

BOSCONET

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**SKILLING
FOR A GREEN
FUTURE**



DON BOSCO
NETWORK SOUTH ASIA



EMPOWER LIFE! LIVE THE JOY OF TRUE GIVING

Message from the Director

Dear friends,

"We are using resources as if we had two planets, not one. There can be no 'plan B' because there is no 'planet B'." - Ban Ki Moon (Former UN Secretary-General)

This July, I was invited to make a presentation at the India Advantage (TIA) Summit 2019 in Bangalore, on the theme of Community Building and Inclusive Cities. It was good to learn about the initiatives of the technologists (startups) and about their many dreams of advanced, automated cities. But what about the people outside these modern cities? Even if around 40% to 60% of India lives in cities by 2030, it still means that there is a huge population outside these cities. What are our plans and dreams for them? Why can't we make their lives better through livelihood skills and jobs, focusing on the agricultural sector and prevent their desperate need to migrate to the city? It is a challenge for all of us to give inclusive opportunities especially to the marginalised citizens of rural India. It calls for committing to their well-being, to design innovations for this vast invisible population who are left behind by the development bandwagon.

Don Bosco Network and its partner organisations work with this section of Indians who get side-lined either by technology or economic conditions.

Green skilling is our attempt to help develop rural

skillsets so that youngsters can learn how to make a sustainable livelihood. In this way, we can slow down migration to urban areas and help create a sustainable future for everyone. Green skills are about learning to work with Mother Nature, not against her. With our flagship program Don Bosco Green Alliance, we hope to promote these initiatives.

In this newsletter, we also highlight another very important and related issue - gender equity. When the needs and contributions of girls and women are considered on par with those of boys and men, we have a balanced society. For this, we need a tremendous amount of education and capacity-building, and we must start with the young. Therefore, Bosconet promotes gender-equity education in schools.

By supporting us in this valuable work, you have proved that you did not forget the marginalised girl child or youth. And that you care for your environment. For these acts of solidarity and humaneness, I gratefully acknowledge you. Together, we are creating a more sustainable humanity.

Thank you.

Fr. Noel Maddhichetty SDB
Director, Bosconet

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The collective conscience of children needs to be cultivated because they will be the protagonists in saving the environment.

Green skills imparted to children will reap benefits in the long-term as they, now as children and later as adults, appreciate and adopt sustainable living.

Skilling for A Green Future

Among the numerous challenges India faces, one of the biggest is environmental sustainability. Multiple environmental crises such as air and water pollution, groundwater depletion, climate change, garbage disposal and sanitation, loss of biodiversity etc., threaten our future; economically and even civilizationally. To mitigate and contain these crises, green skills must be disseminated and deployed in a widespread manner.



Green skills define skills for sustainability. Green skills are the technical skills, knowledge, values and attitudes needed in the workforce to develop and support sustainable social, economic and environmental outcomes in business, industry and community. The agriculture sector especially, is in dire need of these skills. The present agricultural practices such as overuse of pesticides and fertilisers; indiscriminate use of water, stubble burning etc. lead to environmental degradation.

The skills used for promoting a green economy are needed in sectors such as renewable energy, wastewater treatment, construction, solid waste management among others, in order to promote climate-resilient cities. Skilling includes the training to use solar and wind energy, complete waste management, rainwater harvesting and so on.

GREEN ALLIANCE

Bosconet, the Don Bosco Development Network of India initiated Don Bosco Green Alliance (DBGA), on 30 November 2017 as a national flagship programme. Today it has become an international movement of Don Bosco institutions and organisations that engage young people to contribute towards global environmental action. The Green Alliance recruits schools, organisations and individuals to partake in initiatives which will help in planning, formulating and implementing interventions that could stem the advancing environmental degradation and ensure a green and sustainable living for all.

Three priority areas are combating pollution, reducing global warming and eliminating disposable plastic.

a. The Green Campus Programme

Three hundred and forty-five Don Bosco institutions across India are adopting an environment-friendly lifestyle through increasing green cover, reduction in use of non-degradable materials, increasing usage of renewable sources of energy, zero wastage in the campus, promotion of organic farming, home vegetable and herbal gardens, preserving and conserving water and environment education for all.

b. Green Alliance Movement

Don Bosco institutions have partnered in global campaigns with the United Nations. They have also aligned with the global climate action programme towards maximising the use of renewable energy and eliminating food waste in member organisations, besides the commitment to plant a million trees in the next five years.

c. Greener People, Greener World Programme

A 5-acre garden was cultivated around the Pope John's Garden Centre to alleviate the suffering of its HIV+ and leprosy-affected patients.

d. Launch of Climate City Cup

The Climate City Cup 2019 was officially launched on 18 July in Bangalore during the India Advantage (TIA) Summit. People around the world will start to engage in monitoring their environment and improving their cities' quality of living. The data gathered will be translated into a global city ranking. Events and best practice-sharing activities will help participants develop innovative approaches to sustainability challenges. Don Bosco Network India has pledged to partner with Climate City Cup in skill training for monitoring the environment.

The Climate City Cup is supported by several organizations around the world, such as the UNFCCC, ICLEI, Climate-KIC / Climathon and FuturICT 2.0. It's currently headquartered at ETHZ Computational Social Science, and its Indian partners are the All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG) and the Swiss Embassy in India.

e. Organic Kitchen Garden

Bosconet initiated the organic kitchen garden (OKG) to equip people with green skills. It is a project run by Bosconet in collaboration with Don Bosco Jugendhilfe Weltweit.

The project endeavours to utilise the latent talents of women in villages. Women work in farms without realising the significance of their work. Farming requires tenacity, practical knowledge and immense hard work. The objective is to utilise these inherent human resources by enhancing their green skills so that it benefits their family and community.

