

# BOSCONET

Vol. 8, No. 1, January - March 2018

## MIGRANT REACH OUT PROGRAM

## GREEN ALLIANCE: RECREATING GREEN WORLD

## DON BOSCO TATA LITERACY PROGRAM



**DON BOSCO INDIA**

**Bosc Net** Motivate  
Educate  
*A Friend to Anyone in Need* Build Skills  
A RESOURCE MOBILIZATION UNIT OF DON BOSCO INDIA





# Empower Change Live the joy of true giving

## Message from Director

'Nava Jeevan - a new life' is a documentary based on the program for children on the street at Don Bosco Navajeevan, Vijayawada. It was screened at the Hollywood film festival and won an appreciation award. This film was also screened 52 times in various international film festivals. The director of this short film, G. Ashok; then a budding director, today has soared to phenomenal heights, becoming a mega-director of the latest box office hit movie, Bhagmati.

In a telephone conversation, he acknowledged his indebtedness to Fr. Thomas Koshy, who shaped his career as a youth, at a decisive time in his life. The program of Navajeevan transforming lives of the children on the street, and his interaction with the Don Bosco fathers has deeply impacted his outlook on life today. The powerful message we can take from Ashok's movies is the commitment to social solidarity and assertion of the rights of youth and women. Personally gifted with skills for the film world, Ashok affirms that he imbibed the mindset to make right choices in his personal life and career, guided by Don Bosco's ways.

Our positive social interactions can shape our experience and the lives of others. Such success stories in life are possible with committed persons who work with passion and make others passionately motivated. Our mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion. Most of us make our way through life bogged down by our day-to-day rituals, and the demands of jobs, families, and friends.

It is imperative for all of us to stop and ask ourselves a very important question, "What do I really want?" It is a question that will inspire and bring to the forefront what we truly feel passionate about.

In our annual meeting held at Dimapur, members of the Social Development network of Don Bosco India under the patronage Bosconet pledged to engage in four flagship program across India. Education of the Marginalised, Sustainable Livelihood Skill Training for youth, Empowerment of Women, and Don Bosco Green Alliance. Our prime focus of this year is to focus on the concerns of the climate change, through our flagship program of Don Bosco Green Alliance (DBGA). The vast network of educational and social development, Don Bosco centers will engage in campaigns and change making initiatives.

I welcome you all to join hands with us, to take forward these initiatives to change our lives and that of others. A warm welcome to all the new donors who have joined the family of Bosconet, to extend their solidarity to the marginalized children, youth, and women of our country. I thank all the committed individuals, donors and our corporate partners- Artemis, Tata Group, and others, for their continued support. Counting on your generosity, we optimistically continue our mission to empower the marginalized to build a more harmonious and just society for all.

**Fr. Noel Maddhichetty sdb**  
**Director, Bosconet**

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## Green Alliance: Recreating Green World

In an article published in the Indian Express on 1 January 2018, Ramchandra Guha – one of India's most reputed historians – pointed out that as we enter the new year, environmental sustainability is the second biggest challenge that India presently faces (the first being communal harmony). "Our forests are threatened with invasive weeds and declining biodiversity. Our cities have the highest rates of air pollution in the world. Our rivers are badly polluted too and groundwater aquifers are depleting rapidly. The chemical contamination of our soils is colossal. These multiple environmental crises threaten our economic future, and perhaps our civilizational future as well." wrote Guha.

One of the responses of the Don Bosco Society to the environmental crisis has been the launching of Green Line. Green Line, founded in 2010, is a Don Bosco environmental organization based in Mumbai. Green Line does not focus on any single environmental problem, rather, it focuses on the source of the problem – people! While its vision is 'Greener People, Greener World', its mission is 'Getting people informed, interested and involved in environmental issues'. To fulfil this vision and mission, Green Line presently runs three flagship programmes in the city of Mumbai.



The first programme, Green Schools Campaign, is focused on educating young minds on their responsibility towards the environment. This Campaign took off in 2010 with 12 participating schools and that number has now grown to over 50 schools.

Our second programme, called Green Lead Volunteers, is a programme for college or university students and works towards building future environmental leaders. Green Lead offers youngsters the perfect opportunity and platform by involving them in a variety of relevant on-going environmental issues.

The third programme promoted by Green Line is the Green Lifestyle Initiative. With environmental consciousness growing, individuals, families, housing societies and locality groups are increasingly looking for ways in which they can contribute towards the green movement.

It has been rewarding over these past eight years to see a steady build up of interest and commitment towards the environment among the people that Green Line has been working with. Yes, these may only be slow and small steps, but mindset, attitude and lifestyle changes don't happen in a hurry. But then again, changing people is the only way to change the present situation... it's only when we have greener people, will we have a greener world. And that, as I said earlier, is the vision of Greenline!

