

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



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STREET VOICE

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

EDITORIAL

EMBRACING THE LEGACY OF DON BOSCO

In the institutions of Don Bosco across the globe, January not only marks the beginning of a new year but is also a time set apart to honour the remarkable life of Don Bosco. Don Bosco's Month, celebrated with fervor and devotion, is a poignant reminder of his enduring legacy and the values he instilled in future generations.

Throughout the month, the centers of BOSCO Bengaluru reverberated with Don Bosco's spirit, echoing his messages of love, compassion, and empowerment. From solemn ceremonies to lively cultural events, each gathering paid homage to the man whose vision continues to shape lives and communities.

However, Don Bosco's Month wasn't just about reflection but about action. Community engagement initiatives, such as awareness campaigns and skill-building workshops, echoed Don Bosco's commitment to uplifting the marginalized and advocating for social justice. These endeavours, rooted in Don Bosco's principles, empowered individuals to create positive change in their communities.

The culmination of Don Bosco's Month was a celebration, bringing together alumni, supporters, and beneficiaries in a joyous tribute to his enduring legacy. Through cultural performances, testimonials, and shared memories, attendees celebrated not just the man but the ideals he stood for: unity, compassion, and unwavering faith in the potential of every individual. Let his values inspire us to be beacons of hope in a world yearning for compassion and understanding. Let us continue to build upon Don Bosco's foundation of love, guiding the youth towards a future brimming with promise and possibility.

Fr. Prasad SDB

BOSCO DIARY

JANUARY TO MARCH 2024

- Awareness Campaigns
- Value Education Classes
- Life Skills
- Meetings
- Youth Parliament
- Training and Workshops
- Celebrations- New Year Celebrations, Campaign to make Gandhinagar a Child Labour Free Zone, Don Bosco Month, National Day of the Girl Child, International Women's Day, Republic Day, Holi
- Health Camps
- Exposure Visits, Outings and Picnics
- BOSCO Essay Writing Competition
- Staff Sports Day
- Special Events
- Past Pupils Meet
- Karate Belt Grading Exam
- Course Completion Certificates
- Awards

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Awareness on National Road Safety Day

In collaboration with the Upparpet Traffic Police Station, the Child Safety Net (CSN) project organized an awareness on National Road Safety Day for the public at the Upparpet traffic signal on January 18, 2024. With the permission of the Head Master, the children of DVV Gujarati Higher Primary School, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru, were also involved in the awareness program. Mr. Krishnamurthy, Police Inspector, Upparpet Traffic Police Station, briefed the public about the rules and regulations to ensure road safety. He also educated them on reducing vehicle accidents. Children formed a circle, holding placards and distributing pamphlets. Fifty-five children participated in the awareness drive and distributed more than a hundred pamphlets.



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Stakeholders Awareness

An awareness programme was organized by the BOSCO Outreach Team working in the BMTC Bus Stand for the BMTC Officials at the BMTC office on January 25, 2024. Mr. PN Basavaraj, Coordinator, Child Safety Net (CSN), BOSCO Bengaluru, briefly explained child rights and laws, prevention systems, and the current issues children face. Ms. Vijaya Rakini, Coordinator, Bus Stand area explained about BOSCO Child Assistance Centers at the bus stands. Mr. Jayashankar, Assistant Traffic Supervisor, BMTC Bengaluru, appreciated BOSCO's work. Shubha, Traffic Inspector (TI), sixty-seven Traffic Controllers (TC) and other office staff attended the awareness programme.

Child Safety Net (CSN) Project BOSCO Bengaluru conducted an awareness session for the KSRP Police Officials at JJR Nagar Police Station on February 5, 2024. Using child-related cases as examples, PN Basavaraju, Coordinator, CSN Project, encouraged the stakeholders to support BOSCO in safeguarding children and their rights. Mr. Manjunath Reddy, ASI, JJR Nagar Police Station, was present. Eighteen KSRP Police Officials took part in the awareness session.



Awareness for Caring Community Group

The BOSCO Outreach Team working in the BMTC Bus Stand organized an awareness programme for the BMTC cleaning staff members of the Caring Community Group (CCG) on February 15, 2024. Ms. Vijaya Rakini, Coordinator of the Outreach Team, gave information on the current issues faced by the children, CWC procedures, and how BOSCO is supporting the needy children on the street. She also explained child rights and shared about the services of the BOSCO Assistance Center in KSRTC and BMTC. She thanked the CCG members for their support in the rescue and rehabilitation of the children in need of care and protection. Mr. Mugalappa, Supervisor, BMTC Bus stand, was present at the



programme. Twenty-one cleaning staff (CCG members) attended the awareness session.

Awareness Programmes for Police Officials

Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized an awareness programme for CAR Police Officials at Eedga Maidan, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru, on March 4, 2024. Basavaraju PN, Coordinator, CSN Project, BOSCO Bengaluru, facilitated the session on the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and Model Rules, POCSO Act - 2012 and children in conflict with the law. He also explained about the CSN project, the child helpline 1098 and the role of police officials in the care and protection of children in difficult situations. He requested the support of the police officials in identifying child labourers and rehabilitating them. Mr. Paramesh, HC, Chamarajpet Police Station, was present for the programme. Seven CAR officials participated in the awareness.



The Outreach team working in the Bus stand, in collaboration with the BOSCO CSN team, conducted an awareness programme for the Upparpet Police Officials on March 30, 2024. Basavaraju PN, Coordinator, BOSCO CSN Project, explained child protection and children in conflict with the law in Bengaluru and the support required from the police in tackling child-related issues. Sulochana, Sub-inspector, Upparpet Police Station, and other officials appreciated BOSCO's work and assured them of their support for the organization. Around fifteen officials participated in the awareness programme.



Health Awareness Programmes

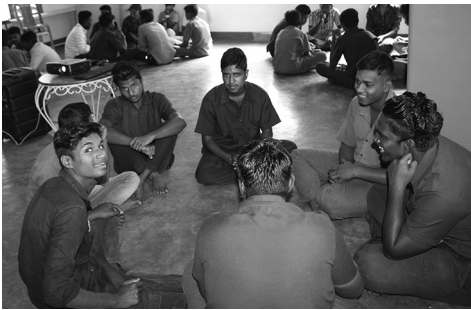
A health awareness programme on personal hygiene was conducted by the Health Care Department in collaboration with St Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru, at **BOSCO Mane** on February 17, 2024. Ms. Uma Rai, Social Worker, St. Martha's Hospital, advised them to brush their teeth at least twice daily, bathe daily, and wash their hair and hands. After the session, the St. Martha's Nursing School students performed a dance and skit related to health and personal hygiene. Around seventy-five children from BOSCO Mane and Vikas attended the session.

