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BOSCONET

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Editorial

Dear Friends,

We live in an age where there is a desperate need for hope, direction, community, shared purpose and for the Divine. The message of love, stewardship of our Earth and care for the outsiders are extremely pertinent. Unless we get our relationships right with each other, with creation, I dread to think of the future we are creating for our children.

BoscoNet did not publish a planner this year, we deliberately chose to focus on critical current concern of migrants and published a wall calendar on the challenges of the young migrants in our country and in the world.

Young boy Johny, who is lovingly known today as Don Bosco, started his life journey as a young migrant from Bechi to the industrial town of Turin in Italy. He was by far the most famous and successful young migrant of Italy. Don Bosco, an internal migrant in his own country, created a remarkable impact which made a tremendous contribution to uplift the world of youth. His life tells us how important it is to remain

open to young people, no matter which circumstances they come from. He showed to the society that the marginalized youth, who leave their homes, can contribute to the society, if they are given the right opportunity and resources. This is a message to the world of today as it experiences a growth of intolerance that is afocused on race, religion and ethnicity of the young migrants.

The question of "how do we respond to the migrants" is challenging many around the world. We, in India, on the one hand have a traditional history of welcoming people and on the other hand we have internally and externally migrated to every part of our country and the world. We need to join hands to ensure that no intolerance on these grounds ever occurs in our country. "Everyone is a migrant in this world", we live for a short span of time and then leave this world. While we are here, let us make everyone feel at home. This issue of the newsletter largely highlights the life of young migrants and other interventions of Don Bosco Networks in India.

We at BoscoNet appreciate and thank our partners, friends, well-wishers and all who belong to the BoscoNet family, for their generous offer of support towards our interventions for the marginalized children, youth, women and the disadvantageous communities across India. In the past few months, joining hands with you, we have been able to reach out to the Wardha cyclone victims, Kashmiri refugees, AIDS infected children, victimized girl children, promoted rights of children and helped others who have no access to resources for basic living. Your support is valued very much and enables us to continue our mission with the youth of India by providing them opportunities to fulfill their dreams and to build a better world.

We all share this mission. Working together is no more an option, we need and must work together in today's world to create a better and healthy future for ourselves and the generations to come.

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Impacting the lives of the children of migrant construction workers

On January 24, a seminar was organised by the Don Bosco Research Centre (DBRC) to share the findings of their recently concluded study on the children of migrant construction workers in Mumbai, and to disseminate the findings for NGOs to take forward to the

next levels: interventions and advocacy. The programme which was attended by the Salesians of Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai provinces, as well as senior representatives from about 30 NGOs that are actively involved with construction workers and having extensive grass root

coverage in education and health sectors.

The study revealed the extent of vulnerability of the children of migrant construction workers in their living conditions and in areas of education, health, nutrition, and security. The study also highlighted the high

risk and vulnerability of pregnant women and nursing mothers. Non-existent sanitation facilities, absent childcare services, parental addiction to substances and the vulnerability of the girl child were also highlighted in the study. Despite the majority of the workers having ID cards and other documents like Aadhar, Ration and Voter cards, they did not have access to the Public Distribution System (PDS), public health services and free education for their children. Absence of education and health facilities for the children made them more vulnerable.

Various intervention needs and advocacy measures for services such as improving workers living conditions, access to better health services, access to the public distribution system and public health services, facilitation of awareness camps and mobile health camps with the local public health system, and follow up with pregnant and lactating mothers, etc. were considered for implementation.

Suggestions were also made to link children living on the sites to municipal schools, under Right to Education (RTE). Networking with local leaders and municipal services to implement and improve living conditions was another suggestion.

Absence of education and health facilities for the children made them more vulnerable.





Kashmiri relief camp

Violence in India has led to destruction of lives, property and has internally displaced people. Kashmiris have endured a long history of violence until today. It has become an everyday event in their lives. The latest event is the death of Burhan Wani in July 2016, which led to another disruption.

The ongoing conflict in Kashmir forced the residents to flee

from their villages in Kashmir to refugee camps. Since 1947, they have been migrating to other parts of northern India and have set up a number of camps in different regions. During the time of riots, they fled to save themselves and their family; little did they think of their belongings. And they continue to suffer and struggle to make a living in another city. They are left with no shelter, no food, no clothes and no work.

In the early winter morning of 13th December 2016, BoscoNet sponsored 600 Blankets to the Kashmiri residents of Shastri Park.

The Don Bosco Young at Risk (YaR) team, Dwarka organised the distribution of the blankets and ensured that each and every families gets them. It was through DB YaR survey that BoscoNet was able to identify the needy children and genuine need of the families.