**Fr Savio Silveira, sdb**  
**Green Line Director**







## Launching High Success Rate, Techno-Innovative Adult Literacy Model in Eight Indian States

**BOSCONET, all set to impart reading, writing and functional mathematical skill to 73,500 illiterates in just 50 hours**

The first phase of a three year TCS-Computer-Based Functional Literacy Programme, a unique techno-innovative model, would be launched by BOSCONET in March 2018 across Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana . After successful implementation and lessons derived from its previous three year- pilot project (VEMBU of Tiruchi Province) in four districts of Tamil Nadu, BOSCONET is now extending the programme into additional areas in North India

The core objective of the programme is to train 73,500 illiterates to read, write and do simple arithmetic to enable them to aspire for better paid jobs and enjoy better quality of life across human development indicators; the vision and strategy is to increase access to, starting with functional literacy, leading to financial and digital literacy without which it would be too challenging to gainfully navigate our Knowledge based economy.

### **High Success Rate, Techno- innovation: TCS-Computer-Based Functional Literacy:**

This computer based functional literacy programme (CBFL) developed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) successfully imparts verifiable reading competencies to the learners in approximate batch period of 50 hours, finely moulded into their daily routine without causing disturbance to their routine schedule of work. The above proposed programme uses 120 trained, graduate facilitators to initiate the learning process, with not more than 28 beneficiary under a facilitator at one point of time. This IT enabled methodology allows for standardisation of the quality of training rather than it being a mere function of the capability of the teacher.

The adult friendly curriculum and its immediate linkage with employment rights, strikes an instant chord with the learners and attracts consistent attendance during literacy classes and thus triggering sense of survival necessity, opportunity and momentum among the learners to master the skills.

### **Through Words to Alphabets: The Reverse Method**

The difference in the training strategy adopted in CBFL is that it directly introduces the learners to day to day useful words, thereby teaching simultaneously the letters used in those words.

The traditional method focuses on alphabets first and proceeds to introduce words.

The validated outcomes and benefits enjoyed by trainees include ability to read a newspaper, fill application forms, read bulletins and notice boards at bus and railway stations and correspond with family and friends.

### **Meeting the Beneficiaries and Facilitators:**

Velimela Kalavathy, a 35-year-old resident of Marxist Nagar Colony, a shabby settlement in Medak district, Andhra Pradesh, says “Reading newspapers, signing documents, helping my children with their homework, even boarding the right bus - these were things I couldn’t do previously. Now I can do all of this and a lot more. I feel empowered with self-respect.”

Rupa kumari, 30, she has taught, as a facilitator, CBFL literacy classes to over 20 batches of ladies. “Being able to impart reading skills ...is an empowering experience, because you see the results as early as within 12 weeks,” she says. Rupa helped form a women’s self-help group in her local village. This group now operates local government contracts in the district, and Rupa and her partners have seen their income grow.

### **BOSCONET, COMMITTED TO THE MANDATE.....**

BOSCONET, today, stands at the threshold of a renewed human reengineering endeavour, to lead India and the Asian region towards an equity based, outcome – transparent, inclusive growth of the most excluded, neglected and marginalised groups. CBFL adult literacy is just a part of its larger vision and mandate to contribute to the macro sustainable development and reform agenda in the region. Training of 73500 illiterates in functional literacy in these seven States is only a beginning of a lifelong empowering process and BOSCONET looks upto the pioneering spirit of TATA, its talented personnel at TCS for their continued support and guidance for holistic implementation of the programme.





## GIFTING THEM THE LIGHT OF LEARNING

Educational Sponsorship for Children of Migrant Families in Delhi



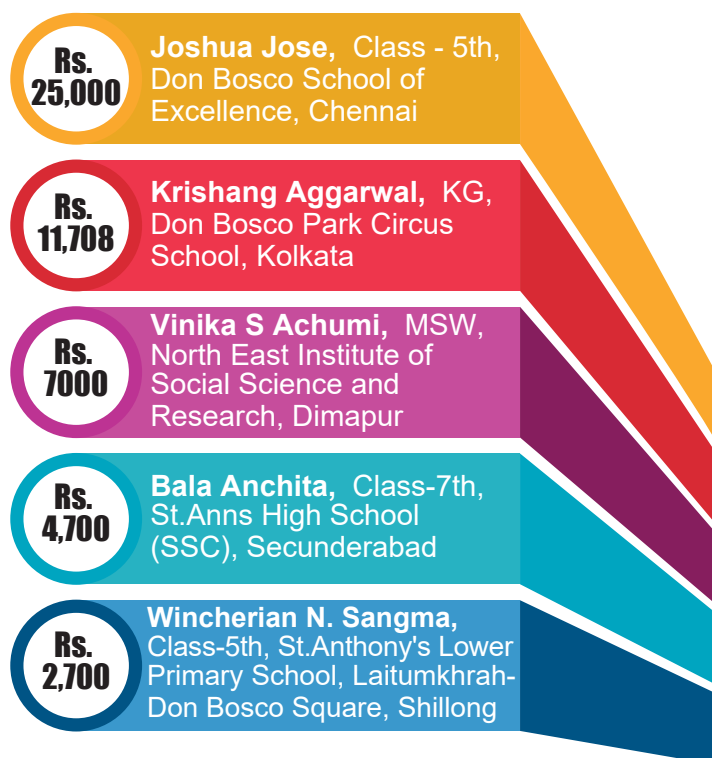
"All it takes is one pen and one book to change the world" says Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai. On the 26th of January 2018, a team from Bosconet visited the Don Bosco School Alaknanda, New Delhi, to initiate 30 migrant children into a life of secured education.