BOSCO Nilaya organized an awareness on HIV /AIDS, tuberculosis and personal hygiene, in coordination with the BOSCO Health Department, for the community people in Ramanna Garden on February 23, 2024, and at Vyayam Shaala on March 21, 2024, respectively. Ms. Uma Rai, Social Worker at St. Martha's Hospital, and MSW Volunteers from Kristu Jayanthi College, Bengaluru, spoke on HIV, AIDS, causes, transmission modes, precautions and prevention. She also explained the causes, symptoms and treatment of tuberculosis. Around forty men, women, fifty tuition children and teachers were present in the programmes.

The Health Care Department, BOSCO Bengaluru, and **BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre**, Sumanahalli, organized an awareness session on health and hygiene for the trainees residing there on

February 26, 2024. Ms. Uma Rai, a Social Worker at St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru, explained the importance of health and hygiene in day-to-day life. She described the five F's: Food, Fluid, Fingers, Feet, and Flies. Thirty trainees and four staff attended the awareness session.

The nursing students of St. Martha's Nursing College, Bengaluru, gave the children of the Open Shelter at **BOSCO Yuvodaya** an awareness session on personal hygiene on March 9, 2024. They discussed the components of health and personal hygiene and possible ways of maintaining personal hygiene, such as brushing teeth twice a day, taking baths daily, wearing washed clothes, trimming fingers and toenails regularly, etc. Forty-seven children benefitted from the session.



Community Awareness Programme

An awareness programme was organized for the people of Ramanjenaya Gudda Park, Hanumantha Nagar, Bengaluru and V.S Garden Ambedkar Bhavan, JJR Nagar, Bengaluru by the BOSCO SJPU team on February 22 and March 26, 2024. Addressing the gathering, Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU Project, gave information on child rights, child protection, the JJ Act, and children involved in crimes. He cautioned the people about child trafficking, child abuse, children found begging and child labour. He gave examples of children falling prey to drug abuse and indulging in petty offences. Mr. Girish, ASI asked the people to be vigilant of the minor children driving vehicles, violating the rules, and inform the police or the helpline about people loitering in the area, creating

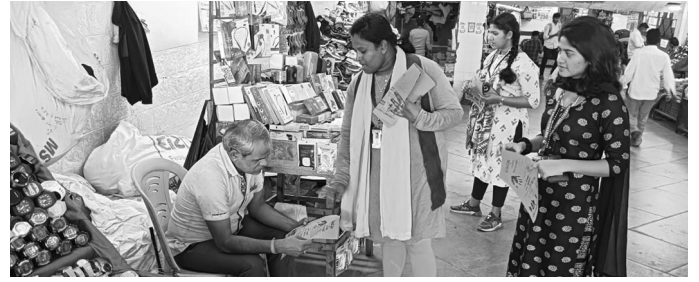
disturbance among the general public and children, especially the girls. Four Hoysala and Cheetah Patrolling officials, Mr Manjunath, H.C, Mr Prashanth K, P.C and Ms Mahadevi K., WPC, JJR Nagar Police Station, and around fifty community people were present in the programmes.

BOSCO ARSP Project conducted community awareness programmes in JC Colony, near KR Puram Railway Station, Bengaluru, on March 26, 2024. The team conducted group and door-to-door awareness, imparting information regarding CHILDLINE, BOSCO activities, vocational training, and tuition classes. Around seventy-five households were visited and given the awareness.



Awareness at BMTC Subway

An awareness programme was conducted for the public and the shopkeepers in the BMTC subway by the BOSCO outreach team working in the BMTC Bus Stand on February 24, 2024. The team imparted information on runaway children, missing children, child labour, child trafficking, and children begging in and around the bus stand area. They sought the support of the public and shopkeepers in identifying such children and referring them to BOSCO by distributing pamphlets containing information on BOSCO and the child helpline. Fifty people were reached out to through the awareness programme.



Awareness in Moving Train

The Adjacent Railway Street Presence (ARSP) project team conducted awareness campaigns for passengers and commuters in a moving train at Yelahanka Railway Station on March 28, 2024. The team enlightened the public about 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, child helpline-1098, and BOSCO Life Skill Training Programmes by distributing pamphlets. Around 110 passengers and commuters benefitted from the awareness.



Awareness on Leadership Qualities and Child Rights

BOSCO Child Safety Net (CSN) project organized an awareness on 'Leadership Qualities and Child Rights' for the children of Government Higher Primary School, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru, on March 21, 2024. Mr. Basavaraju P N, Project Coordinator, BOSCO CSN Project, enlightened the children on leadership, the qualities of a good leader, taking the initiative in the fight against social evils like child labour, child marriage, child beggary, child trafficking, child abuse, etc. He urged the children to exercise their rights in bringing the dropouts back to school, standing against child-related issues, and ensuring that children are safe and protected. Thirty-seven children participated in the awareness.



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, subway, railway stations, and market areas during March 2024. 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. The awareness benefitted around one thousand two hundred and forty-five passengers, commuters, shopkeepers, and others.



Foster Care Awareness Programmes

BOSCO Foster Care organized awareness programmes for ASHA workers at PHC Centre, Doddatumukuru, Doddaballapura, SHG Members at Byatarayanadoddi, Anganwadi Mothers at Shanab-

hoganahalli and Teachers at Tunbridge High School, Infantry Road, during March 2024. Mr. Obalesh K, Social Mobilizer, introduced the concept of foster care and adoption to the stakeholders. He

briefed the stakeholders about the procedures and processes involved in foster care and adoption. He requested the support of the stakeholders in identifying prospective parents for fostering and children in need of a family setting. Dr. Manju, Medical Officer, PHC

Centre, thirty-five ASHA workers, eighteen SHG members, fifteen Anganwadi mothers, and twenty-seven teachers attended the programmes.



Open House Programme

Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized an Open House Programme at Rani Sarala Devi Education Trust, Siddapura, on March 7, 2024. Mr. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, SJPU Project BOSCO Bengaluru, addressed the gathering and spoke about the objectives and services of the SJPU Project and the purpose of the Open House Programme. He facilitated the discussion on child rights and issues, POCSO, child protection mechanisms, online safety and safety precautions with examples. The students clarified their doubts and raised issues concerning children. Mr. Mahiboob, PSI, Mrs. Pushpa Jagamure, PC, Siddapura Police Station and Mrs. R. Kumar, Headmaster, Rani Sarala Devi Education Trust, were in the programme. Hundred and four children and three teachers participated in the Open House Programme.



MEETINGS

Parents' Meetings

BOSCO Child Rights and Integrated Services Programme (CRISP) held a meeting with the parents of the children of GKPS, Kempalinganahalli, Nelamangala, on January 10, 2024. Mr. Nagaraj, a Social Activist at CRISP, explained BOSCO, child rights, and related issues in detail. Twenty parents participated in the meeting.

