

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



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# STREET VOICE

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

## EDITORIAL

### World Children's Day: Celebrating and Protecting Our Future

Each year, on November 20, the world comes together to celebrate World Children's Day, a day dedicated to promoting the rights, well-being, and education of children everywhere. The origins of World Children's Day date back to 1954 when it was established by the United Nations General Assembly. The date is significant as it aligns with the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. As we reflect on the current state of children's well-being globally, it's essential to recognize both the progress made and the challenges that remain. In many parts of the world, children continue to face insurmountable odds—conflict, poverty, discrimination, and climate change all threaten their futures highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to safeguard children's rights.

World Children's Day calls on individuals and organizations to take action, whether through advocacy, volunteering, or simply showing kindness and respect to children in our communities. The day is also an opportunity to spotlight innovative solutions that have emerged to address these challenges, ranging from educational initiatives to mental health programs. Moreover, this day emphasizes the importance of amplifying children's voices empowering them to be active participants in their communities. Engaging children in meaningful ways cultivates a sense of responsibility and nurtures the leaders of tomorrow.

As we observe World Children's Day, let us remember that every child deserves a chance to thrive. There is much work to be done, and it requires the collective efforts of all sectors of society—government, non-profit organizations, businesses, and families. By reaffirming our commitment to children, we are not just protecting their rights; we are investing in the sustainability and progress of our societies. This World Children's Day, let us pledge to champion the cause of every child. Let's strive to build a world where all children can live free from fear and want, where they can learn, grow, and truly be heard. Together, we can make a difference...

Fr. KJ Joseph SDB

## BOSCO DIARY

October to December 2024

- Awareness Campaigns
- Value Education Classes
- Life Skills
- Meetings
- Youth Parliament
- Training and Workshops
- Celebrations and Campaigns: Gandhi Jayanthi, International Day of the Girl Child, World Food Day, Diwali Celebrations, Kannada Rajyotsava, Children's Day, Child Rights Week, Celebration of Indian Constitution Day, International Human Rights Day, International Migrants Day, Christmas Celebrations
- Dasara Camps
- Health Camps and Eye Screening Camps
- Exposure Visits
- Certificate Distribution
- Staff Picnic

## AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

### Awareness in the Communities

Four awareness programmes was organized in the intervention areas of ARSP, Nilaya and Magadi Road, Bengaluru, during the quarter. The teams provided information on child rights, child protection, JJ Act, and children involved in crimes. They cautioned the people about child trafficking, child abuse, children found begging and child labour. Over five hundred community people were reached out to through these programmes.



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11 World Food Day Celebrated

12 Kannada Rajyotsava

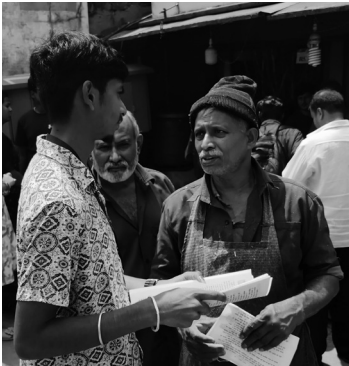
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## Awareness in Public Areas



**B**OSCO ARSP, Bus Stand, Gandhi Nagar and Nilaya teams conducted twenty-two awareness programmes to the public and the passengers in railway stations, bus stands, sub-ways, markets creating awareness about child rights, child related acts, issues of children including missing children, runaway children, children into

begging, child marriages, child labour and so on during October, November and December, 2024. The teams also informed the public about the child help line - 1098/112 and the services rendered by BOSCO. Pamphlets were distributed to them. More than thousand passengers and public benefited by the programmes.

## Awareness for the Parents

**B**OSCO Yuvodaya organized nineteen awareness sessions for the parents who visited the centre during the CWC sittings in the quarter. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya, and Ms. Vinnarasi, Team Member addressed the parents and stressed the importance of creating a supportive environment for the development of children at home. They urged parents to ensure their children get an education as it is their right. The parents were made aware of the rights of the children and the various laws and acts related to children. Group counselling was also done for the parents during the programmes. More than a hundred parents were reached out to through these programmes.



## Health Awareness Programme

**F**acilitators from St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru conducted a health awareness programme for the children of BOSCO Vikas, Mane and Vatsalya Bhavan on November 18, 2024 at the centre. Mr. Prakash introduced the topic - safe touch and unsafe touch. The discussion transitioned to age-appropriate matters, addressing the natural curiosity arising from hormonal changes. This segment aimed to nurture informed and responsible behavior.



The session also focused on the significance of healthy hygienic practices in daily life. Mr. Sachin highlighted the connection between attentive listening and adopting positive habits, urging

the children to follow hygienic routines diligently to prevent future health issues. Sixty-five children attended the session.

### School Awareness

Seven awareness programmes were organized by the BOSCO Child Safety Net and Gandhi Nagar teams at various schools in Bengaluru Urban and Rural during the quarter. The teams spoke about child rights, child laws, children in need of care and protection,



and children in conflict with the law reinforcing the principle of gender equality. They sought the support of the school authorities and children in identifying and referring children in distress. Video on POCSO was screened. Around Seven hundred children attended the sessions.

### Foster Care Awareness

BOSCO Foster Care Programme organized five awareness sessions on the concept of foster care for the SHG Members, Anganwadi Teachers, Mothers, PRI Members, and Primary School Teachers of Bengaluru Rural during the last quarter. Awareness programmes aimed at highlighting and promoting adoption during November 2024 on account of International Adoption Month being observed. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme introduced Foster Care to the participants. He highlighted the importance of alternative family care for those children deprived of a family. He explained in detail the foster care procedures and the legalities involved. He also sought the support of the stakeholders in disseminating



information related to foster care to a large population so that it helped in the identification of prospective foster care parents and children in need of a family. Over a two hundred stakeholders benefited from the programmes.

