted on Human Rights for the children of BOSCO centres and areas on December 10, 2023. The year's theme was 'Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All'. Fr. Prasad, Director BOSCO Mane, and Vikas addressed the children at Vikas. Usha Nayak, Coordinator, BOSCO Mane, explained the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 75th Anniversary of Human Rights to the children at BOSCO Mane. Fr. Dominic Sequeira, Salesian In-charge, BOSCO Yuvakendra, and Jordan, Coordinator of the centre, created

awareness about the importance of the day. They explained the objectives, the importance of human rights, and the violations happening in the current scenario. The children were made known of the importance of leading a life with dignity. During the day, a drawing competition was conducted for the children on the right-based theme. Members of Tereda Mane and Sisters of St. Charles visited BOSCO Yuvaspandana to commemorate the day. They also visited the Ramanna Garden area. Children of the centres and areas participated in the event.



Christmas Celebration at BOSCO Bengaluru

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Yuvakendra, Yuvodaya, Nilaya, Nivas, Yuvaspandana, Rainbow Home, Mane, Vikas, and Sumanahalli centres and teams working in CSN, ARSP, Gandhinagar, and Bus Stand areas organized Christmas celebrations with children and youth, community members and the poor at their respective centres from December 16 to 24, 2023. Staff performed carols. Children performed various programs including dances and skits. Staff and youths at the centre distributed cakes and new year calendars to all the stakeholders like the railway and bus stand officials, local area leaders, schools, labour department officials, police personnel, and neighbours. Children received gifts and cakes. The poor from the area were identified and given food and blankets. All the Directors, staff, tuition teachers, past pupils, and volunteers were part of the celebrations.





» VALUE EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILL SESSIONS «

Life Skill Session on Team Work

A Session on 'Team Work' was organized for the trainees of the 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. 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. Dilip 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. Twenty-seven trainees attended the session.



Session on Team Work and Communication

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.

Mr. Jujappa and Chandru, MSW Interns, KSRDPRU College, Gadag conducted the session on Communication. Twenty-three trainees participated in the sessions.



Value Education Session on Sharing and Caring and Honesty

BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted value education sessions on 'Sharing and Caring' and 'Honesty,' for the center's youths on November 3 and 14, 2023. 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 exhorted the youths to be honest in achieving nobility. Twenty boys were a part of the value education sessions.



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 and motivate them to actively participate in their job. Thirty-five girls were a part of the session.



Session on Waste Management

BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted a session on 'Waste Management' for the center's youths on December 16, 2023. The resource persons, Ms. Neha and Mr. Bharat explained the three 'R's in waste management- Reduce, Re-use, and Re-cycle. Eighteen youths attended the session.



MEETINGS

Parents Meetings

Parents' Meeting was organized at BOSCO Rainbow Home on October 1, 2023. Sr. Shamala Mary, Counsellor of 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. Twenty-three parents attended the 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 the children's academic performance in the school and the tuition classes. They also spoke about the strengths and weaknesses of their wards. Twenty-two mothers attended the meeting.

A meeting was organized for the parents of the wards in BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan on December 10, 2023. Ms. Mallika, Team Member, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, presented information on CWC and their roles and responsibilities. Ms. Ajantha, the Centre Coordinator, addressed the parents/guardians with relevant information on parenting, their responsibilities as parents, being role models to their children and ensuring the overall development of the children. Thirty-seven parents/guardians attended the meeting.



Adolescent Girls' Meeting

BOSCO Nilaya organized two meetings for the adolescent girls of the Anandpuram community between October and December 2023. Ms. Bindu and Ms. Archana, Staff of 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. Forty girls attended the meeting. BOSCO Nivas conducted three meetings with the adolescent girls in their areas of intervention during the quarter. The meetings included topics on personal hygiene, menstrual 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. Sixty Hundred and forty 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 support 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.



Foster Care State-Level Planning and Monitoring Meeting

Foster Care, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized a state-level planning and monitoring meeting at BOSCO Yuvodaya on November 4, 2023. In his introductory words, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, said that the foster care program is being implemented in twenty districts of Karnataka. Mr. Venkatesh Member, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), stated that foster care is a good program for children without families. He shared some cases of the children. Ms. Haleema, Project Director of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), 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, Director, BOSCO Mane, facilitated the session on reporting and documentation. He briefed them about the difference between minutes and report, lead, parts of the lead, the body of the report, the case study format, and how to capture photos. Fr. John Peter, Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru spoke about the accounting procedures in BOSCO.