BOSCO Nivas organized a meeting on February 6, 2024, for the parents of the children attending tuition classes at St. Xavier's School, Shivaji Nagar. The team discussed parenting skills, such as being observant of their children, identifying their problems, being responsive, interactive, encouraging, motivating, and respecting the children's views. Eighteen mothers attended the meeting.

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, organized meetings for the trainees' parents at the centre on February 17 and

March 10, 2024. The aim of the programmes was to create awareness among the parents regarding the importance of education, care, and love towards their wards. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, briefed the parents on the APF project and how it supports the restoration of the youths to their families. Fr. Joseph Dandavati, Asst. Director, BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Mr. Devaraj, Coordinator, BOSCO CRISP Project and Mr. Balraj, Coordinator, BOSCO Family Restoration Project, conducted the meeting. Mr. Balraj explained the aftercare program and how children are supported for their education. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram provided the ration kit to the families of children who had been restored. Twenty-seven parents attended the meeting.

BOSCO Nilaya organized a meeting for the parents of tuition children in the Anandapuram and Giripuram communities on



February 21 and March 20, 2024. Ms. Bhagyalakshmi, Social Mobilizer at BOSCO Nilaya, addressed the parents regarding their wards' attendance in tuition classes, exam preparation, understanding, caring, and observance of their children's behaviour. She enlightened them about the existing Government schemes and hostel facilities. Forty-six parents took part in the meetings.

BOSCO Rainbow Home organized a parents' meeting at the centre on February 25, 2024. The objective of the meeting was to create a common platform where staff and parents could come together to discuss the children's performance and devise ways to enrich the learning experience. Mr Balaraj, Coordinator of the BOSCO Family Restoration Project, facilitated the meeting. Each parent was given parental care input to help their children develop. Thirty-six parents attended the meeting.

BOSCO Bengaluru's Child Safety Net (CSN) Project organized meetings with the parents of the Laggere and Devaraj Urs communities on February 28, 2024. PN Basavaraju, Coordinator,

BOSCO CSN Project, briefed the parents about BOSCO. He gave information on issues related to the children and asked the parents to be vigilant. He also requested that they inform the team about the school dropouts and help them re-enrol the children. Twenty-six parents from the Laggere community and sixteen parents from the Devaraj Urs community attended the meetings.

BOSCO Vikas organized a meeting for the parents of the children residing in the centre on March 30, 2024. Speaking on the occasion, Fr. Prasad, SDB, Director, BOSCO Vikas, briefed the gathering about the summer vacation. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, briefed the parents on CWC and DCPU procedures, CCI Registration, and the APF project and how it supports the restoration of youths to their families. Mr. Balaraj, Coordinator, BOSCO Family Restoration Project, Mr. Prasad, Social investigator, BOSCO Vikas, and Ms. Sujatha, Counselor, BOSCO Mane, spoke on occasion. Thirty-three parents and guardians attended the meeting.



Adolescent Girls' Meetings

BOSCO Nivas and CRISP Project met with adolescent girls in their intervention areas during the quarter. During the interactions with the girls, the teams focused on health and hygiene, menstrual

hygiene, drinking water frequently to avoid dehydration, personal safety, a child helpline, and care when choosing friends. Around 156 girls participated in the meetings.



Meeting with District Social Mobilizers

The BOSCO Foster Care virtual meeting via Google Duo Meet was held at BOSCO Mane on February 8, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, shared about

the funding agency's visit on February 16, 2024. Staff turnover and the Election Code of Conduct affect the project's activities.

The district social mobilizers shared about the nine foster

care placements done and the children identified for individual placements and kinship placements. The teams were instructed to maintain proper documents and send the required documents on time. They were also asked to focus on organizing stakeholder meetings and parents' and children's meetings. Computers would be sent to the twenty districts shortly. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, welcomed the gathering and proposed the vote of thanks. Twenty-two staff participated in the meeting.



Foster Care State-Level Stakeholders Meetings

Foster Care Programme, BOSCO Bengaluru, organized a State Level Stakeholders' Meeting at Don Bosco, Yadagiri, on February 24, 2024 and at Don Bosco Makkalalaya, Mysuru, on March 25, 2024. Mr. Shashidar Kosambe and Mr. Venkatesh, Members, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), said that Don Bosco acted as a bridge between Government officials and the public and thanked BOSCO for its services in twenty districts of Karnataka. Addressing the group, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, said, "BOSCO works with the DCPO and CWC to implement foster care programme and place children into families." He highlighted the milestones reached by the Foster Care Programme. He emphasized the vital role played by the stakeholders in identifying children and parents.

Mr. Prem Murthy, District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Yadagiri, Dr. Hanumanthaiah Karadi, Chairperson, CWC, Yadagiri,

Fr. Kuriakose, Director, Don Bosco Kalaburagi, George Kollashany, Director, Don Bosco, Bidar, K J Joseph, Director, Don Bosco Yadgiri, Ashwath Narayan, Chairperson, CWC, Mandya, Mr. Dhanajay, Member, CWC, Mysuru, Yogesh, District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Mysuru, Rashmi, Deputy Child Protection Officer, Mandya, Prasanna, ACWPO, SJPU, Mysuru, and Fr. Siju, Director, Don Bosco Makkalalaya, Mysuru, spoke on the occasion.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram briefed the stakeholders on their roles and responsibilities. Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme, shared the foster care concept and the procedures involved in the programme. Mr. Govind, PO NIC, Yadgiri, and Fr. Augustine, Principal, Don Bosco Yadgiri, were present. Sixty-three stakeholders from Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur and Yadgiri and fifty-eight from Mysuru, Chamarajanagara, and Mandya participated in the meeting.



School Development and Monitoring Committee Meeting

BOSCO Nilaya organized a School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) meeting at GMPS, Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru on February 27, 2024. Introduction of BOSCO and Nilaya centre was made. A glimpse of the educational activities for children in the underprivileged areas of Bengaluru was briefed by Ms. Bindu, Coordinator, BOSCO Nilaya, and Ms. Archana, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Nilaya. The roles and responsibilities of SDMC in the school were explained. SDMC members were asked to visit the school and regularly monitor children's activities and progress. Child protection mechanisms and child rights violations were explained. SDMC was motivated to teach children the importance of education and exam preparation. Eighteen SDMC members attended the meeting.