### Awareness Programme for the Stakeholders

The outreach team working in Gandhi Nagar area, Magadi Road, Bus Stand, Nivas and CSN Teams conducted six awareness programmes on child rights and child protection mechanisms for the Pourakarmikas, Auto Drivers and Cleaning Staff. The teams enlightened the groups of the child laws and Acts, issues related to children, child helpline, enrolling and re-enrolling the school dropouts. The teams briefed about BOSCO and its services with a special mention of the vocational trades for the youth. They also requested the stakeholders to support BOSCO in the rescue and rehabilitation of the children at risk. Pamphlets were distributed to over two hundred stakeholders.





## MEETINGS

### Adolescent Girls' Meetings



**B**OSCO Nilaya, CRISP and Nivas conducted meetings with adolescent girls at various schools in their intervention areas during the said quarter. The teams took sessions on menstrual and personal hygiene. With demonstrations, they explained safe and

unsafe touch and also explained about Girls safety. Later videos on girls' safety and menstrual cycle were shown. Girls were motivated to maintain personal hygiene. More than hundred girls participated in the meetings.

### Parents' Meetings



**P**arents' Meeting was organized at BOSCO Mane on October 02, 2024. Fr. G. Kollashani shared his experiences with the parents. Fr. KJ Joseph, Director, BOSCO Mane, spoke about parents' role and responsibilities after taking the child home for the vacation. He expressed that children need to feel secure and accepted by their parents. A child's self-esteem is largely developed within the family, and is influenced by the family's perceptions of itself. Ms. Usha Nayak, Coordinator, BOSCO Mane discussed the roles and responsibilities of the parents; documents required to be maintained at the centre and available government schemes and facilities for the children. Forty-eight parents of the children residing BOSCO Mane and Vikas attended the meeting from BOSCO Mane and took

their children home for vacation. BOSCO Nilaya organized a meeting for the parents of the children attending tuition classes in Rajgopal Garden on November 13, 2024. Bhagyalakshmi, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Nilaya briefed about BOSCO and its activities. She enlightened them with the information on Government schemes, importance of education and regularity of children to tuition classes, hostel placements, skill training and the growing menace of drug and substance abuse in the community. Parents were happy to see some positive changes in the academic performance of their wards. They enquired about the procedures involved in availing government schemes. Fifteen parents attended the meeting.

## NGO Networking Meeting for Civil Society Organizations

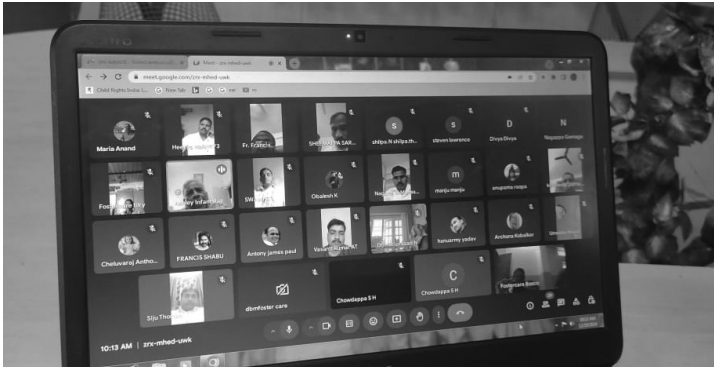
**B**OSCO Bengaluru organized an NGO Networking Meeting for the Civil Society Organizations at BOSCO Yuvodaya on December 17, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru spoke about networking and its importance, areas of networking and potential partners, benefits and challenges of networking and how networking could help NGOs in advocacy efforts. Mrs. Ramya, We Live Foundation, focused on After Care and the challenges faced in transitioning youth after 18 years. Mr. Shivamallu, State Coordinator, BOSCO Foster Care explained the foster care system for children in need care and protection, especially those over six years old or separated from their parents for over a year. Mr. John Joshua, Coordinator, BOSCO Home Link, presented an overview of the Homelink DIGI system, its working, mobile app, features, and its importance for NGOs in managing documentation.

Challenges faced by the NGOs regarding receiving funds from the Government, excessive restrictions, rules and demands by the DCPU, difficulty in renewal of CCI registration, lack of proper



documentation for children referred by CWC, making it hard to admit children to CCIs, bribe demands during police verification, etc. were discussed. Way forward was put forth based on the suggestions for improving collaboration and coordination. Twenty-four representatives from seventeen NGOs participated in the networking meeting.

## Foster Care Virtual Meeting



**T**he Foster Care Virtual Meeting via Google Duo Meet was held at BOSCO Mane on December 19, 2024 with the District Directors and Social Mobilizers. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director of BOSCO, informed that an MOU had been signed between the ICPS

Director and BOSCO regarding the implementation of Foster Care Programme in Karnataka, the copy of which would be shared with all the twenty districts. He elaborated the activities to be taken up with the respective DCPUs in the districts. He stressed the need for legalizing the children in Foster Care for adoption. There were discussions on building rapport with the new CWC members, printing of new IEC materials, etc.

Shivamallu, Coordinator, Foster Care said that in some districts staff were not clear with the JJ Act formats, there is a need to focus more on the placement and CWC follow up of children, reports and documents to be updated and Planning and Monitoring Meeting to be conducted in January 2025. Shivamallu welcomed the participants and Mr. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, Foster Care Programme, Bengaluru Rural proposed the vote of thanks. There were thirty-seven members including the Directors and Social Mobilizers in the meeting.

## TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

### Healing Connections

**B**OSCO Bengaluru organized a counselling training session for the staff at BOSCO Sumanahalli on October 1, 2024. Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra, Fr. Joe Konkel, SDB, Psychologist and Ms. Rashmi, Therapist conducted the counselling session-Healing Connections. The session began with a questionnaire designed to identify the child's internal wounds and provided a checklist for possible caregivers. Fr. Joseph Dandavathi emphasized the value of counseling materials, and staff were given the opportunity to participate in the role plays. Fr. Joe Konkel, and



Ms. Rashmi provided a hands-on training on Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) - a therapy tapping the nervous system to release tension, anxiety, pain, and other emotions and Integrated Group Therapy Protocol (IGTP). The primary goal of this therapy is to eliminate childhood trauma barriers. Twenty staff participated in the training programme.

## Orientation for Nursing Students



A group of nursing students from Victoria Hospital visited BOSCO Mane on October 24, 2024. Ms. Usha Nayak, Coordinator, BOSCO Mane explained the admission criteria for a child to the organization as per the JJ Act, functioning of the Bridge course, formal education of school going children, extra curricular activities taken up for the children, etc in BOSCO Mane and Vikas. She also mentioned about functioning of the other centers of BOSCO.

Fr. KJ Joseph gave a picture of BOSCO, its history, vision, mission, services rendered by BOSCO, its centres, JJ Act, CNCP and CCL children. A video, 'BOSCO a Glance' was screened to get a clear picture of BOSCO. Around fifty students got the orientation.

## Refresher Training Programme

A Refresher Training Programme was conducted at BOSCO Yuvodaya for the staff of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) of BOSCO on October 31, 2024. The programme aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of staff members involved child care and support. The session led by Ms. Usha from NIMHANS emphasized the importance of professionalism in child care. She highlighted the distinction between 'listening' and 'hearing' and discussed the value of acceptance, effective communication, maintaining a non-judgmental approach and the importance of recognizing individual roles within a team. Mr. Santhosh Kumar from Tumkur University emphasized self-love and managing emotional temperament and encouraged staff to perform a SWOT analysis for self-improvement. He also stressed the importance of recognizing both verbal and non-verbal communication from children to foster a deeper connection and understanding.

Fr. Varghese Pallipuram explained the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) within the CCIs, the importance of consistency



and clarity in daily operations. Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra explored the psychological aspects of child development through Erik Erikson's Theory of Psycho-social Development helping the staff develop an understanding of different developmental stages, enabling them to better address the emotional and psychological needs of children. Thirty-three staff of the CCIs attended the training.

## Orientation Programme

First year MSW Students from Bengaluru City University visited BOSCO for an orientation on November 21, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram Executive Director oriented the group on BOSCO, its activities, history of BOSCO, its vision and mission, programmes and projects.

The students were given an introduction about the Foster Care Project by Mr. Hanumantha Team Member, Foster Care Programme. Students clarified their doubts regarding projects, programmes, rescue operations, identification of children, difficulties in tracing parents and challenges in counseling. They showed interest in taking up their concurrent fieldwork in BOSCO. Students interacted with open shelter children and staff. Faculties of Bengaluru City University expressed to have an MOU with BOSCO Bengaluru and invited us



for the campus recruitment. This orientation visit helped the students to choose their specialization during their MSW studies. Fifty students and two teaching faculties were a part of the orientation.

## Training for School Teachers

Training was organized for the primary school teachers at BRC Centre, Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural on December 21, 2024 to make them aware of foster care concept and alternative family care for those children deprived of a family. Mr. Obalesh, Social Mobilizer, BOSCO Foster Care Programme briefed about the organization, foster care and adoption. He explained the process of adoption and placing children in foster care. He sought their help in identifying children who can be placed in foster care and also the potential parents who are willing to foster children in need of care and protection. Mr. Paramesh, C R P was present in the programme. Forty primary school teachers attended the training.



## OUTINGS

### Picnics Organized for the Children



The children of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan were taken to Ruppis Resort, Tavarekere, Bengaluru on November 11, 2024. BOSCO Rainbow organized an outing to Hampi during October 2024. Centre children of BOSCO Vikas visited Talakadu during the Dasara Vacations. As part of the Dasara camp youths of BOSCO Sumanahlli

watched a movies in a theatre. Children of Nivas, Nilaya and Yuvaspandana had an exposure visit to Vishweshwaraiah Industrial and Technological Museum during November and December 30, 2024. BOSCO Yuvakendra youth visited Isha Foundation and Bengaluru International Airport during December, 2024.

### Staff Picnic to Uttara Kannada



BOSCO, Bengaluru organized two-day picnic to Gokarna, Murudeshwar, Yana and nearby places for the staff in two batches during the third and fourth week of November 2024. Away from the busy work schedule, the staff had a chance to relax and enjoy to their heart's content at the beaches, green stretches in Yana, temples at Gokarna and Murudeshwar, Mangroves, etc. There

were boating, party games, camp fire, entertainment activities, etc. arranged for the staff. Irrespective of age, professional hierarchy or experiences, the mood of recreation was contagious. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, Fr. KJ Joseph, Fr. Johnson, Fr. John Peter and Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Directors, BOSCO Bengaluru, were present for the picnic.

