

BOSCONET

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**TOGETHER FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



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BOSCONET
Don Bosco Network



From the Director's Desk:

In this issue of Bosconet, we visit the initiatives focused on education for children and youth. The pandemic pushed 'school closures' and led to an exodus of children and youth from schools, most of whom came from marginalised households. The inaccessibility of digital devices saw this segment of society witnessing drastic drops in learning levels. The pandemic exposed the great digital divide existent in the country. According to a 2019 report by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, only 12.6% (male, rural); 37.5% (male, urban); 7% (female, rural); 26.9% (female, urban) can operate a computer. This is particularly concerning as an increasing number of public and private services shift online, and computer literacy comes to the forefront for obtaining jobs in a service-oriented economy. Accessibility and functional computer literacy also become essential to access online resources and opportunities.

Education in all forms empowers, raises the standard of living, and pulls people out of abject poverty and helplessness. As of April 2020, the U.N estimated that close to 1.6 billion children and youth were out of school. And nearly 369 million children who rely on school meals need to look to other sources for daily nutrition. Never before have so many children been out of school simultaneously, disrupting learning and upending lives, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised. The global pandemic has far-reaching consequences that may jeopardise hard-won gains made in improving global education.

The Don Bosco Network - Bosconet has been hard at work, enabling institutions across the country with the support they need. Counting on your generosity, we optimistically continue our mission to empower the marginalised to build a more harmonious and just society for all.

The YESS Forum showcased us a platform to bring together corporate CSR teams, non-profits, start-ups, academician, govt functionaries and other stakeholders to exchange innovative and proven models and initiatives undertaken in the areas of education, sustainable livelihoods, climate action, women and community empowerment and disaster responses aimed at mutual partnerships for a sustainable future for all along with the youth.

It was a great finale for the fruitful completion of a six year term of Fr.Noel. He was the brain behind the creation of this edifice for partnerships and collaboration, outcome of his few years of interactive participation in such events, process of reflections, gearing up and pushing up the network towards it and visualising it.

Wishing you all success in all your future endeavours of sustainable future for all along with the young. Wishing Health and Happiness on behalf of Don Bosco Network- Bosconet.

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Farewell To Father Noel- A visionary Leader.



A dynamic and visionary leader who has led the organisation – “Bosconet” to greater heights, enabled the organisation towards financial sustainability. A person who is a visionary and who is relevant to the signs of the times. His commitment and hard work are beyond measure. His achievements and vision for the organisation have taken it to greater heights paving the way for a new era of integration within Don Bosco India and a unified vision towards a sustainable future for all.

Father Noel will be remembered fondly by all for his many virtues. He inspired us with his leadership, his focus on communication and his ability to hash out ideas with objectivity. Fr. Noel had the vision to make Bosconet self-sufficient and integrated the PDO network to work together. The success of this long term vision and his ability to take risks today sees Bosconet having grown from its nascent dependency to becoming an independent organisation with its own funds.

Fr. Noel also took time to know his team personally, enquired about their well-being and family and made it his mission to ensure that his team was always well taken care of. He pushed us to grow, develop and work better. His motto for Bosconet - ‘Live the Joy of True Giving’, was a line he truly lived by and believed in, inspiring many of his team members and people that encounter him. He was dynamic in his approach to life and humble enough to truly reach the mission of Don Bosco to all spheres of life.

Thank you Dear Fr.Noel for your valuable contribution to build this edifice of Don Bosco Network –Bosconet making it as part of the international and global network. Bosconet will ever be grateful to him for his Enormous contribution.

1) Empowerment through Education

Through the support of a CSR program under Bosconet, Nitika Don Bosco Tuition Centre, Kolkata for slum children rearmed itself to commence the battle against child illiteracy, malnutrition, and unaffordability of practical education.

The tuition centre reworked its goal to reduce school dropouts among slum children where parental apathy towards child education is natural due to the daily struggle to make ends meet.

This activity not only aimed at giving children quality education but also focused on their overall growth by providing them with quality education, life skills training, nutrition 'sessions on Life coping' all while sensitising them about their environment and including them in taking measures to protect the environment and keeping it clean.