Review Meeting with Police Officials

The Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), BOSCO Bengaluru, held a review meeting with Mr. Girish, ACP, South and his team at Konanakunte Police Station, Bengaluru, on February 29, 2024. Mr. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU Project, briefed about the roles and responsibilities of the SJPU staff, POCSO Act

2012, Juvenile Justice Act 2015, procedures involved in the care and protection of children and children in conflict with the law, child rights, missing children, the different documents and forms to be maintained and the proceedings thereby. He brought to the attention of CWPOs the need to close the pending cases and

submit the charge sheet to the Observation Home. Mr. Girish, ACP, said that the Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPOs) adequately performed their roles and responsibilities and worked towards the child's best interests. He asked the CWPOs to seek the support of SJPU Staff when conducting programmes such as open house programme and awareness programmes. He checked the child-related SJPU documents. Mr. Papanna, Inspector, Ms. Mamata, Woman Head Constable (WHC) and thirty-six CWPOs of South Division took part in the review meeting.



Quarterly Evaluation at BOSCO Bengaluru

The third quarterly evaluation of BOSCO was held at BOSCO Yuvodaya, Bengaluru, on March 15 and 16, 2024. In his introductory remarks, Rev. Fr. Manohar, Rector, PIME, Pune, said, "Motivation, which is a force from within, drives the staff in BOSCO to dedicate themselves completely to the organization." He felt that this factor prompted the staff to nurture the potential of the children and youth, become role models, listen to them with intent, teach them resilience, celebrate diversity, encourage curiosity, and plant seeds of confidence.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO, Bengaluru, briefed the gathering about the organization's expectations from the staff. He shared a few points that are expected of staff in conforming to the systems in place at BOSCO. Ms. Savitha, Team Member, Child Safety Net (CSN) Project, BOSCO Bengaluru, honoured with the 'Sanmanitha Sadhaki' Award by the Labour Department, Government of Karnataka, on account of the International Women's Day Celebration, was felicitated during the inaugural programme.

The concerned coordinators presented quarterly reports of

projects and programmes of BOSCO's various components, areas, and centres. The events conducted during the quarter were evaluated. Forthcoming activities and campaigns to be implemented during the next quarter were discussed and planned. The new staff and student interns from TISS, Guwahati, were introduced to the group. A joint birthday celebration was held for all the staff who celebrated their birthdays between December 2023 and February 2024. All the managing directors and staff of the organization were present during the evaluation.



TRAINING

Capacity Building of Community Children

The Child Safety Net (CSN) team organized a Capacity Building program for the children of the SRS community in Bengaluru on January 5, 2024. The primary purpose of the training programme was to instil in the young knowledge regarding child matters, child rights, violation of child rights, and their legal aspects. The team selected ten school-going children from the community, intending to make them "Child Champions" or "Agents of Change." The selected children were given information about CHILDLINE (1098/112), the roles and responsibilities of CWC, JJB, SJPU, DCPU, CWPO, the Labour Department, etc. They were also informed about the various stakeholders they could support during their fight against the violation of child rights. The children pledged to put their knowledge into practice and stand up for the rights of the children.



Training on Counseling

The Human Resource Department, BOSCO Bengaluru, conducted a counselling training program for the staff at BOSCO Yuvodaya on January 24, 2024. The session was introduced by Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru. Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Director In-charge of BOSCO Sumanahalli and Program Manager, facilitated the sessions.

Fr. Joseph Dandavathi spoke in the context of BOSCO. Topics included the meaning of counselling, types of counselling, different therapies, and counselling content. Case studies were discussed in



groups, and mock counselling sessions were conducted, which gave staff a clear understanding of counselling. The interactive sessions with relevant examples were enlightening and helped staff reflect on their profession/ job role. The training ended with the concluding

remarks of Prashanth Murthy, HR Manager. Twenty-two staff and one student volunteer participated in the training program.

Child Rights Club Formation and Training

BOSCO Child Rights and Integrated Services Programme (CRISP) project organized a Child Rights Club (CRC) formation and training programme for the school children at Seva Ashrama, Srirampura and Seshadripuram High School, Bengaluru, Urban on January 18 and 24, 2024 respectively. Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO CRISP Project, addressed the gathering and briefed the audience about the purpose of the training program. Mr. Devraj, Coordinator, BOSCO CRISP Project covered various topics like leadership skills, child rights, the importance of child rights clubs and child-related issues. Anand and Uma, Team Members of the BOSCO CRISP Project, explained the process of formation of CRCs

and thereafter formed the group. Around a hundred and forty children attended the training.



Training Programme on First Aid

The BOSCO Health Care Department organized a first aid training programme for the organization's staff at BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru, on February 20, 2024. Mr. Augustin, the Resource

Person, facilitated the sessions, which included a theory class in the morning and practicals in the afternoon.

He started the session by explaining the structure and functions of the human body. Defining first aid, he said, it is an immediate treatment given to a person on an emergency basis. He explained the aim and the golden rules of first aid. He also briefed the gathering about the three types of artificial breathing. He gave information about various health problems like nasal bleeding, foreign bodies in the eyes, ears, mouth, and nose, and the immediate treatment that could be given. The session also included information on heart attacks, epilepsy, heat strokes and different types of fractures. Twenty-five BOSCO staff from the centres, areas, and projects attended the training.



Capacity Development Programme

BOSCO Bengaluru conducted a training programme for the Coordinators and Caretakers of its Child Care Institutions at BOSCO Mane on March 4, 2024. Mrs. Ramya, the Chief Executive Officer of We Live Foundation, an NGO working to rehabilitate Care Leavers of Childcare Institutions, facilitated the training programme.

The session commenced with Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, extending a warm welcome and introducing the resource person. Participants were grouped into pairs, and each person was tasked with describing their partner, including details such as their name, interests, and the challenges faced in the Child Care Institution (CCI). The session focused on enabling participants to understand how to support children in CCIs in facing the world and life challenges.

Mrs. Ramya initiated the discussion by explaining the four dimensions—physical, Emotional, Social, and Intellectual—that should be considered. Following this, participants were organized



into four groups, each assigned to identify problems children face under these headings. The session concluded with each group presenting the challenges faced by children. Feedback was gathered from participants to improve future sessions. Mrs. Mercelin proposed the vote of thanks. A total of twenty participants actively engaged in the session.

Training Organized for Child Welfare Police Officers

BOSCO Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) Project organized a training for the Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPOs) of Bengaluru South Division in collaboration with the District Child

Protection Unit (DCPU) at Hanumantha Nagar Police Station on March 5, 2024. Mr. Rohith C.J, Police Trainer, DCPU, and Mr. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU Project, conducted the

sessions on roles and responsibilities of SJPU, POCSO Act 2012, Juvenile Justice Act 2015, and the existing procedures for the children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law. The resource person spoke about the foster care concept and various forms to be maintained. Mr. Girish, Asst. Commissioner of Police (ACP), South Division, Bengaluru, exhorted the CWPOs to perform their duties properly and conform to the rules, regulations, and procedures. He requested that more such training happen regularly to enhance the capacities of the police force. He felt the need for professional counselling for the children in distress. Ms. Mamta, SO, assured the SJPU team of her support. Sixty CWPOs and other police officials were present in the training.