The residents felt great relief. They continuously thanked the team for the help and effort in ensuring that everybody stays warm in winter.

“We need blankets,” said Bhittu. “With decreasing temperature and harsh weather conditions, we need blankets. When we fled,

we had just carried few personal belongings and nothing else.”

“I am Ravi Bhatt (24 years); I have been residing in this camp with my family for the last 4 months. I am a dropped out student and didn’t complete my intermediate. Ever since then, I have been working as a weaver in the carpet industry. My skills are unutilized and means of livelihood has been disrupted. I want to go back to my hometown in the district of Anantnag and continue to live there as an ordinary citizen without fear of unexpected violence, when my family and me would be on the run again. I really thank BoscoNet for reaching out to us in times of despair.”

Shahid Ahmed is a 15 years old boy. “I want to live in a peaceful State. I want to grow in a peaceful environment.”

“I am Raju Bhatt (11 years old), residing in camp number 2, with my family. I studied till the 6th standard and has stopped going to school due to the displacement. Most of my friends have stayed back and I feel lonely living in an unfamiliar place. I want to become a teacher. I just hope that peace soon prevails in the State so that I could get back to my normal life. I miss living in Nursingpora and playing with my friends.”



Wardha Cyclone Relief Work: **From Destruction To Rehabilitation**



The devastating Wardha cyclone hit the capital city of Tamil Nadu on Monday, the 12th of December 2016 with a vicious speed of 90 kph, creating havoc and leaving the city and its inhabitants in shock. The two institutions, DBAI-Saranalayam-Street Girls Home- Anbu Illam-C and the Street Boys Home- Anbu Illam, which provide shelter and safety to 45 Girls and 85 homeless boys respectively, where no exception to the aftermath of the Wardha Cyclone and suffered heavy property damage.

Fortunately, none of the children and the staff members at either of the institutes were injured but

nevertheless massive property and infrastructure damage was suffered. The Galvanized roofing (light Roofs) on the 2nd floor of the residence of the Street Girls Home- Anbu Illam-C collapsed completely as well as the overhead water tank with the capacity of 1500 litres had been thrown overboard due to the heavy wind. Both power and water supply had been disconnected.

The Street Boys Home - Anbu Illam on the other hand was equally effected and the hangover of the Wardha Cyclone resulted in the damage to the boy's dormitory flooring as it was washed off by the storm. Many trees were uprooted

and fell all across the campus and both power and water supply were disconnected.

Bosconet responded immediately to this emergency crises and offered help and assisted to both these institutions. Bosconet facilitated the renovations and reconstruction of the shelter homes so that life in both these institutes could get back to normal. Today Bosconet, with the help of our generous donors and the support that they have provided, has successfully rehabilitated and brought smiles back to the faces of the 130 boys and girls that reside in these shelter homes.

Empower Youth for Nation building

DON BOSCO IN CSR PARTNERSHIP VENTURE



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(DBYC)

INDIA SHIP



“

The service for the marginalised youth is the prime focus of Don Bosco Mission in India, contrary to public opinion that they run schools for elite society.”

Fr. Noel Maddhichetty,
BoscoNet, Director.

On 17th Feb, 2017, BoscoNet, the resource mobilization unit of Don Bosco India, organised a national CSR partnership venture entitled “empower youth for nation building,” showcasing the pan India development interventions and the activities

undertaken by Don Bosco India in sectors pertaining to children, youth, women and ecology. It has reached out to approximately one million marginalised youth and women.

54 representatives from large companies, such as Accenture, Artemis, Siemens, Ernest and Young and Tata Group, which are active in initiatives of Corporate Social Responsibility, took part in the event, to forge or enhance partnerships with Salesians in initiatives for the benefit of young people.

The companies' representatives were informed about the networking between the provinces in India, and how the developmental activities took shape. They were also further informed about the projects undertaken by each province with the vision to create a better tomorrow. Through the presentations and

videos, the directors and assistant directors from seven Provincial Development Offices (Tiruchy - Coordinated Action for Urban Village Empowerment and Resource Identification (CAUVERI), Panjim - Konkani Development Society (KDS), Hyderabad-Bosco Seva Kendra, Chennai - Strategic Urban Rural Advancement Banking Institute (SURABI), New Delhi - BOSCO Delhi, Karnataka - Bangalore Rural Educational and Development Society (BREADS), Guwahati - Bosco Reach Out (BRO), and Itanagar - Don Bosco Youth Centre (DBYC) gave useful inputs to the representatives present.



Self-drive from Sadness to Joy



Bharathi lives in David Colony, Pezzonipet, Krishna District with her children. Her husband died after the second child's birth. He used to work in a barber shop. As a young widow her in-laws shunned her. Realizing that she had to make a living for herself and her two children, she started working as a domestic help in a

few houses. She managed in this manner to send her children to the local Govt. school.