To sum up:

- 450 children received education through afternoon and evening tuition classes, and life coping skills
- The Families of these 450 slum children received support in receiving nutrition and education.



2) Enhancing Learning Outcomes Through Digital Literacy

The Don Bosco Network-Bosconet operates remedial education centres for children and youth living in streets/slums and belonging to rural households. Supplementary education is provided at these centres, and efforts are taken to bring them up to age-appropriate learning levels and concurrently provide support to mainstream the beneficiaries.

Under the SAKSHAM project, Siemens Healthineers partnered with Bosconet to provide 200 children and youth, between the age group of 6 - 16 years, from marginalised families with computer education by establishing computer labs at 5 remedial education centres, benefiting 200 children. Foundational computer skills will enable the children to access resources and opportunities otherwise unavailable to them.

To sum up:

- 5 Computer Labs were set up at 5 centres: 2 in Delhi and 3 in Assam, each equipped with four computer systems, one projector, one screen, and a 4G Hotspot Router, benefiting 200 children
- Mainstreaming efforts of the education program will enable children to pursue vocational or higher education courses requiring computer proficiency.



3) Education Enables Enlightenment

Bosconet has been involved in the education and support of the children who live under the Palam Bridge. With support from Don Bosco Mondo, Bosconet is helping these 3 children with their education towards better career opportunities in life. The oldest child, Jyoti Shah is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts from the Delhi University, along with pursuing a course in hospitality at Don Bosco Technical Institute in Najafgarh, New Delhi.

The second daughter, Priya, completed her 12th Standard through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in August 2021. Alongside she's enrolled in a one-year computer course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute. 16-year-old Manish, the third child of Mr. Naresh, is currently pursuing his 10th Standard through the National Institute of Open Learning.

With the written consent of their parents and fulfilling their wishes, he has also enrolled in a computer course for one year at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute.



Workshops to Strengthen Communities



Bosconet has been involved in a series of workshops to build the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in seven Indian federal states. These CSOs will be equipped to promote awareness of government welfare schemes. The project began last year, and aims at empowering at least 180,000 people with information regarding entitlements and government schemes that they are eligible for. It also envisages to build the capacity of 720 CSOs on five skills essential for advocacy on behalf of the poor, marginalised, and weaker sections of people.



EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE PIONEERS

Since the COVID pandemic shifted schools to online mediums, the education of hundreds were affected and these children showed signs of sliding back into prior lives of begging. Parents' lack of jobs and employment pushed this further as even basic needs were hard to meet. Bosconet, with the support of the donors, gave these children, living under the Palam bridge flyover in Delhi, to study and assimilate into mainstream education through an intermediary bridge program. Ashalayam - a Don Bosco home for children in need of care and protection, has opened its doors to them, providing a space in their large hall for various

activities. Ms. Sonia, the program coordinator and employee at Bosconet is taking care of the children throughout the day. On arrival at the home, a cleaning session includes a bath, clean clothes, and grooming, setting them up for the day. Regular rations were given to the families, much-needed respite to many without any source of income during the pandemic. The children also took part in celebrations and festivals with much joy. A total of 42 children received academic coaching and other support at the centre and were kept from going back into the streets



Women and the Way Forward

Bosconet, in collaboration with Bosco Seva Kendra, Hyderabad and Siddhantham Tollway Private Limited - a part of Safeway Concessions Pvt. Ltd., inaugurated the program 'Sui Dhaga – Empowering Women' to provide vocational skills-based training in tailoring to young women. This project has grown successfully in fulfilling its purpose of supporting and empowering women from marginalised and vulnerable backgrounds toward a brighter future.

To sum up: A total of 50 women underwent a 3-month tailoring course that equipped them with skills to function as self-employed tailors.

All the trainees were given a tailoring machine as seed capital support to initiate their tailoring business to enable them to start their micro-enterprises from their own homes.