Orientation Programme

MSW first-year Students from Don Bosco College, T.C Palya, Bengaluru, visited BOSCO Bengaluru for the orientation programme on February 8, 2024. An orientation programme was organized for Social Work Students from Norway at BOSCO Yuvodaya on March 7, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, oriented the students on the history of BOSCO, its vision and mission, programmes, projects, activities, challenges, structure, and the systems in place through a PPT presentation and screening videos related to the organization.

The students showed interest in learning more about the BOSCO Foster Care Programme. They also asked questions about CWC and its procedures, the financial resources to run the organization, and the adoption process. They interacted with the children and staff of Yuvodaya. They also observed the CWC sitting and appreciated the work of BOSCO Bengaluru. Two students from Don Bosco College joined BOSCO for the fieldwork. Thirteen students, one teaching faculty from Don Bosco College, TC Palya, and fifteen from Norway participated in the orientation programme.



» DON BOSCO'S MONTH «

Inauguration of Don BOSCO's Month

Don Bosco's month was inaugurated at all the centres of BOSCO, in the presence of children and youth, from January 2 to 5, 2023. The representatives of each centre and area, along with their Directors, garlanded the statue of the Saint. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, exhorted the children and the youth at the centres to learn more about Don Bosco and imbibe at least one virtue of Don Bosco during the year. Fr. Uday, Youth Director, Bangalore Province, addressing the staff and the children

at BOSCO Mane, spoke about the life of Don Bosco and motivated them to follow the principles and values of Don Bosco.

The Directors of the centres gave the example of Don Bosco and his sacrifice and dedication towards youth and work, as well as his mission and vision. Children also performed cultural programmes. All the centre and area children and youth participated in the inauguration event.



BOSCO Annual Quiz Contest 2024

Don Bosco Annual Quiz competition for the children of BOSCO was held at BOSCO Mane on January 13, 2024. Sr. Vimala Rosy, Administrator and Principal, St. Teresa Institutions, Bengaluru, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Mane, Fr. John Peter, Administrator, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Asst Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, and Child Representatives Ms. Bhavani and Master Sadashiv inaugurated the programme.

Ten teams representing the different centres and areas – BOSCO Mane, Vikas, Vatsalya Bhavan, Yuvodaya, Nilaya, Nivas, Rainbow Home, Yuvakendra, Sumanahalli, and Yuva Spandana, participated in the competition. The competition was conducted by quiz masters Br. Lijo, Dream India Network, and Br. Ashley, BOSCO Bengaluru. It included a general round, individual round, general

knowledge round, find me round, puzzle round, flag round, buzzer round, rapid fire round, and deal or no deal round. Children from BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan emerged as the winners, and the children from BOSCO Vikas were the runners-up. Children from BOSCO Yuvakendra secured third place. Fifty children participated in the quiz contest.



Children's Sports Day Organized

BOSCO Bengaluru organized Children's Sports Day at BOSCO Sumanahalli on January 21, 2024. Delivering the keynote address, Fr. Prasad SDB, Director, BOSCO Vikas and Mane, said, "Success or failure, keep smiling and move forward towards reaching the goals set forth." Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, encouraged the children to use such opportunities to hone their talents and skills, gain happiness and spread happiness to others. The Olympic Torch was lit and borne by the leaders representing the centres and areas that BOSCO is associated with.

Addressing the children, the chief guest, Mr. Joseph Hoover, Former Sports Editor of Deccan Herald and Indian Express, said that he saw the spreading of Olympic spirit and the onset of the Olympic fever. Talking to the children, Fr. George Kannanthanam, Director of Sumanahalli Society, envisioned the representation of these children in the Olympics in fifteen to twenty years to come. Children and staff took an oath during the programme under the leadership of Satish, the children's representative.

Various sports events like running races (100 mts, 200 mts, 400

mts and relay), high jump, long jump, tug of war, shot-put, balloon race, sack race, frog race, lemon and spoon race, etc., were organized for sub juniors, juniors and seniors. The Directors and staff awarded the winners medals and certificates. Fr. Joseph Dandavathy, Programme Manager and Asst, Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli, Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan and Child Representatives, Visma and Prajwal were also present on the occasion. Around four hundred children from BOSCO centres and areas of intervention participated in the sports meet.

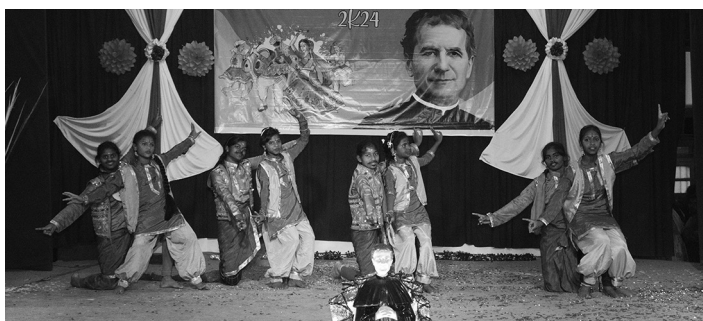


Inter-Centre Cultural Competitions

The Inter-Centre Cultural Competition for children was held at BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru, on January 28, 2024. Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care Programme welcomed the gathering. Sr. Jessy Merlin, Provincial, SMMI, stressed the day's importance and asked the contestants to utilize the opportunity given; as such, competitions would help build their confidence, courage, and leadership qualities. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, was happy to see the children reaching the final round of the competition. He felt that such competitions act as a therapy and pave the way for talent enhancement.

The competitions included group folk songs, dances, and mimes for the girls and boys separately. The judges were Ms. Shwetha, Amritha, and Bharat, as well as Choreographers and Dance Teachers. The judges were honoured with mementoes. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, Fr. Dominic Sequiera, Salesian In-charge, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Fr. John Peter, Administrator, BOSCO

Bengaluru, Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO Nilaya and Nivas, Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Asst. Director, BOSCO Sumanahalli and Programme Manager, Fr. Prasad, SDB Director, BOSCO Mane, Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra and Sr. Sheeba, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan were present for the event. Over a hundred children participated in the competition.





Grand Finale of Children's Cultural Fest

BOSCO, Bengaluru, organized the Grand Finale of Children's Cultural Fest at St. Teresa's Educational Institutions, Near Royan Circle, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru, on January 28, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO, Bengaluru, delivering the presidential address, said, "Loving children, working for their upliftment and standing by them made Don Bosco a special person. He was always there for the young at risk". Smt. S Manju, Chairperson, Member, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), appreciated BOSCO and felt it is a home for the homeless and the downtrodden. She said the children here are privileged enough to get the best education, values, skills, etc., to mould them into responsible citizens. Shri. Richard Louis, Actor, Comedian, and Special Guest, expressed that programmes

help children overcome inhibitions and exhibit their talents. Rev Sr. Vimala Rosy, Administrator and Principal, St. Teresa Institutions, Bengaluru, Mr. Kirloskar Satya, Comedian, and Mr. Manjunath, Musician, were present.