## Value Education on Forgiveness

A value education class was held for the resident girls of BOSCO Rainbow Home on October 6, 2024 to assist them in developing the virtue of forgiveness and enhance their social and emotional learning abilities and to strengthen healthy relationships through the process of forgiveness and restore the individual's sense of security and inner strength. Mr. Melvyn, Benefactor and Volunteer from Australia motivated the girls to have moral values by removing their hurt, pain, resentment and anger. He guided the girls to relive from the heavy load of resentment and revenge, which gives them a sense of empowerment. Thirty-two participated in the class.



## Positive Thinking



A life skill session on Positive Thinking was organized for the children of BOSCO Rainbow Home on October 6, 2024 at the centre to impart the knowledge and abilities in them and prepare them for a more fulfilling, thriving, and healthy life and also to assist children in realizing their full potential, developing solid connections, and concentrating on solutions rather than problems. Twenty-two girls attended the session.

## E-commerce and Banking Session

Students from Christ University conducted a session on E-Commerce and Banking for the children of BOSCO Vikas on October 17, 2024 to educate them about banking and the concept of E-Commerce. The student volunteers explained in detail the concepts of E-Commerce and Banking, their meaning, their importance, different services and the different Apps available. Forty children were introduced to the banking sector.



## Play Session by M S Ramaiah College Students



A play session was organized for the children of BOSCO Vikas and Mane by M S Ramaiah students on October 20, 2024 to provide opportunities for the children to develop confidence, creativity and social skills. They conducted a game of charades, an action train activity and song performances. The children were then invited to perform dialogues, songs, or punchlines, either from movies or of their own. The programme concluded with the distribution of origami pen stands made by the volunteers, along with some chocolates. Seventy-three children took part in the play session.



## Session on Gender Inequality

Student volunteers from Kerala conducted a session on 'Gender Inequality' for the children of BOSCO Vikas on October 20, 2024. Jilsa and Basila, BSW Students, Don Bosco College, Sultanbathery explained about the concept of gender, gender identity, and its significance. A short film titled Juice was then shown to the group. Based on the film topics such as domestic violence, gender inequality, emotional abuse etc. were discussed. Forty children participated in the session.



## Life Skill on 'Effective Communication'



On November 3, 2024, Sr. Mary Shamala, Counsellor, BOSCO Rainbow Home engaged the children of BOSCO Rainbow Home on a life skill, 'Effective Communication.' Activities such as producing objects with effective team communication and communicating with members non-verbally kicked off the programme. Children learned how to communicate more effectively both verbally and non-verbally, using many forms of communication. Twenty-two children benefited from this session.

## HEALTH CAMPS

### Medical Camps Organized

A medical camp was organized for the trainees of the Beautician and Tailoring Courses of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan on October 29, 2024 in collaboration with TCM Royan Hospital, Chamarajpet. Dr. Sr. Niveditha and Team from T.C.M Royan Hospital conducted the camp. They did the general check up of the trainees and gave awareness on Thyroid health as it affects many bodily functions, from metabolism and energy levels to mood and heart health. Thyroid tests help identify any thyroid dysfunction early on, allowing for proper management. Blood samples were collected for conducting thyroid test. Sixty trainees attended the camp.

To track the physical health of the children of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, a general health checkup was organized at the centre on October 31, 2024. The children's height, weight, and blood pressure were measured by Dr. Abraham. The doctor examined each child individually and recommended that they be given vegetables and iron and vitamin supplements. Sixty children benefited from the camp.



### Eye Screening Camps Organized

BOSCO Health Care Department and Gandhi Nagar Team in collaboration with Shraddha Eye Care Trust conducted free eye check up and cataract surgery camp at Annamma colony for the children attending tuition classes and the community people on November 24, 2024. Dr. Vittal and Dr. Ajay conducted the camp. seven community members were referred for cataract surgery following the eye check-ups, twelve community members were

given reading glasses, forty community members underwent a general eye check-up and eight community members were referred to eye hospital for further medical attention. A total of seventy-six community people and children availed the services of the camp.

CSN Team and BOSCO Health Care Department organized an eye camp for the tuition children and GHPS children of Veerabhadragudda on November 26, 2024. The camp was



conducted by The Eye Foundation, Bengaluru. Four children were referred for further check up and treatment. A total of hundred and

twelve children, four parents and three school staff were benefited by the eye camp.

## CELEBRATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS

### Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration



**B**OSCO Vikas, Mane, Nivas, Yuvakendra and the team working in Magadi Road area celebrated the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2024 at the BOSCO Centres and areas. The staff spoke about the life of Mahatma Gandhi. The Directors garlanded the photos of Gandhiji and gave a message to the children. The celebration concluded with the National Anthem. Cultural programmes were organized by the children. School bags

were distributed to the tuition children. Children of St. Xavier's School took up shramadaan and an awareness rally around the school premises. Shri. BTS, Nagaraj, Councilor; Mr. Devendran and Mr. Dayalan, Well-wishers of BOSCO were felicitated on the occasion. Centre, area and St. Xavier's School children participated in the celebration.

### BOSCO Bengaluru Celebrated International Day of the Girl Child

**B**OSCO, Bengaluru organized a programme on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child at BOSCO Rainbow Home, Wilson, Bengaluru, on October 11, 2024. The celebration was centered on the theme, "Elevating Girls' Voices for Sustainable Development".

