

BOSCONET

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**CARING FOR
COMMUNITIES**



EMPOWER LIFE! LIVE THE JOY OF TRUE GIVING

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

The impact of the Covid pandemic has hit everyone hard and has broken more barriers as compared to many other disasters. The marginalized and vulnerable communities across the nation have suffered the most and are being pushed to the utmost limits of poverty.

The daunting work done by social organizations globally to make vulnerable people resilient, empower women, children and communities was overwhelming. It has been a challenging mission to rebuild the lives of the people who were already on the brink of survival in normal times.

We have seen children put back on the streets, men and single earning members lose jobs, women face more abuse and isolation, and all of this takes its toll on the mental and physical health of marginalized communities across the country.

In this issue, we visit the coordinated interventions of Bosconet along with the Don Bosco Network partners across India over the last 3 months of 2021. Our efforts have been in building back better communities from the point of contact right up to enhancing the skills of those involved in

bringing change within the community. The Don Bosco Network launched programs to put young people back into schools, provide skills training, finance women, give migrant communities opportunities to realise their rights and trained groups of workers on how to support and lift those in need.

Towards the end of a tough year and as we brace for another year with the pandemic, the Don Bosco Network has only gratitude for the love and support of those that have donated generously towards various causes. We count on your generous support, to stand by the people who await our helping hand to raise hope and offer new opportunities and a robust life to overcome present hard times.

With best wishes,

Fr. Noel Maddhichetty SDB

Director, Bosconet-DBNSA



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1. CARING FOR THE ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE

Supporting vulnerable communities in Orissa

Orissa constitutes some of the poorest communities in the country, sidelined by ecological degradation, erratic rainfall and drought. The ensuing food insecurity, migration and starvation have led to vicious cycles of exploitation.

Bosconet joined hands with Don Bosco Nava Nirman to support the Tribal settlement of the *Muniguda block (Rayagada District)* under CARE (Covid 19 Action and Relief Efforts).

- Programs aimed at awareness and improving their quality of life were run - Adult Literacy Mission, Health Camps, Summer camps for Children, agricultural initiatives, Awareness programmes on Health and Hygiene, family values, evils of Alcohol etc.
- Food ration kits were distributed to over a 1000 families.
- Children from these communities were provided education by Don Bosco in the local schools upto a certain grade. After a bridge course, so far, 50 of these children were moved to the Don Bosco English Medium School, Muniguda, to continue their education as hostelites.



Caring for the Well-being and Dignity of Migrants

DB4M, India (Don Bosco for Migrants, India) with the aim of understanding the serious issues that trigger and direct the course of migrants, set up 13 Migrant Help Desks in 12 Provinces with the help of Bosconet. Migrant Desk, Hyderabad, allotted a helpline number to answer queries and render possible support. The information collected from this was used to study data of migrant workers and their families and to draw an action plan for Don Bosco Migrant Work in both source and destination locations.



Some of the findings led to the following action efforts:

- Child labour and school dropouts were two predominant issues that came to the forefront. A learning center in a slum (under a tree) was started in Hyderabad on a trial basis, with 15 migrant children from Maharashtra who sold bracelets and necklaces made of beads at traffic signals. The children in this center are being provided with basic education in their own mother tongue.
- Being migrants and not locals, vaccinations were hard to secure. To bridge this gap, a mega Covid-19 vaccination drive was conducted in the month of September for migrants, belonging mostly to the labour class.
- A series of awareness programmes on health, hygiene, vaccinations, education and social entitlements (aadhaar, e-shram) were carried out at regular intervals in various locations of the city, mostly in slums.

Relief to the Covid city of Trivandrum, Orissa

BOSCONET and Give India procured 495 ration kits to be distributed to people from poor financial backgrounds and a low standard of living. BREADS Bangalore, took on the initiative of distributing these kits to people in various slums and vulnerable places. The city of Trivandrum has pockets containing some of the biggest slums, over-populated areas and people suffering from the effects of the Covid pandemic.



“ **The Karimadom colony** - Hazeena, an inhabitant of Karikodam, whose husband - the sole breadwinner - lost his job during the pandemic combined with health issues due to Covid, took its toll on him and the family. Bosconet gave the family a ration kit providing much relief to a difficult situation.