After 11.00 AM every day, she would have a lot of leisure time that she wanted to use constructively but couldn't think of good ideas. When Bharathi was on the lookout for a secondary occupation, she attended a meeting of the members of Swashakthi Mahila Sangham at the RCM Church. They explained about thrift policies and credit management. They said the loan amount is useful for initiation of new business, or for strengthening of existing business. "I immediately set-off on this mission and

gathered 10 women in my colony and formed Varunya Self Help Group. I received Rs. 5000 as 1st term loan in the 7th month. I am good at Henna designs; so I started offering my services to women, making different designs using good quality henna." Bharathi's henna designs attracted college going youth, teens, and young married people in the colony. She became popular and was called for marriages, celebrations, and festival occasions to draw henna designs. Further, she puts up stalls at exhibitions and other fests. Thus her household income has increased two-fold. She is able to repay her loan effectively in time. "I am happy with my earnings. I am able to utilise my time effectively.

I am grateful for the assistance given by Swashakthi MACS (Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies) and I wish that it should help other women who are in distress," says a beaming Bharathi.

Gangadhar's Story

Gangadhar had a very tough childhood. His mother passed away when he was only 3 months old. He was then adopted by his maternal uncle with whom he stayed four years. After the death of his uncle he moved back with his biological father. Here he was constantly bullied by his elder brother who beat him up on a regular basis. Frustrated by and terrified of such an environment, Gangadhar ran away from his home and came to Bangalore.

He begged for food on the streets of Bangalore during the day. However, at night he indulged in intoxication; his friends and he would snort whitener and petrol. In 2004 he was found by Bosco and this turned his life around. Even to this day, his family members do not talk to him.

Today, Gangadhar has been selected to represent India in Floorball and will be attending a camp for the same this summer.



Along with that he is also a State level table tennis player and a district level hockey and football player. He won numerous certificates in athletics. He is currently pursuing journalism and wants to join either the BSF (Border Security Force) or become a war journalist.

Zaukhumgam Sikngpho,

a Don Bosco Alumnus, joins the Indian Army

Don Bosco alumnus Zaukhumgam Sikngpho from Dirakpathar, Arunachal Pradesh, has cracked the 11 SSB Allahabad, in his very first attempt, and ranked 16th in the All-India Ranking.

He is among the 45 batch, selected out of 4,200 applicants, and will start his 11-month training course at the Officers Training Academy, Chennai from April, for commissioning into the Indian Army as a Lieutenant.

Son of Samchingam Singpho and Roija Singpho, Zaukhumgam was an energetic NCC cadet,

who attended the Republic Day Camp in New Delhi and represented India in 2014 in the Youth Exchange Programme in Russia.

He will also become the first Singpho to be commissioned as an officer into the Indian Army.

He was also adjudged the best cadet, and held the rank of Senior Under Officer. The Singpho Development Society, Miao Sub Division Youth Organisation and the Miao Mothers Association, in a joint release extended congratulations, saying: "Zaukhumgam Singpho has not



only made a niche for himself but made his family and the Singpho society immensely proud."

"On the eve of the 33rd Annual Shapawng Yawng Manau Poi, the success of Zaukhumgam has come as a blessing and a precious gift," the release said.

Don Bosco Society North East also wished him well in his upward climb to serve the nation.

"Finally I Found a Safe Haven"

Ragini (name changed), is a 21 year-old girl and an orphan hailing from Mandya district, Karnataka. She completed her SSLC and did not pursue further studies due to abject poverty at home. She lived with her elder brother's family; but due to some small argument, they asked her to leave home. Being homeless, she sought refuge with her maternal aunt. However, she began to face more harassment at her aunt's place than at her

brother's place. Unable to bear the ill treatment, Ragini left home for good.

As she was looking for work, a lady who felt pity for her, placed her as a domestic help in Chennai, where she worked for one year. After completing the year's contract she was called back to Bangalore, only to marry one of her relatives. After four months of marriage, the situation became sour; Ragini was harassed and was

subjected to domestic violence. In the meantime she developed some skin disease; when taken to Bowring Hospital for a check-up, she was advised to get her blood tested, which she never did. The following day, the husband's relatives abandoned her at Shivajinagar, Bangalore.

On December 2, 2016, Asst. Sub Inspector Jyothi found her on Broadway street. Joythi took her in the police station and contacted

BOSCO Nivas; the staff from BOSCO came and enquired about her past, and tried to help her trace back her husband; but all attempts to contact her husband failed, as he purposefully switched

off the cellphone sensing trouble. BOSCO referred her to Abala Ashraya, Bangalore. On medical test it was learnt that she was HIV+. Ragini was shifted to Deena Nilaya at Kothnur, a centre for

HIV infected children and women. Ragini thanked BOSCO for the timely help and assistance.