The programme included a rally creating awareness with a signature campaign. The children staged a skit signifying the importance of girl child. Flagging off the rally, the Chief Guest, Smt. Priyanka Upendra, Actress, Kannada film industry said, "Even though the world is heading towards growth and development, crime against women and girls are still on the rise. I request all the girls to lay emphasis on mind, body and soul, become strong and concentrate on your future. Education is the powerful tool through which you gain knowledge, confidence, reach your goals and financial freedom." Delivering the keynote address, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram exhorted that everyone strives towards gender equality and ensure justice

to girl children. Shri. Siddaraju, Asst. Sub Inspector, Traffic Police Station, Shri Ambareesh, RTI, BBMP Advisor, Ms. Manjula Ullal, City Desk Coordinator, Smt. Sumangala, Asst. Principal, Govt. Model Primary School and Smt. Sumangala, Asst. Principal, Government Model Primary School, Wilson Garden spoke on the occasion.

The inaugural programme was followed by cultural programmes by the children and a concluding programme. Around two hundred and twenty-five children from the various centres and areas of BOSCO participated in the event.

BUS Stand, ARSP, CSN, Sumanahalli, Yuvakendra, Nilaya, Nivas, CRISP and SJPU teams celebrated International Day of the Girl Child programme at Majestic, KSRTC and BMTC service roads, Krishnarajapuram Railway station, Vijayanagar, Moodalapalya, Nagarbhavi, Magadi Raod, KR Market, St. Basilica Church, Shivaji Nagar areas and Nelamangala by distributing pamphlets to the



railway officials, SMR, GRP, RPF, TTE, shop keepers, cleaning staffs, auto drivers, Pourakarmkas, public and children. An oath on protection of girls' rights was taken by everyone. All the teams conducted a signature campaign. Mr. Manjunath, Head Constable,

City Market Police Station, Ms. Vanilla, Home Guard, City Market Police Station, KP Agrahara Police Officials, Vijayanagar Police Officials, railway officials, TTE, coolie porters, shop keepers, maintenance staff and auto drivers were present in the programme.

## World Food Day Celebrated

To raise awareness about global food security and sustainable agriculture and to promote healthy food habits and nutritious food BOSCO Yuvodaya celebrated World Food Day with the children on October 16, 2024 on the theme, 'Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future'. Fr. Johnson, Director, BOSCO Yuvodaya engaged children in a meaningful discussion about importance of food and the harsh realities of hunger faced by many around the world. Through interactive discussions, he encouraged the children to think about their favorite foods and what they would do if they encountered someone in need. Their responses showed a willingness to help, reinforcing the idea that everyone has a role in fighting hunger. The session concluded with a powerful reminder that everyone has the right to food, and it is a collective responsibility to ensure no one goes hungry. Eighteen children were a part of the celebration.



## Diwali Celebrations

Diwali was celebrated in the centres and areas of BOSCO on October 31, 2024 with great pomp and show. The celebrations began with a thorough cleaning of the centres to prepare for the Diwali celebrations. The children and youths eagerly took part in arranging the lamps and lighting them. They also helped the staff decorate the place with hand-made decorative pieces, flowers and lights. The Directors of the centres shared a short message

emphasizing the importance of Diwali and encouraged everyone to spread light, just as the lamps do. They also spoke about the significance of festivals like Diwali in bringing people together. The celebrations continued with rangoli competition, dancing and singing and the firework display. The evening concluded with a festive dinner and distribution of sweets. All the children of the centres and areas took part in the celebrations.



## Kannada Rajyotsava



**B**OSCO Vikas, Mane, Rainbow Home, Yuvodaya and Nivas celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava with the centre children and at Shivaji Nagar Bus Stand with the BMC officials and Police Officials on November 1, 2024. The day started with garlanding the photos of the famous Kannada poets who were Jnanapeeth Awardees and prominent Kannada leaders and actors. Karnataka flag was hoisted. Directors' message for the children included the importance of learning Kannada language and embracing the culture and language of Karnataka. After the message, the Karnataka State Anthem was sung, followed by the National Anthem. Sweets were distributed to the children.

## Child Rights Week Organized





**B**OSCO CSN project, BOSCO CRISP project, BOSCO Bus Stand Team, ARSP, 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, 2024. 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, 2024, awareness campaigns were held in public places, bus stands, communities, schools, Government Boys Home, etc., and stakeholders' meetings, adolescent girls' meetings, parents' meetings, mime show at Orion Mall, Mantri Mall, rallies, tying of child rights bands to the BMTC and KSRTC Officials, Police Officials, other stakeholders and children and distribution of pamphlets to the public were also conducted. Children were given Nehru caps in memory of Chacha Nehru. The

week-long programme included group discussions, essay, drawing, speech, pick and speak, dance, and quiz competitions based on the theme, 'Family is Where I Belong'. Children of BOSCO Yuvodaya were given note books with their respective photos on them. As a culmination of Child Rights Week, NIVAS team organized a signature campaign at Vishwesharaiah Museum on November 20, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru and Mr. Sajoo Bhaskaran, ED, Vishwesharaiah Museum, kick-started the event with their assent. More than 1500 children from various schools all across Karnataka were given awareness on the RIGHTS concerning them.

Mr. Kotresh - Police Inspector, Banashankari Police Station, BMTC officials were present during the campaigns. Around two thousand children, Government Officials, Stakeholders, and the public were reached out to through the week-long programme.

## Children's Day Celebration at BOSCO Bengaluru



BOSCO Bengaluru organized Children's Day celebration at BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, Bengaluru, on November 17, 2024. This year's Children's Day celebration was based on the theme, 'Family is Where I Belong'.

