



"I  
am  
grateful to  
Don Bosco for the  
education I received.  
I appreciate their  
efforts to educate  
the children of  
the poor in our  
country."



**Vishwanath Anand**  
*World Chess Champion*

In Mumbai, the alumni of  
Don Bosco Matunga lend a hand to  
children in need!

In Bangalore a street child becomes  
a movie-star!!

In Kolkata Don Bosco goes to  
prison!!!

# Editorial ...

Suresh was a happy man. He had a small plot of land and a little house that was not much better than a hut; but, he had a loving wife, three beautiful children who were doing well in the local government school; there was enough food for all. He was grateful to God for all his blessings.

Everyone in the village was in a similar situation. They were all hardworking small-scale farmers. Most families had their little plot. The rains were good and the soil was fertile. The town was not far away. They sold their goods there and did their shopping. All were happy. There was peace, happiness and prosperity in the little village.

A large enterprise came up in the town nearby. Its human resources manager scouted the area and found this village perfectly suitable for the quarters for the company's staff.

He offered a very large sum to the farmers and bought up several acres of land adjacent to each other and abutting the main road.

These farmers still had enough land left over to cultivate. They also had a large sum of money to invest and to consume. Soon they had a large, flat TV, a car in the garage, an air-conditioner in the bedroom and a fridge

in the kitchen. Their children were admitted into the English-medium school in the town.

Suresh was no longer the happy man he used to be. He realised how poor he was and how better his life could be. He had not become any poorer; but, the discontent came from the sight of those doing better than he did.

A few years ago, the salaries of the top 10% of the employees in a company in India were about five times those of the lowest 10%. Capitalism and cut-throat competition pushed up the income of large investors and top-level employees. They did not allow the earnings of the poorest to rise. Today, the top 10% earn 12 times the lowest 10%. The difference between the rich and poor grew at a faster pace in India than in any of the other BRIC nations.

No doubt, our economy is growing and flourishing. Unfortunately, its benefits are unevenly distributed among the people.

There is a limit to what the government can do to promote economic equality. The collapse of the Soviet Union is proof of the failure of state control. Improving the lot of the poor is, more than ever, the task of every individual. It has to be voluntary.

BoscoNet is happy to be helping people to meet this responsibility. Don Bosco is your reliable, transparent and accountable partner in helping the weaker sections of the population to stand on their own feet.

We invite you to visit any of the Don Bosco institutions in your neighbourhood. Ask them about their services to the poor. These are not always so evident to the casual onlooker. We could even arrange a tour for you to several of our centres at your convenience.



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Fr. M.C. George Menamparampil sdb





# NINE IS MINE!

*Thomas Pallithanam  
Reni Jacob*

*Don  
Bosco  
is not only about  
'charity'. A "rights-based  
approach" is the slogan today.  
BoscoNet is proud to have supported this  
programme of lobbying and advocacy.*

**Phase Two** focussed on the role of the government through surveys conducted at Bus Stations, Railway Stations and other public spaces.

**Phase Three** of the campaign had two parts to it: Data-collection on infrastructural entitlements under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan; and a Signature campaign-cum-cycle yatra from Chandigarh to New Delhi. Children's Score Card on entitlements covered 3677 schools and 3820 anganwadis.

The **fourth phase** of the "9 Is Mine" consisted of a Rail Yatra by children to New Delhi, the national capital. Three groups of children travelled 9 days, through 9 cities and 9 states. They raised 9 demands besides the demand for 9% of the GDP for Education and Health.



*Photo: Liangamang Robert*

*"It is also my dream to be able to allocate 9% of the GDP for Education and Health. But please appreciate my constraints."*

*- Pranabh Mukherjee, Union Finance Minister*

"Nine Is Mine" is a children's campaign to create awareness of the need for increasing the budget for Education and Health. It aims to bring pressure on the government to keep its promise of allocating 6% of the GDP for Education and 3% for Health. The campaign also links this commitment to the Millennium Declaration & Millennium Development Goals.