Foster parents and Master Manju, a Foster Care Child from Bellary, shared their experiences. Group discussions were held on the experiences of the district partners in dealing with the government agencies and various stakeholders, strategies used



in identifying prospective parents and prospective children, foster care placements, follow-ups, and plans for the future. 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.

Second Quarterly Evaluation

The Second Quarterly Evaluation of BOSCO was held at BOSCO Yuvodaya, Bengaluru on December 12 and 13, 2022. BOSCO Nilaya team recited the prayer. In his introductory words, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO, Bengaluru said, "The meetings are one of the opportunities to get to know each other." Highlighting the importance of teamwork in the organization, Fr. Shalbin, SDB, Vice-Provincial, Salesian Province of Bangalore, quoted, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together". He narrated various instances where Don Bosco made his teams work with a common vision and proper communication, show appreciation towards each other, be responsible, and trust each other, thus, making his dreams come true. Mr. PN Basavaraj, Coordinator, BOSCO CSN Project, honoured with the 'Best Social Worker' Award by Byatarayanapura Police Station, was felicitated during the inaugural programme.

The coordinators presented reports of projects and programmes from the various areas and centres of BOSCO. The major campaigns

and events of the previous month were evaluated. Plans for the upcoming events and activities were presented and discussed. Some of the administrative matters were discussed. A common birthday celebration was held for all the staff who celebrated their birthdays from September 2023 to November 2023. All the managing directors and staff of BOSCO attended the programme.



Foster Care Prospective Parents Meeting

The Foster Care Prospective Parents Meeting was organized by the BOSCO Foster Care Programme at BOSCO Mane on December 14, 2023. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru thanked all parents for their willingness to become foster parents. The Foster Care team will have to support during and after the placement of children in foster families and ensure that the children are given their rights. He explained to the parents about the role of CWC and the legal procedures involved.

Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane, and Vikas briefed the audience on the differences between institutional and family care with suitable examples. Mr. Ganesh Murthy, PO – NIC, South, DCPU, spoke about the adoption and foster care programmes of the Government. He explained the procedures for the Social Investigation Report (SIR).

Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, explained briefly the eligibility criteria for parents and children, child rights, weaning period, roles and responsibilities of parents, CWC



Members, DCPO, follow-up of children and parents with CWC, types of Foster Care and termination.

Ms. Hemavathi, PO- NIC, North, DCPU, and Mr. Anna Rao, PO – NIC, South, DCPU, attended the meeting. Mr. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, welcomed the guests and parents. Mr. Shivamallu proposed the vote of thanks. Eleven prospective parents participated in the meeting.

Meeting with BBMP Ward Members



BOSCO Foster Care Programme organized a meeting with BBMP Ward Members, Srirampura, Bengaluru on December 16, 2023, to make them aware of the concept of foster care - alternative family care. Mr. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme briefed about the BOSCO organization and its activities. He also explained the foster care concept, laws related to children, and the legal procedures involved in fostering children. He requested the support of the ward members in identifying prospective parents and children for the programme and also asked them to disseminate the information to their family members, neighbours, friends, and other contacts. Thirteen ward members were a part of this meeting.

Meeting with SDMC Members

The BOSCO Nilaya team met with SDMC members of GHPS Malagala, to empower them in their roles and responsibilities



on December 30, 2023. An introduction about BOSCO and the programmes were given. A glimpse of education activities for children in government schools was briefed by Ms. Bhagyalakshmi and Ms. Archana, team members of BOSCO Nilaya. Through an activity, working together for the cause of protection and promotion of child rights was briefed. The roles and responsibilities of SDMC in the school were explained. SDMC members were asked to visit the school and monitor the children's activities regularly. Child protection mechanisms and child rights violations were made known. The members of the SDMC were motivated to teach children the importance of education. Twenty-eight SDMC members, along with the School HM, were present at the meeting.

EXPOSURE VISITS

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, to make the children aware of the concept of child-friendly police stations and the roles and responsibilities of CWPOs in assisting

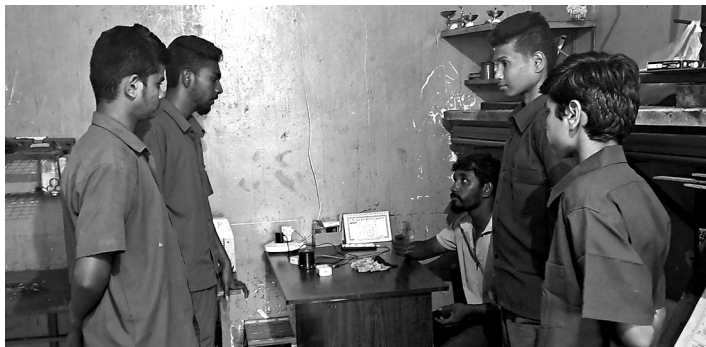
Exposure visit by Welding Unit

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

with child-related cases. Mr. Mahadev Dalawai, PSI, Govindrajnagar Police Station oriented the children about the functioning of the police station. Twenty-eight children visited the police station.



the shop. Four trainees, along with Mr. Prakash, Welding Instructor, visited the shop.