"I will always be grateful to BOSCO for their timely help and assistance." Ragini (name changed)

And the Pascual Chavez Award goes to:

The Cream Project!



The Salesian provincial conference of south Asia instituted the "Pascual Chavez Award for Innovative model of Salesian Ministry in South Asia" to honour the ninth successor of Don Bosco in the year 2012. The purpose of the award is to give visibility, stimulate innovation in the Salesian youth Ministry to propagate best practice and innovative model of ministry in south Asian region. Bosconet, awarded the program titled "Child Right Education and Action Movement" (CREAM) carried out by Bangalore Rural Educational and Development society (BREADS), Bangalore as the winner of the "Pascual Chavez Award for Innovative Salesian Ministry" for the year 2016.

The first phase of the CREAM

project (CREAM I) was one of the major projects of BREADS which was implemented in 10 districts of Karnataka viz. Bidar, Yadagiri, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Bellary, Davangere, Chitradurga, Bangalore, Ramanagara and Mysore for the past 4 years. The programme aimed at educating children, adults and stakeholders about different perspectives of child rights and to empower children to voice and participate in enhancing the present child protection setup. During the course of implementation, a total of 97,900 children were trained and 907 Child Right Clubs were formed.

CREAM has also implicated the adult stakeholders for protection of child rights. A total of 17,667 stakeholders including 611

teachers were trained. Moreover 198 stakeholder taskforces were formed and the CREAM Child right Clubs network meetings have complimented the process of addressing the child right issues. All these activity has made a great impact in the participation of children and community in protection of child rights.

Inspired by the impact and empowerment of children, BREADS, has launched the second phase of CREAM (2016-2019) to benefit even a greater number of children. The CREAM phase II was officially launched on 5th July 2016. Mr. Tanvir Sait, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education & Minority Welfare, Government of Karnataka, officially launched the second phase of the CREAM project, at Shasakara Bhavana,

Vidhana Soudha. The prime activities envisaged in CREAM II are formation and strengthening of 780 Child Rights Clubs, training for 75,000 new and 75,000 old children, supplementary education for 7,000 children, Training for 9,400 stakeholders including community members, teachers, youth, PRI members, Government officials and community leaders,

Formation and strengthening of 550 task force units, advocacy and CRC network actions at state and district level.

Bosconet would like to appreciate the role of each donors and well-wishers to make the CREAM Project a success. We have touched the hearts and lives of many children and begun a

movement of change, where each child can live in dignity and enjoy their rights. With your love and support, Bosconet will continue its work for the betterment of the underprivileged children in our society and take an active part in creating agents of social transformation through empowering the young

The Don Bosco Youth Film Festival!



Bosconet is happy to inform you that, the Don Bosco Youth Film Festival (DBYFFI), organised by the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia (SPCSA) together with Don Bosco Communications, South Asia (BOSCOM), presented budding filmmakers with a unique opportunity to showcase the aspirations of the youth, the challenges and the struggles they face and highlight these issues and concerns through short Films.

In all 248 short films from 24 states across India were screened. Saavat, directed by Swapnil Rajashekar, won the award for the best film. Saavat is a rural based film which speaks about the vulnerability of a girl child and the challenges that she faces to be literate. The film also touches on sensitive topics like rape and the destructive impact of it on the psyche of the victim. An equally touching film, Paywat, directed by Mithunchandra Choudhari won the runners-up award. Backbone,

an inspiring film by Karunakaran C was awarded the third position.


Don Bosco Network in India believes that Films are powerful mediums that can communicate, educate, elevate and inspire the viewers, especially the youth of our times. The theme of the film festival was the celebration of the spirit of youth in a positive and inspiring way, narrating stories of young people who face challenges and struggles of life with courage, determination and faith to emerge as inspiring individuals.



We count on your partnership
for the interventions of
BoscoNet

- Empowering Young at Risk
- Ensuring right to education
- Skills for sustainable living
- Forming agents of transformation
- Generating women entrepreneurs
- Fair deal for women
- Ensure sustainable development
- Go green with the youth

In Love with a Girl in Jjajhar



You and I
Met on that day
Amidst the strong winter wind,
You with the younger sibling in your arm!
You were so cheerful
And me speechless!
Deep sigh in me,
Reason not known.
You touched my heart
With the love at first sight, I call it,
A sudden thought
As I fell in love with you.
I took an oath
That I shall work for you.



Bimolata Devi





**“Empower
change,
live the joy of
true giving”**

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