The **first phase** of the programme was a Signature Campaign in November 2006. Although the target was 100,000 signatures, more than 400,000 were collected.



*Photo: Fr. Thomas Pallithanam*

*"Now I know I can make a difference."*

*- Sarguna Pandian, 13 yr old from Salem, TN*

"You children make me proud. It is always a pleasure to interact with you."

- **Shanta Sinha**, chairperson NCPCR

## The Yatras

One group of 9 children with disabilities, supported by 9 other children, started out from Shillong. They travelled through Guwahati, New Jalpaiguri, Patna, Lucknow, Una, Ambala and Chandigarh. Another group travelled from Thiruvananthapuram along the West Coast, via Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Goa, Panvel, Vadodara and Jaipur. The third route was from Kanyakumari along the East Coast, via Madurai, Chennai, Rajamundry, Bhubaneswar, Kolkotta, Ranchi and Kanpur.

Each group underwent a period training before the journey. A variety of NGO's organised grand functions at their points of departure. At every stop on the way groups of children and adults received the yatris, held public meetings and collected signatures.

## Programme at Delhi

The children spent the 20<sup>th</sup> November – Child Rights Day – in a workshop at New Delhi to discuss the main issues to be addressed in their advocacy efforts.

On 21st November there was a Public Hearing at Mavlankar Hall. The event was attended by Rajya Sabha M.P., Shri. Oscar Fernandes, and members

"As president of one of the largest teachers' unions I understand what it takes to make education accessible for all"

- **Jagdish Thakor**, MP from Gujarat

of  
the  
Delhi  
Minority  
commission  
led by its

chairperson, Mr. Safdar H. Khan. In the afternoon 40 children met H'ble Minister of State, Sudip Bandyopadhyaya, floor leader of TMC.

A delegation of 30 children met the Chief Minister of New Delhi, Smt. Sheila Dikshit on 22nd November. The same day they also visited the parliament. Ms. Agatha Sangma, the H'ble minister of Youth Affairs, made it possible for the delegation of children from the North-East to have an interaction with Members of Parliament Navin Jindal, Sandip Dikshit and Varun Gandhi in the Parliament Annexe, and later have a lunch with them.

"I had to leave my home state after the Kandhamal riot and come to AP to pursue my studies. Others have not been lucky like me."

- **Jerubbabel**

In the afternoon a delegation of 45 children visited H'ble Minister Krishna Tirath, Minister with Independent Charge of Women Development and Child Welfare.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November – the rallyists from the East Coast lobbied Sri. Jagdish Takor, MP from Gujarat, Chairperson of NCE. A delegation from NE, East Coast and Delhi – over 60 children in all – met Smt. Shanta Sinha, Chairperson, NCPCR.

Kanyakumari

Madurai

Puducherry

Chennai





Chandigarh

children involved and for those who made it happen. It was a great team effort of civil society, particularly those involved with children. The children made a historic journey of governance accountability and advocacy. BoscoNet is proud to have been a part of this.

Una

A t 18.00 hrs was the most important appointment. A delegation of 9 children, selected from the different routes and from Delhi schools along with 3 adult guides, met the H'ble Finance Minister, Sri. Pranabh Mukherji at his office. "It is also my dream that I will be able to meet this very necessary demand. But do appreciate my constraints....." was the response of the minister. He also hinted that we keep up the pressure so as to create the environment to make the allocation possible, sooner rather than later.

This was an altogether great experience for all the

Delhi

Ranchi

Lucknow

Patna

Kurseong

Guwahati with Assam CM, Mr. Tarun Gogoi

Rajmundry

"This has been a once-in-a-lifetime privilege to share this great adventure of governance accountability by children. I have learnt so much."