The program began with a word of introduction by Fr. Nobert, mentor to the huge crowd of migrants under his care in Delhi. '

Only education can lift you out of this situation into greater heights' were the words which instilled greater thirst to learn among the 30 young minds who listened to him eagerly. Fr. Noel Maddhichetty, Director, Bosconet, reaffirmed the same, taking the example of Don Bosco, who lived, worked and ultimately gave up his life for the betterment of children and youth like them. Post the session of inaugural address, Fr. Nobert took the opportunity to reveal to the students and their families the aid being presented to the beneficiaries in the form of solar lamps, foldable tables and chairs and school bags. He explained the functioning of the solar lamp to the families, elaborating that now the education of the beneficiaries need not suffer due to lack of electricity and necessary infrastructure to study at home. The program concluded with refreshments for the beneficiaries and their families.

## "EDUCATING TO INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY"

### DON BOSCO Happiness Award for Budding Fund Raisers in School



Joshua Jose



Krishang Aggarwal



Vinika S

"I collected money so that children who cannot go to school can go and study like me. I wanted to help the children to achieve their dreams."

-Nirnay Samajdar, III C  
Auxilliam Convent School,  
Siliguri, West Bengal



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## Ongoing Projects of Bosconet-2018

Bosconet has worked coherently towards transforming the lives of underprivileged children, women and youth from marginalised communities through numerous social initiatives implemented across India. Apart from our yearly activities, Bosconet is currently implementing 4 distinct Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects benefiting hundreds of vulnerable people in need.

### Youth Skill Training and Improved Livelihood Project

TM International Logistics Limited has joined hands with Don Bosco technical school, Liluah, Kolkata in imparting skill training programme to 60 youth and providing them with job placement service to empower them both socially and economically.

### Placement Linked Skill Development of Rural and Tribal Men and Women

Under the second CSR project, Price Water Cooper (PwC) sponsored Don Bosco Self-Employment Institute, Mirpara, West Bengal, to provide 100 tribal and rural men and women competency-based skill training, who will later be placed in suitable employment pertaining to there training.

### Special Education Programme for Slum Children and Women

125 underprivileged children coming from neighbouring slums are provided special educational based support – Evening tuition classes by the Don Bosco Development centre in West Bengal as part of the third CSR project. Funded by TM International Logistics Limited, these children are provided with a healthy and holistic environment where they can be prevented to drop out from schools, flourish as individual and become self-sustained contributing Indian citizen.

### Community Environment Awareness and Orchard Development

As climate change has been a growing concern in the national and international political discourses, UPS Foundation Mumbai sponsored Bosconet, who along with its partner organisation, Pope John's Garden and SURABI Chennai, have collaborated to initiate an environment awareness campaign for youth and create an orchard with 1,200 fruit trees in Madhavaram Chennai. These orchards will then be used to improve the nutritional status of the people living with leprosy and HIV/AIDS.

Bosconet thanks all its partners and well-wishers to make such initiative turn into reality and to enable us to make a direct difference in the lives of the people who most need it.



## We are happy to ACKNOWLEDGE the top DONORS of our last quarter.

Donation period ( Aug - Dec 2017)

1. T M International Logistics Limited, West Bengal	-	Rs. 12,27,500.00
2. PwC India Foundation, Haryana	-	Rs. 5,00,000.00
3. The Secunderabad Navajeevan Society, Andhra Pradesh	-	Rs. 5,00,000.00
4. Artimis Medicare Services Limited, Haryana	-	Rs. 4,25,000.00
5. Seven Islands Shipping Ltd, Maharashtra	-	Rs. 1,00,000.00
6. Biju Mathew, Kerala	-	Rs. 45,000.00
7. Sudikshit Roy Barma, West Bengal	-	Rs. 40,000.00
8. Ankur Pramod Kabra, Maharashtra	-	Rs. 20,000.00
9. Abraham J Puthumana, Kerala	-	Rs. 17,500.00
10. Mercy A, Puducherry	-	Rs. 17,500.00
11. K Bala Geethanjali, Karnataka	-	Rs. 15,000.00
12. Celestine Rozario, West Bengal	-	Rs. 12,000.00
13. Eliza Joseph, Kerala	-	Rs. 12,000.00

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CSR  
Partners



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**Visit us - [www.bosconet.in](http://www.bosconet.in)**



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