MSK Nagar - This is another overpopulated place in Trivandrum filled with people suffering from financial crisis and struggling to make ends meet. Ms. Jayakumari, who lived in the slum with her daughter, suffered from health issues and job loss during the pandemic. Unable to meet daily needs, the two were in dire straits when the ration kit came at the right time to ease their troubles.

Nemom - Another area reeling from the pandemic housed Mr. Prabahakaran - a senior citizen infected with the COVID 19 virus who worked as a shopkeeper near the Trivandrum railway station. The financial challenges that came with the illness was alleviated with the ration kit provided to him.

Pullampara - Ms. Jasmine, the sole breadwinner, and her 3 daughters were deserted by her husband. They faced acute livelihood problems during the partial and complete lockdowns imposed making their situation very difficult. The ration and food kit came at the right time, to help relieve some of their struggles. ”



2. CARING FOR THE LEADERS OF CHANGE

‘Write for the Good’- A Capacity - Building program for the PDO staff of Don Bosco - by Bosconet

One of the roles of BOSCONET, the network of Don Bosco Program Development Offices (PDOs) in India, is to enhance the capacity of its constituent partners in various domains of skills, consistently. To this effort, BOSCONET planned and executed this capacity-building program for the Don Bosco PDO staff entitled “Write for the Good” – a practical exercise-oriented workshop on how to write a winning fundraising proposal. Twenty staff from the eight Program Development Offices (PDO’s) across the country completed participation in the effective and highly successful training program .



There were three modules held between October and December 2021 and covered various topics including - Stakeholder analysis and engagement strategies; the components of and how to develop a Logframe matrix; Various types of activity schedule; Monitoring and evaluation plan; Budget development and important considerations while preparing a budget; basics of Theory of Change (ToC), important issues in report writing.

The 3 modules of the program were designed and implemented solely by Mr. Louis Manohar, the National Coordinator of Don Bosco Network South Asia (DBNSA). The course was coordinated by Fr. Santhanam, Asst. Director, Bosconet and his team. Fr. Noel Madhichetty, Director, Don Bosco Network, was the Course Director. The program was a complete success and the feedback was positive. Participants who successfully completed the three modules, were awarded with Course Completion Certificates.

“ Testimonials:

- ... when I joined I was prepared to attend a theory session but now I feel confident to have acquired not only the knowledge but more the skill to develop a proposal.
- ... proposal writing is not essentially table work but primarily field work with interaction with all the stakeholders.
- ... learnt the proper method of writing a winning proposal.
- ... the resource person was excellent in knowledge of the subject, a good trainer, imparting skills & a mentor who accompanied us - which made a difference to our training.





Tech for Good - A Leadership Seminar



Don Bosco Network organised Tech for Good—a two-day seminar in December, 2021 in Hyderabad - for the Directors and representatives of the Development Organisations (PDOs) of Don Bosco South Asia. The sessions communicated how the Don Bosco Network can use technology to multiply the effects of the good being done across South Asia through the network by using technology for project management and resource mobilisation. It provided valuable insights and data points to stimulate the leaders of Don Bosco India's development work to think differently to adapt to the new world situation.

The segment discussions spread over two days included:

Technology & Project Management, by Bosco Malapatti, CEO-UKKOTEKNIK, who proposed technological strategies to manage the functions of the NGO, so as to enhance programmatic and financial reporting and transparency. Customized CRM technology (Salesforce) by Cheryl Bartholomeusz who presented how BREADS, Don Bosco PDO in Kerala and Karnataka, was implementing CRM to improve the tracking and reporting of programmes (sponsorship and skill training), and the quality and efficiency of project and volunteer management in the organization. Anvesh Thirukovalluru CSR Head of E&Y Foundation presented tools to gather and track information directly from the field that contributed to improved programme implementation and reporting using dashboards. Technology & Resource Mobilization was discussed by Leo Fernandez the CEO of Talent Ease discussed fundraising using technology. Dhaval Udani, CEO of Danamojo, made a compelling data-backed case to turn NGO focus on individual donors. Fr. Ricopar Rayan, National Director of Don Bosco Green Alliance, presented various green initiatives from the Tiruchy province towards climate action and sought ideas for collaborative, eco-friendly ventures from the Don Bosco Network South Asia forum. The PDO directors pledged to plant a million trees across the Don Bosco Network before the 16th August, 2022, the birthday of Don Bosco. K. Chandrashekar of Unitech Solar Solutions shared the various options available for solar technology and the various solar installations done across the Don Bosco campuses.