- Saneesh

Adult accompanying the group from Kottayam

The message from our children is "We do not want to wait for tomorrow to be citizens. We want to be heard TODAY so that, together, we will have a better Tomorrow."

Photo: Thomas Pallithanam



"Give Voice to the Girl Child and you will see changes!"  
- 17 year old **Jainab** from Meerut, Winner of India Pride Award given by Dainik Bharat.



# DON BOSCO IN PRISON!

Technical schools in prison, and many other services

Fr. M.C. George

**D**on Bosco, over 160 years ago, believed that no person is born a criminal, neither is he an outcaste. He spent time in prisons helping the young people there. The Salesians in Kolkata follow in his footsteps. Don Bosco Prison Ministry (DBPM) was conceived in the year 1998 to bring JOY BEHIND BARS. Its mission is to rehabilitate legal offenders, in particular the young ones. Fr Scaria Nedumattathil was, and still is, the heart and the brain behind this service. Presently it provides services to prisoners at Lalgola Open Air Jail, Midnapore Central Jail, Dum Dum Central jail, and the Central Prisons at Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Dumka.



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*To Whomsoever It May Concern*

*Don Bosco Prison Ministry, Berhampore has remarkably brought meaningful changes in the lives of inmates both during their incarceration and post-release by imparting vocational training to the inmates of Berhampore Central Correctional Home. The organization takes initiative in different educational and recreational programmes inside the correctional home.*

*I wish them all success in all their endeavours.*

  
(Ranvir Kumar, IPS) 23/12/2011

Fr. N.T.Scaria  
Don Bosco Prison Ministry  
Berhampore



**“Never give humiliating reprimands,  
never inflict corporal punishments.”- Don Bosco**

### **Vocational Training Courses:**

There is no guarantee of a prisoner's good behaviour once he is released. In fact, he could be spending his time in jail learning even worse things from the more hardened criminals.

Approved by the Directorate of Industrial and Technical Education, Government of Paschim Banga, DBPM offers prisoners training in driving, motor mechanics, auto electricals, garment making and computers. We have a 100% success rate – nothing distracts the prisoners from their studies! In effect, Don Bosco is running a technical school in the prison.

Prisoners from any correctional institute in West Bengal can apply for admission to the vocational courses through the Inspector General of Prisons. The training is for a period of one year.

### **Recognition:**

- In 2008 Government of Jharkhand invited Fr. Scaria Nedumattam to take up welfare activities in the prisons of Jharkhand state.
- Certificate of appreciation from NALSA on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006 in the presence of Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. G. Balakrishnan, Judge, Supreme Court, and other state dignitaries.

Don Bosco Prison Ministry works on the side also to serve needy tribal youth and women towards self discovery, economic progress and leadership.

Photo: Berhampore Don Bosco Prison Ministry Archives



## Prisoners Family Welfare Scheme:

DBPM helps the families of prisoners to repair their houses and marry off their daughters. They get help to improve their earnings through the purchase of rickshaws and opening tailoring shops.

## Micro Projects for Income Generation:

Don Bosco's micro projects create an income that the prisoner can use as capital when he returns home. A Shopping Complex, Rickshaw/Van Transporting System, Cultivation, etc., are in full swing. DBPM is helping to set up a cooperative society in collaboration with the Prison Directorate of West Bengal. Don Bosco Chandradeep at Hariharpara does the same for released women prisoners, women deserted by husbands and destitute women. They learn sewing, embroidery and doll making.

## Sports and Games: Music and Entertainment

A Salesian house without music is a body without a soul – Don Bosco

Sports, games, music and entertainment form an integral part of any Don Bosco activity, even behind bars! There is even a music band training course for prisoners in collaboration with Murshidabad District Police.