Combating COVID through a ‘Community Hygiene Initiative’

To maintain hygiene and fight COVID along with ‘Diversey’, Bosconet distributed 8082 hand sanitizer cans to people across the country. The beneficiaries included children and youth living in child-care institutions, senior citizens, low-income families, and patients.

Across the states of Karnataka, Telangana, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, over 62,050 people were served through 109 institutions, comprising child-care institutions, evening tuition centers, nursing homes, technical schools, and hospitals. These cans will help prevent the spread of the virus and encourage hygiene practices amongst the vulnerable and sidelined communities.



Empowerment Through Organic Opportunities

Don Bosco Network-BOSCONET, in collaboration with BOSCO Delhi and Pragati Social Service Society, trained 75 rural women from marginalised families in setting up organic kitchen gardens. This was a CSR initiative in collaboration with IndoStar Capital Limited. Three villages in the Karnal district of Haryana were targeted for mobilising women- Budhakhera, Daniyalpur, and Mugalmajra.

The enrolled women were part of self-help groups (SHGs) that strengthened and capacitated through various training. These women then underwent training for setting up organic kitchen gardens. The activities focused on group discussions, group dynamics training, finance management, credit linkage training, skill training, and market exploration.

The activities aimed to empower the people of the village and encourage participation in the project to have a better living and quality of life. 100% of the selected women have completed the training. 55 of the 75 women have started organic home kitchen gardens. The beneficiaries are now growing their vegetables, reducing food expenses, and improving nutritional outcomes.



Instilling Independence through Livelihood and Entrepreneurship

Bosconet, along with BREADS, empowered 200 rural women from 4 districts in Karnataka with a 5-day workshop on sheep farming. The program aimed at building women entrepreneurs supported by ‘HSBC Electronic Data Processing India Pvt. Ltd’. These women belong to ‘Below the Poverty Line – BPL’ households and are from the rural districts of Bellary, Chitradurga, Yadgir, and Davangere.

Experts conducted the workshops in their fields from the animal welfare department and veterinarian, where the participants learned about selection of breed, Vaccinations and medication, Breeding, diseases, and fodder, amongst others.

The participants received 2 – 3 sheep and were given enough seed capital to purchase cattle insurance, fodder, and medicine, while connecting them with marketing consultants engaged in the project, hence creating linkages between market and the beneficiaries. The consultants supported women in making sheep farming profitable venture.



Towards a Greener Future

Don Bosco Network promotes sustainable lifestyle choices, production, and consumption patterns through awareness creation, skill training, and partnerships. Konkani Development Society, in collaboration with Don Bosco Network and the Sarpanch of the Village Panchayat of Bogmalo initiated the Tree Planting Project.

1700 tree saplings were purchased and the inauguration of the Tree Planting Project was held on the 11th June 2022 at the Don Bosco Primary School, Dabolim. The inauguration was attended by the Sarpanch of the Bogmalo panchayat, the Parish priest of Bogmalo, the staff and students of the Dabolim school as well as the KDS team.



In Productive Harmony With The Environment

Don Bosco Network - BOSCONET in collaboration with Beam Suntory has undertaken the plantation of 2000 trees near Dabolim International Airport, Goa. Various mobilisation activities were undertaken to engage Village Panchayat, Bogmalo, Don Bosco and MES Secondary School and Parish, Bogmalo.

The inauguration of the project was held at Don Bosco Primary School, Dabolim in presence of Sarpanch of Bogmalo Panchayat, staff and students of Don Bosco Dabolim. Till date 2000 tree saplings have been purchased and is envisaged to complete the plantation of 2000 trees- To be complete the plantation by August, 2022.



Take A Stand, Take A Plant

Don Bosco Network celebrated the World Environment Day, 6th of June 2022 by initiating a 2 day engagement program at malls in Kolkata and Howrah to engage donors towards the cause of educating the girl child.

A total of 250 Gifts of plants in 3 Malls served as tokens of appreciation to our donors and as a reminder of their support towards aiding the growth of girls in various Don Bosco shelters.