Smt. Umashree, Former Minister for Women and Child Development, Empowerment of the Differently-abled and Senior Citizens, Kannada Language and Culture, and Actor, Kannada Film Industry, addressing the children said, "BOSCO is working for the welfare underprivileged children for more than forty years. I salute the management and the staff for their unwavering service for the young at risk." The Annual Report -2023-24 and BOSCO Brochure were released on the occasion by Smt. Umashree and other dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, Sri. Shamid Basha, Assistant Commissioner of Police, VV Puram Sub Division, Bengaluru exhorted the children to make best use of the opportunities provided to them to become successful individuals". Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru in his keynote address said this was the day to celebrate and enjoy. Smt. Sulochana, Sub Inspector, Upparpet Police Station and Smt. Ramya, Sub Inspector, Kamakshipalya Police Station were present on the occasion.



Chance games and theme-based cultural programmes were organized during the event. Stakeholders who have been identified by BOSCO 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. Children who have excelled in cultural, social, sports and educational fields were awarded the Prathibha Puraskara Award during the event. Around nine hundred children from the various centres of BOSCO and localities of service participated in the event.



## Celebration of the Indian Constitution Day



Constitution Day, also known as "National Law Day," was celebrated on November 26, 2024, with participation from children at BOSCO Mane and Vikas to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. Mallikarjun, the Coordinator, BOSCO Vikas, educated the children about the Constitution, its significance, when it was drafted, by whom, and when it was officially adopted. The Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution on November 26, 1949, and it came into effect on January 26, 1950. He also spoke about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Father of the Indian Constitution, who played a pivotal role in its drafting. This day was previously celebrated as National Law Day. November 26 was chosen to emphasize the importance of the Constitution and to share the thoughts and ideas of Ambedkar. The children from BOSCO Mane and Vikas actively participated in the celebration.

## Human Rights Day

BOSCO Yuvakendra and CRISP team organized Human Rights Day for the youth of the centre and school children in their center and areas respectively on December 10, 2024. The children and youth were given awareness about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly which ensures rights, that everyone is entitled to, as a human being, regardless of his/her race, colour, religion, sex, language, political,

nationality, origin, and birth. Possible interventions in promoting Child Rights/Human Rights were discussed. A group activity was organized for the participants based on the theme. Forty tuition children from GPHS, Magadi Road, twenty youths from Yuvakendra and around hundred children from GHS, Juganahalli, Rajajinagar participated in the event.



## International Migrants Day

The Migrant Help Desk, BOSCO Bengaluru along with DB4M, Karnataka (Karnataka intra/interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation-KISMAT) observed International Migrants Day on December 18, 2024, at Thanisandra, Saraipalya, Bengaluru. This special event was a testament to KISMAT's commitment to supporting and empowering migrant workers in Karnataka. The event aimed at appreciating the tireless efforts and invaluable contributions of migrant workers to society. The program was designed to promote a sense of community, exclusivity, and recognition among migrant workers.

The participants were engaged in a range of recreational activities and games to foster sense of sharing and joy. They were also treated with refreshments and prizes, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. To ensure maximum participation and engagement, the programme was conducted in Hindi, facilitating better understanding and interaction among the migrant workers. Around 43 migrant workers, primarily hailing from Bihar and West Bengal, skilled in various trades such as carpentry, painting, and polishing, working in construction and infrastructure development participated in the event.



## Christmas Celebrations at BOSCO

BOSCO Bengaluru celebrated Christmas with staff and volunteers, at BOSCO Mane, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru, on December 18, 2024. Fr. Deepu Mathew, Director, Nilaya and Yuvaspandana, welcoming the gathering said that it was the celebration of the BOSCO family of the directors and the staff. Prashanth Murthy, HR Manager, BOSCO Bengaluru briefed about the importance of Christmas and preparation of the crib. Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, Director, BOSCO Yuvakendra quoted the bible verses. Fr. Varghese, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, Fr. KJ Joseph SDB, Director, BOSCO Vikas and Mane, Fr. Joseph Dandavathi, and Fr. Deepu Mathew inaugurated the crib. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Varghese Pallipuram quoting that Jesus loved the lost, the least and the last, he exhorted everyone to share the love of God with the children. He said that we are the gift of God and we should share the gift with our fellow beings and work towards the care and protection of children and the downtrodden. The programme included carols, dances, sharing gifts, and exchanging season's greetings



with each other. Devaraj, Coordinator, BOSCO CRISP Project, proposed the vote of thanks. All the staff, tuition teachers, and management participated in the Christmas celebrations.

## Christmas celebration at BOSCO centres

**B**OSCO Vatsalya Bhavan, Yuvakendra, Yuvodaya, Nilaya, Nivas, Yuvaspandana, Rainbow Home, Mane, Vikas, Sumanahalli, CRISP and CSN projects organized Christmas Celebrations with children and youth from December 15 to 23, 2024 at their respective centres and areas.

The celebrations began with the inauguration of the crib by Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru and the Directors. The importance and value of Christmas was made known to the children and youth. The story of the birth of Jesus was narrated. A message on selfless love and helping the need was given. The children danced and sang songs. Few games were conducted for the children and surprise gifts were given. Sweets, cakes and meals were given to all those gathered. All the Directors, Ms. Nagaveni, DCPO, Bengaluru South, Ms. Asha, DCPO, Bengaluru West, Fr. George PS, Executive Director, BREADS Bengaluru, APF team, Aditya Birla Team, Corporate sectors and various other stake holders were present in the celebrations at various centres. All the centres' children, children attending tuition classes, school children, parents, and guardians were a part of the celebrations.