## Children of Prisoners enjoying their day out on their Parent's Sports Day



Photo: Berhampore Don Bosco Prison Ministry Archives

## Jeevan Asha: Project for Prisoners' Children Back Home

Jeevan Asha helps children of prisoners. It sees to their education, and physical and mental well being. They overcome shame and the stigmatization, and reshape their lives. Holy Child Home has 125 girls, all children of female prisoners and commercial sex workers. It is a joint venture with Prison Directorate, Government of West Bengal and Sisters of Charity of Sts. B. Capitanio & V. Gerosa.

## Legal Assistance and Counselling:

Sharing the vision and the mission of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), DBPM ensures that 'even the weakest among the weak does not suffer injustice arising out of any abrasive action on the part of the state or private person'. DBPM gives information on legal matters. It also educates people about what is to be done when a person is arrested.



Fr. Scaria hoisting the flag on Sports Day



Don Bosco Prison Ministry depends totally on donations for its various welfare activities. The budget for 2012 is as follows. Please sponsor an item or contribute your mite to it.

1. Vocational Training courses:

SALARIES : Rs. 6,70,000.00

Materials : Rs. 5,61,000.00

Equipment (Computers, used motor vehicles, sewing machines, motors etc.)  
Rs. 5,80,000.00

2. Rehabilitation of released prisoners: Rs. 10,00,000.00

3. Legal assistance for needy prisoners: 5,00,000.00

4. Educational support for Prisoners' Children Back Home – 1500 students : Rs. 24,00,000.00

5. INFRASTRUCTURE (to add concrete roof to an old tin shed which is used as auditorium by Don Bosco Prison Ministry) : Rs. 32,00,000.00

Send your donation to : Don Bosco Yuva Jyoti , Berhampore,  
P.O. Boaliadanga, Dt. Murshidabad  
Paschim Banga, India – 742102.  
Email: scaria11@bsnl.in ; dbpmbherhampore@gmail.com  
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Website: www.donboscoprisonministry.org

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## Financial help given out by BoscoNet and Bosco Aid Trust upto 15 January 2012

|   | Financial Assistance given                                | Amount           | Account         |
|---|---|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Help for Kristu Jyoti, Bangalore                          | 200,000          | Bosco Aid Trust |
| 2 | Repair of Skills training school for dropouts - Najafgarh | 70,000           | BoscoNet        |
| 3 | Financial Assistance - Marriage                           | 50,000           | BoscoNet        |
| 4 | Nine Is Mine Campaign by children                         | 28,807           | BoscoNet        |
| 5 | Scholarship - North East                                  | 400,000          | BoscoNet        |
| 6 | Scholarship-Vocational Trg Institute, Najafgarh New Delhi | 384,910          | BoscoNet        |
| 7 | Starting Vocational Trg Centre for dropouts - Tripura     | 298,832          | BoscoNet        |
| 8 | Victims of Cyclone "Thane" in Cuddalore district, TN      | 200,000          | BoscoNet        |
| 9 | Scholarship for Karaikal, Puducherry                      | 82,500           | BoscoNet        |
|   | <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>1,715,049</b> |                 |



# Caterpillar to butterfly

## Street urchin to Film Star

Photo:  
BOSCO Bangalore Archives



Fr. P.S. George

Mr. Lokesh Kumar plays the lead role in a Kannada film being shot these days. He has already been signed up for three more films. Who would imagine that he is (was) a runaway kid!

He worked the streets of Bangalore and slept on railway platforms till he was picked up by BOSCO (Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota). BOSCO is a Don Bosco institution that gives shelter to street and working children in the capital of Karnataka.

His mother had lost her mental balance after years of fights with his father. Finally, she disappeared alto-

gether. His stepmother would not allow him to go to school. She made him do all the household chores in-

stead. Lokesh just hopped on to a train to Bangalore, all on his own, at the age of six!

Given the opportunity for schooling, he excelled. Today he has completed his LLB (Bachelor of Law) and plans to do MSW, too.

"I loved watching movies and aped

actors for fun," Lokesh says. The programmes at BOSCO helped him develop this talent. That enabled him to join a private TV channel's talent show 'Hero No.