Richard Louis, Kirloskar Satya, and Manjunath enthralled the audience with their astounding comedy and jokes. A month-long celebration that included a quiz competition, children's sports day, and inter-centre cultural competitions for the children culminated with the feast of Don Bosco. The winners of the competitions were awarded during the valedictory function. Around four hundred children, friends, and well-wishers of BOSCO gathered on the occasion.



CELEBRATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS

New Year Celebration with Traffic Police Officials

On the occasion of the New Year, a group of Traffic police officials from the South division visited BOSCO Mane and Vatsalya Bhavan and celebrated the New Year with Children on January 1, 2024. Mr. Mahadev, ACP, South Traffic Division, spoke on the occasion. He said that children should study well and reach their goals. Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane, explained BOSCO and its objectives. The officials distributed new clothes, chocolates, and cake to the children. Around fifteen police officials and seventy-five children participated in the programme.



Traffic police officials from Chickpet Bengaluru celebrated the New Year with BOSCO Mane and Vikas children. Ms. Puttamma, ACP, Chickpet Traffic Division, Bengaluru, urged the children to utilize the facilities positively and become good societal leaders. Mr. Raju DL, Traffic Inspector, thanked BOSCO for allowing the officials to celebrate the new year with children. Fr. Prasad, Director, was present for the programme. Mr. Mallikarjun hosted the programme. Around sixteen Police officials and seventy-five children participated in the programme.



Campaign to make Gandhinagar a Child-labour Free Zone

The campaign to make Gandhinagar into a 'Child-labour Free Zone' was inaugurated by Labour Commissioner Dr. Gopala Krishna on January 11, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Joint Labour Commissioner, Dr. Ravikumar, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Mr. Thammanna, Fr. Jude Anand, Director, BOSCO Nilaya, and other officials from the Labour Department were present. A poster regarding the campaign was released. The Labour Officials, Directors of BOSCO, and staff participated in the rally at Gubbi Veeranna Road and Burma Bazaar. They visited commercial establishments and stuck stickers declaring that they were child-labour-free zones. The programme was organized by Fr. Joseph Danddavathi, Programme Manager, and the CSN Team of BOSCO Bengaluru.



National Day of the Girl Child



BOSCO Child Safety Net (CSN) Team participated in the National Day of the Girl Child celebration organized at Nagarbhavi Community on January 24, 2024. PN Basavaraj, Coordinator, BOSCO CSN Project, enlightened the community people and children on the importance of the day, the rights of the girl child, existing gender discrimination, social evils affecting girls, the importance of educating a girl child, the legal age at marriage and child helpline. He spoke about the survival of the girl child at all levels. Ms. Anupama, Senior Labour Inspector; Dr. Rekha, Namma Clinic BDA Complex Nagarabhavi; Mr. Durgappa, and Mr. Amaranath, Community Leaders, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru, were present at the celebration. Fifty children and forty community people attended the celebration.

Annual Past Pupils Day at Yuvakendra

The Annual Past Pupils Day was organized at BOSCO Yuvakendra for the BOSCO Alumni on January 26, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, expressed his happiness over past pupils coming in large numbers to the programme. He felt that their life stories would also motivate the centre's youth to come up in life and achieve success. Fr. George Kollashany, founder and member of BOSCO Bengaluru, also spoke on the occasion.

Past pupils shared their life experiences and relationship with BOSCO. They announced the registration of the newly formed 'Past Pupils' Sangha.' Mr. Basavaraj, a Past Pupil, is appointed president of the Sangha. The past pupils felicitated Fr. C. V. George. Fr. Dominic Sequeira, Salesian In-charge, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane and Vikas, and Sr. Silvy Lawrence, Director,



BOSCO Yuvakendra were present on the occasion. Thirty Alumni of BOSCO, twenty-five center youth, and staff attended the meeting.

Republic Day Celebration

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, and BOSCO Yuvodaya celebrated the 75th Republic Day along with the trainees of the centre and the open shelter children, respectively, on January 26, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru and Fr. Joseph Dandavathy, Asst. Director BOSCO Sumanahalli and Programme Manager welcomed the group and hoisted the flag. Everyone paid respect by saluting the flag. In his message to the youths, Fr. Joseph Dandavathy explained the history and importance of the day. Twenty-three trainees, children of the open shelter and staff were part of the celebrations.



Felicitation of the Stakeholders

BOSCO Yuvodaya organized a felicitation programme for the stakeholders in collaboration with CSN, ARSP, Bus stand, and Gandhinagar components of BOSCO on January 31, 2024. Fr Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru and Fr Johnson Kanjirakattu, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, emphasized the importance of collaboration with stakeholders and the help they were rendering for the success of programmes in the past year. Officials from various departments like BMTC, KSRTC, CWC, Railway Station, RPF, GRP, Police, Cleaners, Porters and Supervisors who support BOSCO regularly for rendering services for the welfare of children on the streets of Bengaluru took part in the program. The stakeholders shared their experiences. Mementos were presented to the stakeholders honouring them for their exemplary services towards the vulnerable and marginalized communities in the

society. Officials from various departments appreciated BOSCO for their excellent work and promised their collaboration and support in the future. Forty stakeholders were present for the programme.



International Women's Day Celebration

BOSCO Yuvakendra celebrated International Women's Day at the centre by inviting the women of the neighbouring communities on March 18, 2024. Sr. Silvy, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, spoke about the importance of women in society, their achievements, contributions, and their role as mothers, wives, and daughters. Women were encouraged to talk, and games were organized for them. Thirty-four community women participated in the events.

On account of International Women's Day, the BOSCO Child Safety Net (CSN) Team conducted awareness programmes for the people of Chikkabasti and Doddabasti communities and BBMP Pourakarmikaru at Ward No. 127, Mudalapalya, on March 13 and 18, 2024. The team gave information on women's rights, powers, human rights, gender equality, and child-related laws and issues. Twenty men and eighteen women of Chikkabasti and Doddabasti communities and thirty-two Pourakarmikas attended the programmes.

The Directors and staff of BOSCO Yuvodaya celebrated Women's Day at the centre on March 22, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director of BOSCO Bengaluru, spoke about women's empowerment and the role of women in society. Rev. Fr. Johnson, Director of BOSCO Yuvodaya, and Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Programme Manager, were also present on the occasion. All the women staff were honoured with mementoes and encouraged to speak about themselves.