## CAMPS

### Dasara Camps

**D**asara Camps were organized for the children at the BOSCO centres and areas on the theme, 'Family is Where I Belong', during the second and third week of October 2024. The children were engaged in various activities so that they could use their time constructively and hone their skills during the Dasara vacations. Children were taught action songs and dance. Children were engaged in various activities such as meditation, yoga, music, singing, drawing, painting, quiz, craft, aari work, floral art, clay models, pick and act, pick and speak, tabloid formation, trash to treasure, night Olympics, sports, indoor and outdoor games, party games and fun games. Competitions were held. Children of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan were taken to "Friend in Need Society's Home" for the elderly at Shivajinagar. Children visited Bamul Bengaluru Co-operative Milk Union Ltd. at Nandhini Milk Product Complex

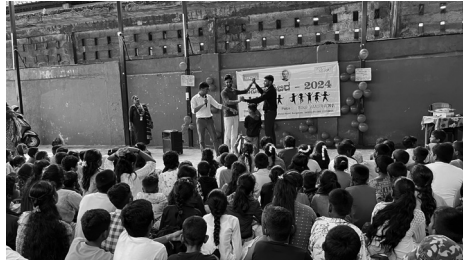
in Kanakapura. They went to the ETA Mall to watch a movie. Youths of BOSCO Sumanahalli watched Martin movie. All the children and youth of the centres and the children attending tuition classes attended the camp.

Fr. Abhilash SDB, Br. Ajay, Sacred Heart Brothers, Directors and staff of the respective centres and areas were the resource persons for the camps. Mr. Prakash, HM, GHPS, Jakkasandra, Gowramma, Angandwadi School Teacher, Savitri Bai, SDMC, Member, Mr. Rajesh, Labour Officer, Mr. Shivakumar ASI and Mr. Nagesh, Head Constable, Girinagar Police Station, were present on the occasion.

The camp helped the children in acquiring social responsibility, good manners, punctuality, leadership, team spirit, cleanliness and participation. Appreciation medals were given to the winners. Prizes were distributed to all the teams by the dignitaries.







## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### District Level Children's Parliament

Children of BOSCO CRISP Project participated in the District Level Children's Parliament organized by APSA at Anandita Hostel, Vimanapura, Bengaluru on October 22, 2024. It was a platform for the children to participate in decision making leading to social learning and capacity building. The children discussed topics such as learning recovery, ending violence against children, ending malnutrition, universal immunization and climate change. Five children were selected to attend the meeting with Sri Madhu Bangarappa, Education Minister at Vidhana Soudha. Children from eight NGOs of Bengaluru were part of the Children's Parliament.



### Certificates Distributed



Trainees of the Tailoring Unit and Beautician Course were awarded with the certificates on the successful completion of the course at the Vocational Training centre of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan on October 30, 2024. Addressing the trainees, Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru expressed his joy at the students' achievement and advised them to take advantage of this opportunity to excel in their future. Ms Deepika, Skin Specialist, Lakme Salon also congratulated the students and praised BOSCO's work in the changing the lives of young girls for the better. Mr.Gowtham, Hair Specialist, Lakme Salon also urged the students to learn more in the future and apply their skills wherever possible. Ms. Sheeba Thomas, Director, BOSCO Vatsalya Bahavan, Ms. Usha, Teacher, Tailoring Unit and Ms. Deepa Shalini, Teacher, Beautician trade were present in the programme. Thirty trainees of the Tailoring Unit and ten trainees of the Beautician trade received the certificates.

### Certificates Awarded

BOSCO Computer Training project, BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru organized a certificate distribution program for the students who completed the three-month of Basics and Tally training course from the center, on December 8, 2024. Fr. Varghese Pallipuram, Executive Director, BOSCO Bengaluru, delivered the keynote address and shared insights about the organization with



the trainees. He cited the achievements and success stories of past trainees who have benefited from BOSCO Mane Computer Training. Addressing the trainees, Fr. K J Joseph, Director, BOSCO Mane, Bengaluru, congratulated the students for completing the course and exhorted them to sharpen their skills to navigate the

digital world effectively. Balaraj, Coordinator, Family Restoration and Aftercare Project congratulated the students for completing the course. Fifty-five students have completed their computer course. Twenty-eight trainees were present and received the certificates on the occasion.

### Past Pupils Get Together

A gathering was organized for the alumni of BOSCO Mane, Vikas, Rainbow Home, Nivas and Sumanahalli at the respective centres during the first week of December, 2024. The Directors of the centres, opened the event by explaining its purpose and inviting past pupils to share their experiences and current positions. Several alumni recounted how their time at BOSCO positively impacted their lives. They expressed gratitude for the support and guidance they received. One former student, who completed his ITI in Hassan, shared that he is now employed at Toyota and has been selected by the company to travel to Germany for further training.

The past pupils of Don Bosco visited BVB to celebrate Christmas with the children. They organized a festive event filled with joy and laughter, including party games and entertainment programmes. As a gesture of kindness, they distributed thoughtful gifts such as hoodies, sleeping mats, snacks, toiletries, and stationery items. After the discussions, a volleyball match was held between the current Vikas children and the alumni. The gathering served as a great motivation for the present children and youth at the centres. More than hundred past pupils attended the event.



### Kudos to Children!

1. Children of BOSCO Vikas for being selected in the State-level Hockey Team (Raju Bharman, Dhanush, Vikas, Charan, Chandan, Madhu, Ganesh, Manikanta and Chinraj have all been selected for state -level hockey)



2. Children of BOSCO Vikas and Mane for winning 1 gold and 3 silver medals in District Level Taekwondo Sports Meet organized by the Department of Education. Master Ganesh was qualified for State Level Taekwondo Competition being held at Chikkamagaluru.