## ZERO TO HERO NO 1

Lokesh Kumar, who ran away from home at age six, is now making waves on the idiot box; wants to help street children in future

IMRAN GOWHAR  
imran.gowhar@mid-day.com

FROM a runaway urchin to a TV sensation, Lokesh Kumar (22) is a success story. Rising from the streets, he



BRIGHT COLOURS OF LIFE: Lokesh is studying law and also sells paintings to make a living

fun", Lokesh recalled adding that he never knew that this talent would lead him to success one day.

BOSCO's executive director, Fr. George PS noticed Lokesh's talent, and encouraged him to join the school. Today Lokesh is doing his LLB from Vivekananda Law College in Malleshwaram, and also sells paintings to make a living.

"I love painting in oil and acrylic, and dabble in photography," Lokesh said adding that he earns around Rs 5,000 every month.

A year ago, he reunited with his father and an aunt. "They shower all their love on me," an emotional Lokesh recalled. "Many people address me as uncle, and rela-

## Networking & Awareness building among workers at the railway station.

Photo: BOSCO Bangalore Archives





One'. The jurors, who were all movie actors, selected him for the top prize from the 600 contestants.

He was immediately signed up to play the lead role in his first movie. He was also involved in a second TV programme, 'Nakra Bakra', modelled on MTV's Bakra programme.

"I love painting in oil and acrylic, and dabble in photography," Lokesh says. Mere hobbies at BOSCO, these skills helped him earn and pay a part of his costs while studying for LLB.

Why should a successful actor, painter and photographer do MSW? "I want to help street children who are deprived of their rights," was his reply in a flash. BOSCO is proud that they have not merely given an opportunity to a homeless child. They have built someone who will, in his turn, contribute substantially to give a second chance to many more needy kids.



**B**OSCO is doing yeomen service through its various outreach programmes for the rehabilitation of street children, missing children and child labourers and exclusively working for children who need care and protection and who are in conflict with law. They support children in education, health, training, legal matters and job placement. BOSCO has been working closely with our department.

**Dr. Shamla Iqbal, I.A.S.**  
Director of Women and Child  
Development in Karnataka



Photo:  
*dineshgundurao.com*

I have known BOSCO Organisation for a long time. They are doing excellent service towards the poor and destitute children in Bangalore City. I congratulate them and I am sure that they will continue to do their good work for many more years.

**Dinesh Gundu Rao, B.E., M.L.A.**



**B**OSCO has been rendering invaluable service in the field of Child Abuse Prevention and Child Rights Protection. Its work in the areas of rehabilitation of street children, rescuing children from debt bondage and looking after cases of missing children has continued to draw applause from the Government and public alike. BOSCO has acted as the human interface of the government, particularly the Police.

BOSCO is the face of the successful outreach programmes launched by the Government and its activities have been accepted as a model elsewhere. Their dedication and selfless service is much appreciated.


**Pronab Mohanty**  
Joint Commissioner of Police  
Crime (West), Bangalore City

## Children enjoying in one of their Formal Classes

Photo: BOSCO Bangalore Archives







**“A**s a child my parents sent me to work in a weaving factory. After two years I ran away. BOSCO rescued me in 2004 and sent me to school. I scored 68% in SSLC and 1st Rank in PUC. I am now studying for BBM, working part-time at McDonalds. BOSCO is the lucky door to opportunities. I seized them. It is because of BOSCO that I am in a good position today.”

**Vijay Bhaskar** - Beneficiary

**“A**fter SSLC I came to Bangalore to support my family. However, I got into crime, spent two years in a Remand Home and was on the verge of committing suicide. BOSCO came to my rescue and helped me discover my talents in music. Now I am doing a PUC and working part-time. BOSCO is everything for my life.”