Sustainability Through Innovations and Togetherness

The YESS Forum (Youth Empowerment for Sustainability and Social Impact)

YESS Forum conversation was focused on various challenges faced by the youth today, that requires a comprehensive, intergenerational, and cross-sectoral approach, with the participation of non-profits, governments, corporates, youth, and all segments of society. The forum was organised and launched by Bosconet, on 22.04.22, at Taj westend, Bangalore, inviting thought leaders in youth development to come together on one platform to identify impact making interventions and to forge meaningful partnerships to set processes to create a sustainable future for youth.

The event was graced by the presence of dignitaries, including a virtual address from Mr. Piyush Goyal, the cabinet minister of the Government of Commerce, Textiles and Industry. He praised the Don Bosco Network for its values of secularism and services towards nation building and better future for our youth through education, skilling and for its constant striving towards building sustainable goals. He proposed that development of youth in the coming decades should focus on education, employment, entrepreneurship and excellence.

Benoit Préfontaine, Consul General of Canada Bengaluru, graciously gave his time in person to the Forum and revealed his inspired decision to contribute towards and associate with the cause for youth empowerment in India to build connections and bring together the already existent Canadian presence in India to contribute towards making a difference towards these causes. Jean-Paul Muller, the Economic General of the Salesians of Don Bosco, also addressed the group virtually during the inaugural session, talking about the work of the Don Bosco Network towards building the nation.

Noel Maddhichetty, Former Director, Bosconet, and the visionary behind the Forum, addressed the gathering conveying his gratitude towards the various dignitaries and inspirational personalities present at the Forum and shared a brief history of Don Bosco and the far-reaching



effects of his inspirational work with marginalised young people. He enlisted the various programs being run and the common goal that the Don Bosco Network has a holistic vision for youth in India.

Dr. Santhanam Ubagaram, Director, Bosconet presented the broad focus areas of Bosconet and the reach of one million people annually across the five verticals of Education, skills training, empowerment of women and communities, caring for the earth, and responding to humanitarian emergencies.

Regional partners of Don Bosco Network, India participated and made presentations on the focus areas of Education, Skills for Livelihood, Gender Justice, Empowering women and communities, Caring for the mother Earth – Climate actions and Responses to disasters.

The conglomeration of exciting and explosive young minds came together to share ideas and revolutionary projects that are changing how the world functions. Collaborations were struck, and we saw the seeds for sustainable goals being sown. People were inspired and challenged to step back into the world to work together towards a more sustainable future.

The Forum concluded on the 22nd of April, on Earth Day, with a strong message felt by all who attended. Connections were built, inspiring stories told, and path-breaking ideas shared for the day.

The Way Forward

The launch of the Youth Empowerment for Sustainability and Social Impact (YESS) Forum on Earth Day, 22nd April 2022,, Bangalore successfully introduced innovative models and initiatives undertaken by Bosconet – Don Bosco Network partner and other stakeholders in the areas of education, sustainable livelihoods, climate action, and gender justice. The discussions from this forum opened new avenues for actors in the development sector to incorporate proven models and ideas in their interventions aimed at marginalised youth and a sustainable future for all. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every aspect of our lives. Global security is now constantly threatened by the continuous insurgencies from extremist groups and the geopolitical tensions between nations. Moreover, environmental sustainability and climate change are currently challenging the nations to act urgently. These societal maladies will fester until we direct our focus on the young, the future generation.



The YESS Forum showcased innovative models and initiatives undertaken by non-profits, start-ups, corporate CSR teams and other stakeholders in the areas of education, sustainable livelihoods, environment and women empowerment. The discussions from this forum have guided the actors in the development sector to incorporate proven models and innovative ideas in their interventions aimed at marginalised youth.

Addressing the various challenges facing today's youth requires a comprehensive, intergenerational, and cross-sectoral approach, with the participation of governments, corporates, youth, and all segments of society. Empowerment of youth would require a holistic approach along the terms of educational attainment, digital accessibility, poverty reduction, employability, environment protection and youth entrepreneurship.

The first edition was a memorable event for Don Bosco Network (Bosconet). We appreciate all the partners who came together on one platform to create synergetic perspectives to unfold avenues for a sustainable future for youth. We appreciate every participant of the forum who came forward to contribute their might. We proudly acknowledge the whole hearted support and special interventions of honourable union minister Shri Piyush Goyal.