The two days provided valuable information, insight and sowed the seeds for equitable futures supported by technology.



4. CARING FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Celebrating the 'Joy of Giving' little children

Every year during the week between October 2nd and 8th, people come forward and give of their time, material and money towards causes they believe in, in a festival of giving known as 'DAAN UTSAV'. This year, Don Bosco celebrated by joining hands with various individuals and corporations to meet the simplest wishes of the children in our country for whom these were unattainable - a toy, clothes, a piece of chocolate.

The Don Bosco network installed 'wish trees' in malls and people came forward in numbers to fulfill these wishes. Havas India Group, Indigo and Omega Healthcare joined hands with Bosconet to raise funds through associates. A crowdfunding campaign also saw much traffic and it was truly a joyful time to watch the wishes being fulfilled.



Ensuring speedy access to health

In a bid to raise the level of health and medical security of the lives of the children and youth of Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh to become more confident and well-rounded adults of tomorrow Bosconet purchased an ambulance with the help of GIC (General Insurance Corporation of India).

The ambulance will be used to ensure timely, quality health care, serve as a mobile health clinic for over 200 children and provide transportation to hospitals for around 1000 rescued children and others in need of medical or surgical interventions, without delays. Post surgery treatment will become easily accessible for the surrounding slums and colonies who lack medical support. Health awareness camps and disease preventive measures can be conducted with ease.



Empowering the Young Women of Hyderabad - Sui Dhaga

Bosconet in collaboration with Bosco Seva Kendra inaugurated a project entitled 'Sui-Dhaga - Empowering Women'. This 3-month vocational-skills based training in tailoring was conducted for marginalized and vulnerable young women living at Salesian Surakshita Home, located in the town of Ravulapalem, Andhra Pradesh. Either survivors of domestic abuse or abandoned by their families, these young women will be provided with job-placement assistance and sewing machines, if they want to start their own tailoring shops. Safeway Concessions supported this act of empowerment towards the women of our country.



A Christmas Celebration of giving

On the 22nd of December, 2021 Bosconet held a program to celebrate the Christmas season with the children and families living under the Palam bridge, Delhi. The celebration was held at Ashalaya, to commemorate the season of love and giving to those less fortunate and was attended by the Fr. Jose Mathew, Secretary, SPCSA (Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia.); Fr. Santhanam, Asst. Director, Bosconet and the staff of Bosconet office in New Delhi.

Thirty three children took part in the celebration. After an opening song by the children, Fr. Santhanam, expressed his gratitude to the children for their performance and for the

presence of the families of the children. He went on to talk briefly about the joy and the reason for the Christmas season. Fr. Jose Mathew also addressed the children.

After the celebration the children went home with a bounty of Christmas gifts - blankets, mufflers/ stoles, muffins, sweets, balloons and packed food for them and their families. They were also given Solar lamps.

With more than fifty families living under the same bridge, there is a constant struggle for light especially at night time. These families have no access to electricity and use the light from street lamps. Our gratitude goes out to the Austrian Embassy who supported the celebration by sponsoring twenty five families with solar panels to light up their nights.





Keeping the spirit of sports alive with a Hi-Tech Sports Bus.

Young talent lies hidden in the deepest parts of India and if found and given the right kind of support they can flourish and raise the well-being of our entire country. In a bid to support the young talent in the sports community from the marginalized and underprivileged parts of our society, the HCL foundation gifted Don Bosco Anbu-Illam Social Service Society, a Hi-Tech Multi-purpose Sports Bus to ferry players from Government schools and community centers to training, coaching and competitions across South India.

It is a high-end bus that houses a 42 inch LED television, an in-built water dispenser, napkin vending machine, a speed governor for the safety of passengers and other such features.



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**WE ARE HAPPY TO
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