The project equips women in 3 states - Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu, to adopt organic farming in their own spaces. The target states are highly backward and underdeveloped with acute financial instability.

Bosconet encourages women to gain knowledge, apply it on the ground and share this knowledge with others. It is this knowledge which helps them in generating additional income for their family and leads them on a path of green and sustainable living.

Don Bosco Network – Bosconet, explores with both, young people and its partners, to promote green skills; to campaign against climate change and to care for our planet.



Gender Equity Education



Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Gender equality indicates that both men and women are free to make choices, without the limitations of stereotypes; and that their various contributions and needs are valued equally. Gender equality must begin early: at home and at school. Boys and girls must feel welcome in an equal, secure learning environment. Society, government, schools, teachers and students all have a part to play in ensuring that schools are free of violence and discrimination and provide gender-sensitive, good-quality education.

To achieve this, Bosconet took the way forward by introducing Gender Equity Education programmes in 4 different cities (Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Guwahati, Shillong). These training programmes were intended for both students and teachers; and according to their needs, the approach, methodology and content were designed.

The teachers needed awareness of topics such as gender sensitization and the practice of treating girls and boys equitably in order to ensure equality among the students.

Gender Equity Education was a two-day training programme for 50 teachers in each city. Topics included were differences between sex and gender, rights and laws related to women etc. Resource persons from the field shared their experiences and other situations in reality. The last day's session of the programme produced an action plan prepared by the teachers to take forward the ideas on dealing with gender discrimination and promoting gender equity in their schools.

As a future plan for 2019-20, it has been decided to conduct similar programmes for school heads, in order that implementation of gender equity becomes more effective with decision-makers getting enrolled into the ideology.

TIA SUMMIT THE INDIA ADVANTAGE **SUMMIT** - Bangalore -

THE INDIA ADVANTAGE SUMMIT - Bangalore -

Bosconet, the Don Bosco Development Network of India was invited to make a presentation at The India Advantage (TIA) Summit 2019 on 18-19 July, in Bangalore. The aim of the conference was to deliberate on Urban Development and Society 4.0, focussing on key aspects that drive future cities.

Under the theme of Community Building and Inclusive cities, Fr. Noel Maddhichetty, Director, Bosconet, challenged the premise of urban development. He also questioned unchecked urbanisation in the context of an agrarian India that is starved of resources and innovation. He evoked the example of Don Bosco, founder of the Salesians, who dreamed of an inclusive city that could nurture even the lost, unemployed youth of his industrial age.

We at Bosconet continue to dream of inclusive cities that can care for even the marginalised. This is only possible with strong and humane communities. Come, build this community with us!

DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIETY 4.0



Promoting Inclusive Cities



“It is a great initiative by Don Bosco toward protecting and raising young girl children. I am glad I have been given the ability and a chance to be able to contribute toward making at least one child's life better at least for a year.”

- Vinoth Marudhachalam

“I am motivated to support your cause because you are helping the needy and forgotten. Whether it's children or elderly, everyone has a right to education and free will. I am happy to contribute towards this noble initiative.”

- Nimisha Iyer

“I wasn't directly involved but happy to help one way or the other. Please continue the good work, much appreciated.”

- Sri Ganesh D

Donors Speak

Everything is Possible



Mumtaj*, is a 19-year old girl from the Mauranipur district, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. Like other girls of her age, Mumtaj cherishes many dreams and aspirations for a bright future for herself and her family.

Among the nine members in Mumtaj's family, only two were earning. As a shopkeeper, her father's income was insufficient to feed such a large family. She was sensitive towards this situation at home, and unusually for her age, felt a responsibility towards improving it.

She learned about Don Bosco Tech, Mauranipur centre from her friend. During the preliminary counselling. Mumtaj expressed her grave concern about her family problems and her troubled career opportunities. She wanted a job to support her family. She was really surprised to learn about the job opportunities that Don Bosco Tech provided to youth like her. She was absolutely determined to avail this opportunity for training and placement support from Don Bosco Tech.

The staff of Don Bosco Tech, Mauranipur realised that her confidence and determination would be assets as a nursing assistant and guided her to choose that domain for training. In the classroom, she was a diligent learner; and because of her leadership qualities, was chosen leader of her domain. She believes, *"Nothing is impossible if you want to do it."*

Mumtaj belonged to a locality with high levels of illiteracy and insurgency; yet, she was absolutely determined to work hard and find employment. Mumtaj has now successfully completed her training. She was one of the most confident and determined learners in her batch. She demonstrated focus, sincerity towards her work and a very positive attitude towards learning. During the placement interviews, Mumtaj was the first girl to appear for outstation interviews. Today, Mumtaj is an enthusiastic employee of a well-known hospital in Gurgaon, earning Rs. 9000/- and an extra 1800 allowance. Her parents are happy and proud of her achievements.

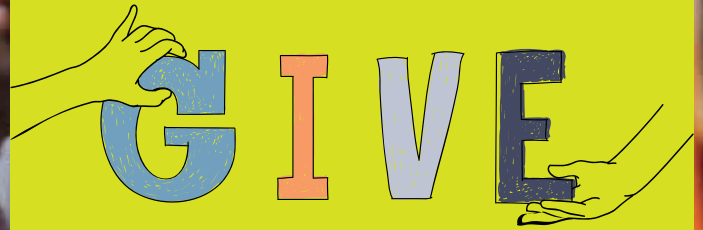
Mumtaj is a role model for the girls of her locality. She has defied all odds to actualize her dreams. Even though from a poor, conservative family, Mumtaj has demonstrated the confidence to relocate to Gurgaon, a big, unfamiliar city; for her job. She does prove, where there is a will, there is a way.

**Names changed to protect identity*



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