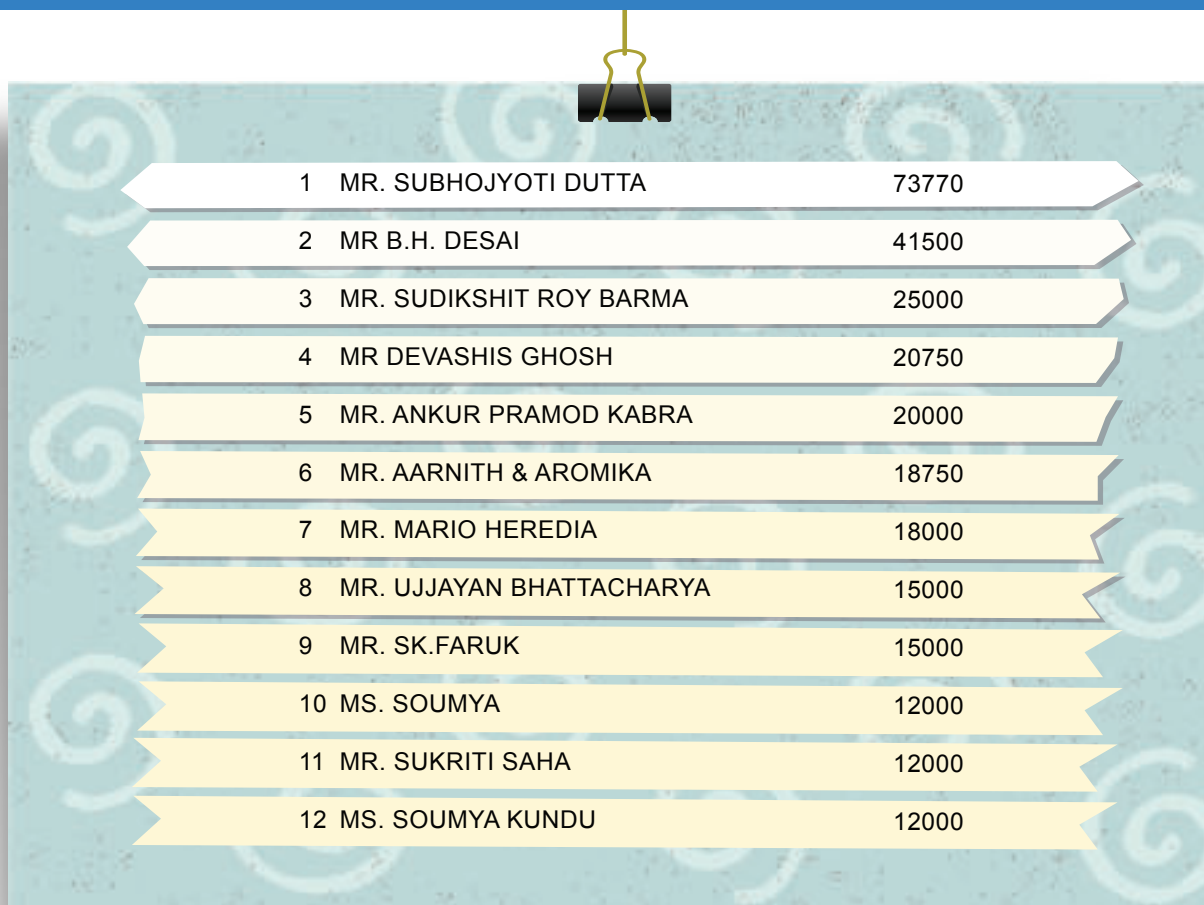
We thank all the 11 Regional Planning and Development Organisations (PDOs) of Don Bosco Network in making this event a grand success.

Our Partners



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We value and appreciate the social concern of our Donors. Donors who continually go beyond their constraints and challenges to reach out to the people in need. It's not only the expression of their generosity but also of their concern for those at the margins of the society.



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