BOSCO Nivas celebrated Women's Day with women from the community and mothers of children attending tuition classes at the centre on March 23, 2024. Fr Jude Anand, Director of BOSCO Nivas, spoke about the challenges faced by women in their day-to-day lives. Party games were organized for all the mothers, and prizes were distributed. Around a hundred women and girls participated in the Women's Day Celebration.



Holi Celebration

The staff and trainees of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, celebrated Holi, the festival of colours, at the centre on March 22, 2023. The significance of the festival was briefed. The youth were told to use colours and water healthily, respecting the freedom of one another. The place was set ready for the shower bath. Suitable songs were played, and the trainees made the maximum use of the time and opportunity provided to them by dancing and putting colours on their friends. This helped build team spirit and unity among the youth. Twenty-four trainees participated in the celebration.



SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

BOSCO Essay Writing Competition 2023-24

BOSCO Bengaluru organized the 6th Annual Essay Writing Competition for college and university students from October to January 2023-24. Around 140 colleges/universities from across India were contacted. Undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students from various disciplines, such as management, social work, sociology, media, economics, engineering, law, commerce, psychology, and life sciences, participated in the competition. This year's competition aimed to create a platform highlighting rarely discussed issues in education, society, and culture, enabling students to explore and challenge predefined mindsets to form their perspectives. Four topics were chosen for the competition – 'The stigma surrounding mental health issues in children: Breaking the silence,' 'Rising incidence of depression among teens – causes and changes that can be made,' 'Increasing gadget dependency and adolescent mental health,' 'Education beyond classrooms: Is alternative education a viable option in India?'

The essays were judged by an external panel of judges on the criteria of Originality of Content, Creativity, Clarity of Expression, Adherence to Theme, and Writing Style, and the first prize was

awarded to Bicky Boro from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. The second place was secured by Nethra Aparna from St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bengaluru, and the third prize was won by Ashwath Chelladurai from the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. The BOSCO Essay Writing Competition 2023-24 culminated on the promise of more profound conviction and honest reflection about issues that need to be brought from behind the shadow of societal prejudice to the forefront of society's consciousness and commitment.



Staff Sports Day at BOSCO Sumanahalli

A Sports Day—Sportacular 2K24 for BOSCO staff was organized at BOSCO Sumanahalli, Bengaluru, on March 3, 2024. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director of BOSCO Bengaluru, said, "It is a special day for the staff of BOSCO. Winning is not important, but participation is." He also thanked the BOSCO Nilaya team for organizing the event.

The staff was divided into four teams: BOSCO Lions, BOSCO Tigers, BOSCO Pandas, and BOSCO Bulls. The morning session included Bombing the City, 4X100 mts relay, throw ball for the

female staff, and volleyball and cricket knockout matches for the male staff. In the afternoon, blanket throw ball and musical chairs for the lady staff, cricket finale and table tennis for the male staff, and tug of war for both groups were organized. The day concluded with the distribution of trophies and prizes. Mr. Joseph Raj K, Coordinator, BOSCO CRISP Project, welcomed the gathering, and Fr. Anand, Director, BOSCO Nilaya, Nivas, and Yuvaspandana, proposed the vote of thanks. The Directors, Brothers, and hundred and nineteen staff of BOSCO participated in the event.





Certificate Distribution at BOSCO Mane

BOSCO Mane Computer Training organized a certificate distribution program for students who completed a three-month Computer Basics and Tally training course on March 17, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, delivered the keynote address and shared insights about BOSCO with the trainees. He cited the achievements and success stories of past trainees who have benefited from BOSCO Mane's computer training.

Addressing the trainees, Fr. Prasad, Director, BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru, emphasized the importance of technology in career and education. He shared with the trainees the importance of technology and security in the digital domain, such as cyber security,

and how to protect themselves and their data online. Fifty-one trainees completed the computer course, and thirty-three trainees were present on this occasion.



Certificates Awarded

BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan distributed certificates to the students who had completed the skill training courses from the centre, on March 27, 2024. Addressing the trainees, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, provided information on BOSCO and its activities and urged the trainers to refer boys for the other skill trades available in BOSCO. He congratulated the trainees

for completing the Tailoring and Beautician courses and explained the importance of receiving the certificate. Students shared their experiences associating with BOSCO and expressed gratitude toward the organization. Sixteen trainees of the tailoring course and thirteen trainees of the beautician course received the course completion certificate.



Karate Belt Grading Exam

Mr. Marilinga, a Karate Instructor, organized the Karate Belt Grading Exam in collaboration with BOSCO Nilaya at BOSCO Yuvaspandana on March 24, 2024. Children performed exercises and warm-ups. The belt exam was conducted in the presence of the Karate Instructors. Belts and certificates were distributed to all the children. Seventeen children were promoted to the orange belt, and thirty-nine were promoted to the yellow belt.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, was present on the day. Fifty-six children, twenty-six girls and thirty boys, from Ramanna Garden, Vinobhanagara, Vyayam Shaala, Cement Huts, and Ransinghpete participated. Sixty-nine children from BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Rainbow Home, and Yuvakendra also attended.





HEALTH CAMPS

Medical Camps

BOSCO Yuvodaya, in coordination with the BOSCO Health Care Department, organized a general check-up for the children residing in the centre on January 13, February 29 and March 28, 2024. Dr. Abraham M.D, Senior Consultant, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru, conducted the camp. He checked the children's height, weight, temperature, and BP. Around hundred children availed of the services of the camp.

BOSCO Yuvakendra conducted medical camps for the centre's inmates on January 31 and March 26, 2024. Dr Prajwal, Namma Clinic, BBMP, and Dr. Abraham, St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru, checked all the youth. Children were checked for height, weight, blood pressure, and pulse. They were individually assessed for their medical needs, and medicines were prescribed. One boy was referred to a Dentist, one boy was referred to a Surgeon, three boys were referred to an ENT specialist, and one boy was referred to an Orthopedic doctor for further treatment. Twenty-eight boys benefitted from the camp.

A general health check-up was organized for the girls of BOSCO Rainbow Home by the BOSCO Health Care Department on February 24, 2024. The team, comprising Dr. Abraham, Ms. Uma Rai, Social Worker, and others from St. Martha's Hospital, Bengaluru, checked the height, weight, BP, pulse rate and temperature of the children in the centre. Eye screening was also done. The doctor opined that the majority of the children were healthy. All the girls were administered Vitamin A and deworming tablets. Fifty-three girls availed the benefits of the general health check-up.

The BOSCO Health Care Department, in collaboration with Dr. Abraham, St. Martha's Hospital, organized the health camp for the trainees of the BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre on March 27, 2024. A few boys were referred to Minto Hospital for vision problems; a few were diagnosed with skin problems, dental problems, and anemia. The doctor expressed that a few boys were aggressive and needed consistent care and support through counselling. Twenty-two boys benefitted from the camp.