3. Boys of BOSCO Yuvakendra for being involved in Income Generation activities



## Prathibha Puraskara Awardees:

Every year during the Children's Day celebration, children excelling in cultural, social, sports, and educational fields are awarded the Prathibha Puraskara Award. This year, five outstanding children from different centers of BOSCO received the honors.

**1. Malatesh:** A resident of BOSCO Yuvakendra, Malatesh achieved a commendable 65% in his 10th grade, overcoming various struggles and obstacles he faced as a child.



**2. Anushka R:** A lovable child and a resident of BOSCO Rainbow Home, Anushka is currently in the 9th grade. She stands out with her exceptional accomplishments in education, sports, and cultural activities. A recipient of several medals and accolades, she has been selected for the National Level Rope Skipping Competition and captained her school's Kabaddi tournament.

**4. Sharanya:** An in-contact child of BOSCO Nilaya, Sharanya has overcome significant challenges to excel in education, dance, and music. She made the most of the opportunities provided by tuition classes and performed excellently in her 10th grade.



**3. Chandru:** From BOSCO Vikas, Chandru excels in studies, sports, arts and crafts, and cultural activities. He has won multiple accolades for his outstanding performances in football, volleyball, and athletics at both Taluka and District levels.



**5. Akash:** An orphan brought to BOSCO Mane by his grandmother, Akash is a 6th-grade student who has adapted well at the center despite his troubled past. With the guidance received at BOSCO Mane, he has developed numerous talents, excelling in dance, karate, and taekwondo. He represented at the district level and aims to compete in the state-level taekwondo competition. Additionally, he has been selected for the divisional level sports in 2024.



## Makkala Mitra Awardees:

BOSCO has a customary practice of identifying and honoring stakeholders who contribute to the protection and promotion of child rights in the areas they serve. This recognition is given through the Makkala Mitra Award. This year, five select stakeholders received the Makkala Mitra Awards.

**1. Fr. Deepak Joseph:** Fr. Deepak Joseph is the Manager of St. Joseph's High School and the Director of St. Joseph's Skill Training College in Bengaluru. His association with BOSCO spans over ten years. He has played a significant role in helping the children of BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan and Vikas secure seats in schools and college with reduced fees and access to good education. Fr. Deepak has also ensured that these children receive the best opportunities

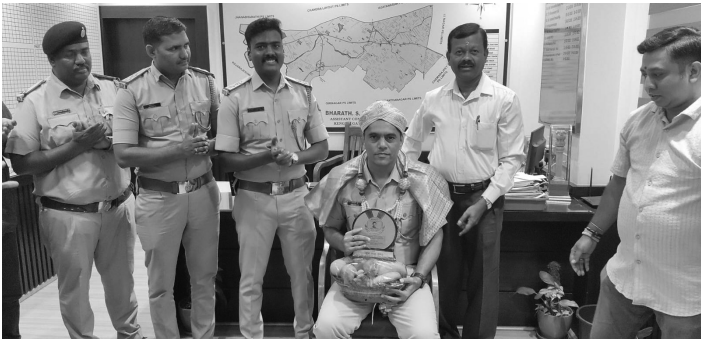
to grow into successful, competent individuals. Over the past decade, he has facilitated employment for fifteen children from BOSCO Vatsalya Bhavan in fields such as hotel management, nursing, beautician services, and other trades.



**2. Mr. Robel:** An industrialist based in Bengaluru, Mr. Robel is dedicated to creating jobs for underprivileged individuals. He has been associated with BOSCO for a long time and has helped twenty trainees from BOSCO Sumanahalli secure jobs in various trades, including bakery, electrical work, welding, and carpentry.



**3. Mr. Jeevan R:** Mr. Jeevan R is a brave inspector at the Byatarayanapura Police Station. He has collaborated with the BOSCO Child Safety Net team to rescue and rehabilitate over 100 child laborers in the past two years.



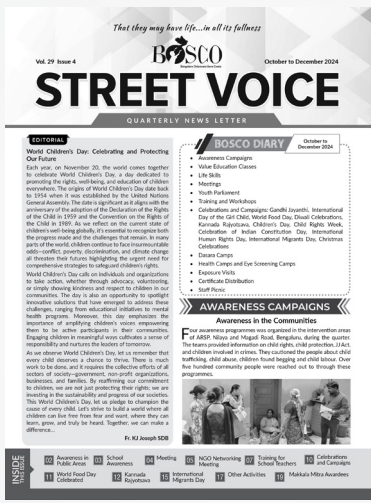
**4. Ms. Sulochana:** A devoted police officer with a caring demeanor, Ms. Sulochana serves as a Sub Inspector at the Upparpet Police Station. She has been associated with BOSCO for nearly ten years and has made significant contributions to the rescue and rehabilitation of numerous trafficked children, particularly girls, as well as child laborers and children forced into begging.



**5. Ms. Shabana Begum:** As the Head Constable at the Wilson Garden Police Station, Ms. Shabana Begum plays a crucial role in maintaining law and order in her area. She identifies impoverished and oppressed children, particularly girls, providing in-depth counseling and rehabilitation. Additionally, she is involved in reuniting missing children with their families. Ms. Shabana actively participates in the activities of BOSCO Rainbow Home and raises awareness about important topics such as child rights, the POCSO Act, the JJ Act, and other child-related issues.



“IT IS THE SMILE OF A CHILD, THE LOVE OF A MOTHER, THE JOY OF A FATHER, THE TOGETHERNESS OF A FAMILY.”-  
**MENACHEIM BEGIN**



**Editorial Board**

Fr. KJ Joseph, Ms. Deepa and Ms. Juby

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