Exposure Visit to 49th Annual Cake Show

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, Bengaluru, organized an exposure visit to the '49th Annual Cake Show' at St. Joseph's School Ground, Bengaluru, for the youth undergoing training in baking on December 28, 2023. The youth had an opportunity to see a variety of cakes in different forms exhibited at the show. Seven trainees visited the cake show. Mr. Anthony Das, Instructor, Bakery Unit, BOSCO Sumanahalli, accompanied the youth.



» TRAINING PROGRAMMES «

Orientation Program for College Students



MSW Students from Don Bosco College Kottiyam, Kollam, and first-year MSW Students from Bangalore City University had an exposure visit to BOSCO Bengaluru on October 12 and December 11, 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. Ninety-four students and four faculty members participated in the orientation program.

Child Rights Club Formation and Training

BOSCO CRISP Project was involved in the formation and training of the Child Rights Club (CRC) for the children attending tuition classes in Vinobhanagar 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.



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.



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 of 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.

HEALTH CAMPS

Eye Checkup Camp



BOSCO Health Care Department, in coordination with Prabha 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.

Health Camp at Government Higher Primary School

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.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Accenture Team Visit BOSCO Mane



In collaboration with RMT and 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.

Formation of Child Protection Committee

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 of the BOSCO CRISP Project, gave an introduction to 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 CHILDLINE. 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.



Certification Programme for Tailoring Students



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.

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.



Trip to Kerala



A two-day picnic to 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.

CASE STUDY

We Dare to Care!

It was the news of a newborn child being sold by his mother that brought the CSN team to the RR temple in Bengaluru on the trail of a couple from Erode in Tamil Nadu and their 20-day-old child. In November 2023, the BOSCO Child Safety Net (CSN) team received information about a newborn male child being sold for money. Accordingly, the team, in collaboration with the RR Nagar police and CCB (Central Crime Branch), conducted a rescue mission in which the mother of the child and her three accomplices were caught. But this mother and child were just a tiny part of a more extensive illegal operation being headed by a broker targeting childless couples willing to pay money for a child and financially vulnerable families with infants aged 2-3 months, with children changing hands for amounts ranging from Rs. 3-5 lakhs.



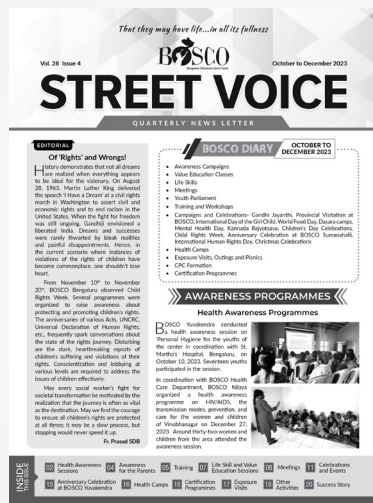
Following the rescue, the child was immediately taken to Vanivilas Hospital and admitted for necessary medical attention and care. The team also informed Ms. Nagaratna, the Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee, about the rescue and the events that unfolded after that. Finally, on November 27th, the baby was discharged from the hospital under the supervision of the concerned authorities and admitted to one of the Child Care Institutions (CCI) in Bengaluru, as per the order of CWC 1. This enabled the child to be away from the shadow of a life written by his parents' abandonment and society's shortcomings into a future rewritten by the conviction and compassion of people committed to caring for children against all odds.

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“THERE IS NO TRUST MORE SACRED THAN THE ONE THE WORLD HOLDS WITH CHILDREN. THERE IS NO DUTY MORE IMPORTANT THAN ENSURING THAT THEIR RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED, THAT THEIR WELFARE IS PROTECTED, THAT THEIR LIVES ARE FREE FROM FEAR AND WANT AND THAT THEY CAN GROW UP IN PEACE.”

KOFI ANNAN

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Published by BOSCO Bangalore

Printed @ www.dbigact.com