**Mr. Jagavandu** - Beneficiary

**B**OSCO plays a vital role in the rehabilitation and transformation of ‘Run Away’ boys. I am impressed with BOSCO’s quality service. All the staff are motivated and inspired by the spirit of DON BOSCO. They are very giving of their time and dedication.


**Sr. Pauline Raju**

**“B**OSCO is a unique family. It invites lowly children to belong. Understanding that a child’s emotions are fragile and volatile, BOSCO extends a parent’s love and care. Children absorb values like truthfulness, sincerity, solidarity, mutual love, cooperation, understanding, brotherly concern, mutual support and socialization. The BOSCO family creates an ambience filled with love and the children become productive for the society and the nation”

**Ben Absalom**

Volunteer from Sydney, Australia





Every street child is truly special for the very fact that they exist, in spite of all of the odds. BOSCO began with a direct and heartfelt response to the plight of children on the streets. BOSCO believes in helping children find their own path – as everyone is unique and have their own individual needs, aspirations and capacities.

**Mr. Sham Raj - Staff**

It is my privilege to be associated with Bosco and I take this opportunity to wish BOSCO more power on their work.

**Manjunath**  
Chairman

Standing Committee for Taxation and Finance

BOSCO needs food, clothes, uniforms, games articles, a used vehicle for the driving school, medicines, stationery, kitchen utensils, .....

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Email-[boscohome@rediffmail.com](mailto:boscohome@rediffmail.com)

Phone - 080-65370112

Photo: BOSCO Bangalore Archives



# MATUNGA ALUMNI

Photo: DB Matunga Alumni Archives

The alumni form a part of Don Bosco's family. They have inherited his spirit. They share among themselves and with the needier people around them.

The alumni of Don Bosco Matunga are an active lot. Led by Mr. Kailash B. Parekh, their secretary, they had SIX programmes from October to December 2011.

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual 'Bosco's Raas Garba 2011' on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, had a huge turnout of revellers (nearly 5700) among whom were 80 street children from Don Bosco Shelter – Wadala.
2. The alumni gave a special treat to the primary students of the school on children's day – a great Magic Show on Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday.

## Samples of the gifts given to children of Shradhanand Mahila Ashram by DB Alumni, Matunga

Photo: DB Matunga Alumni Archives



3. Fr. Provincial's official visit to the unit took place on 29<sup>th</sup> November. He congratulated the alumni for their renovated office and their nu-

**Mr. Kailash B. Parekh**  
Secretary

merous activities in the past year. He urged them to offer more services to the poor through Don Bosco Shelter Home, Anmol, etc.

## DB Matunga Alumni distributing food to the children at Don Bosco Shelter home

Photo: DB Matunga Alumni Archives



4. On 13 December, the alumni organized a programme for the street children in Don Bosco Shelter Home. The president Mr. Jayesh T. Chandran, his wife and daughter donated snacks for all the kids and encouraged them to benefit from the services Don Bosco offers them.
5. The Vice-President's wife, Mrs. Cecilia D'Mello turned Santa Claus and distributed cookies, puzzle sets and magic slates to the primary children, and shoes to 25 under privileged children.
6. We made Christmas very special for the children of Shradhanand Mahila Ashram on 26 December with gifts of sweets, cookies, puzzle sets and magic slates.



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Please find enclosed my contribution of Rs.....through cheque /draft no.....to support your work in favour of the poorest children of south Asia. I would like this money to be used for : (you may specify here the purpose for which you wish your money to be used)

Please pray for the following intention of mine and my family's:





His Excellency, Mr. Peter Verghese, High Commissioner of Australia, interacts with Mr. Manoj during his visit on 5 January 2012 to the Street children lodged at Don Bosco, Delhi. Manoj ran away from home at the age of 8, was rescued from the railway station by Don Bosco and he had started college in Delhi University.

## Printed Matter

“The goodness of a  
person is at its purest  
in the young.”

**Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk,**  
King of Bhutan

## BoscoNet

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