» OTHER ACTIVITIES «

Picnic to Talakadu

The trainees and staff of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, went on a day out to Talakadu, Mysore, on January 29, 2024. The trainees played in the water to their hearts' content. Music and entertainment were provided throughout the journey. It was an opportunity to relax and refresh, a pleasant change. Twenty-seven trainees and ten staff members participated in the picnic.



CSR Teams Visit BOSCO Bengaluru

In coordination with Nirmala of the BOSCO Resource Mobilization Team, Accenture, Bengaluru, they visited Vatsalya Bhavan on January 26, 2024. They celebrated Secret Santa with the children. The team collected the girls' wish lists and distributed the gifts to them accordingly. They also sponsored lunch for the children. The children were happy to receive the gifts and thanked the sponsors for the gifts and the lunch. Around eighty girls received the gifts.

Mindful, an all-women startup company, visited BOSCO Rainbow Home on January 29, 2024, and distributed groceries to the center. The visiting team organized activities like games, dance, and crafts for the children and provided snacks. The team has promised to support the education of at least ten to fifteen children at the center in the coming days. Around sixty children were present during the team's visit.



Exposure Visits

BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, organized an exposure visit for the Electrical, Carpentry, and Welding Unit trainees to A R Industries, Magadi Road, Bengaluru, on February 27, 2024. The visit was organized to provide practical knowledge about the workplaces and opportunities in the trade they are being trained in. Mr. Rohit, one of the industry staff, took the trainees and staff to different units like Electrical, Welding, and Carpentry.

He explained about the work and policies of their company. Twelve trainees and two staff were a part of this exposure.

The trainees of the Bakery unit of BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre were taken to two units of Amma's Pastries at Kothanur as part of the exposure visit on March 13, 2024, to introduce to them the opportunities available in the bakery setting. The trainees

went around the production unit and were exposed to the various methods and procedures of baking. They also visited the shop to understand the nuances of sales and marketing. They also interacted with the past pupils of BOSCO employed in the units. Six trainees

and Mr. Antony Dass, Instructor, Bakery Unit, Br. Albin and Mary Pramila, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre visited the bakery.



Life Skill Session on Creative Thinking

Hotel Taj, Bengaluru, as part of their CSR activity, organized a life skill session on 'Creative Thinking' for the youths of BOSCO Yuvakendra on February 27, 2024. Mr. Tushar, Head, Hotel Taj, gave a motivational talk on developing life skills, developing concentration and being passionate about the work that one does. He exhorted the youths to recognize their potentialities, harbor and hone them. He spoke about their life skill training on housekeeping and encouraged youth to take it. The youths were divided into groups and were asked to paint the pictures given to them. The heads and staff of the Taj Hotels from Yeshwanthpur, MG Road, West End, White field and Residency Road, Bengaluru were present. Twenty-two youths participated in the session.



School Children Visit Police Station



BOSCO Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) team arranged an exposure visit for the children of KPS School to Govindaraja Nagar Police Station to create awareness about SJPU roles and responsibilities, child rights and child protection, JJ Act rules and amendments on February 22, 2024. Mr. Ramaswamy, Coordinator, BOSCO SJPU Project, explained the safety precautions for the children, the dangers of substance abuse, and the involvement of children in criminal and petty cases with examples. Mr. Anil Kumar, Police Inspector, Govindraj Police Station, explained the operation of the police station. He ensured children's safety and prompted them to concentrate on their studies, reach their goals, and not fall prey to all the bad habits. Thirty children and two teachers were a part of the exposure visit.

Sanmanitha Sadhaki

Ms. B S Savitha, a Team Member of the Child Safety Net (CSN) Project at BOSCO Bengaluru, was honoured with the 'Sanmanitha Sadhaki' Award by the Labour Department, Government of Karnataka, on March 12, 2024, as part of the International Women's Day Celebration. The award was conferred in recognition of her contribution to curbing the menace of child labour in Bengaluru.



SUCCESS STORY

Resilience Unleashed: Journey from Uncertainty to World of Taste

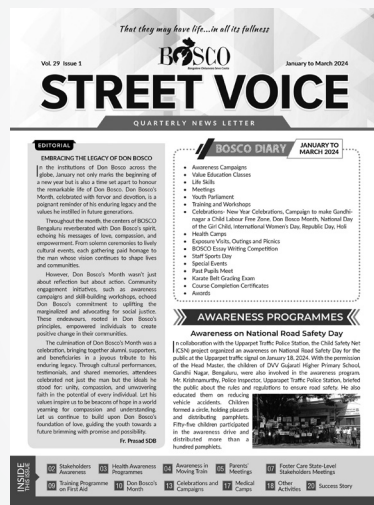
Mahesh (Name Changed), an 18-year-old orphan from Davangere, faced significant challenges finding direction and motivation for skill training. Don Bosco Davangere referred him to BOSCO Sumanahalli for skill training, but initially, he showed little interest, expressing a desire only for cricket coaching. Despite these challenges, Mahesh's story is one of resilience and transformation.

Mahesh's lack of family support and changing interests challenged his engagement in the skill training programme. Initially, he hesitated to participate and lacked the motivation to learn a new skill. His emotional stability was poor, and he struggled to maintain a clear vision for his future. BOSCO Sumanahalli intervened by providing Mahesh with consistent mentorship and guidance. Recognizing his interest in cricket, they arranged for him to coach at a nearby school. However, they also encouraged him to consider bakery skill training, highlighting the success stories of other youths who had been trained and successfully employed. Regular motivational sessions and emotional support helped him stay engaged in the programme.

Despite initially expressing interest in cricket coaching, Mahesh's interests evolved. After three months of training, he expressed a newfound interest in football. He received daily sessions throughout this process to keep him motivated and emotionally stable. His counsellors and the centre's director played pivotal roles in his journey, providing constant guidance and support. Mahesh completed the bakery skill training and is now employed at Amma Pastries, Kothanur Branch. His transformation is evident not only in his acquired baking skills but also in his improved behaviour and stability.

From a state of disturbance and uncertainty, he has emerged as a focused and job-ready individual. Mahesh's story exemplifies the transformative impact of skill training and mentorship on vulnerable youth. Despite facing initial challenges and uncertainties, he discovered his potential and secured meaningful employment. His journey exemplifies how empowering youth through skill development can change lives and build a brighter future.

“**IN EVERY YOUNG PERSON, GOODNESS IS ACCESSIBLE, AND IT IS THE PRIMARY DUTY OF THE EDUCATOR TO DISCOVER THAT SENSITIVE CORD OF THE HEART TO DRAW OUT THE BEST IN THE YOUNG PERSON.**”
DON BOSCO



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