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**Motivate
Educate
Build Skills**

bosconet



Editorial

‘FAILURES’ AS SUCCESS STORIES ?

Success stories are wonderful. When we receive a child in the worst of circumstances and bring him up to have a beautiful future, there are reasons for everyone to rejoice – a victim of polio who grows up to be a successful



I visited one of Don Bosco’s institutions during a gathering of some of its alumni, and it was heart-warming to listen to such stories.

There was one guy at this meeting who got up and spoke about himself. He received all the love, care, attention and opportunities that all his companions had received. But, he confessed, he had been uncooperative. He was a constant headache to the Salesians and to the lay staff – lazy, quarrelsome, complaining, In fact he never went on to do higher studies. The staff were always very understanding, loving and helpful. So he did succeed to change his behaviour to an extent and he has a happy family today.

Exceptional success stories are exactly that – exceptional. A good number of those we care for do not reach high levels of education or employment. Some even drop out of studies at school level itself. Are these also success stories?

Yes, they are.

his income over his lifetime can be expected to be higher by an average of 8%. If a child, about to drop out after class III can be made to study also class IV, his lifelong earnings would be 8% higher. If we can get him to study also class V, his earnings could be 16% higher.

There is no ‘failure’ when we work to keep a child in school even a year or two longer than he would study without our assistance. His life and the world will be that much better as a result of our efforts. Of course, we would like every child to complete high school and, if possible, go on to higher studies. We do not always ‘succeed’ to do this. Nevertheless no effort goes waste. These children (and we) are not failures. They (and we) are success stories all the same.

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SENSITIVITY MEETS WELFARE IN AZIMGANJ

Don Bosco Welfare Centre

Samuel Mondol



A good education combined with emotional support, as given through Don Bosco's system, can give a happy future to every child, no matter how bad his background.

A seven-year-old boy stood at the school gate. A faded towel wrapped around his shoulders. He was sweating, barefoot, a layer of dust all over him.

"Hello! Child, what are you doing there? Come over here!"

He shuddered and turned around. There stood the headmaster of the school! Dead scared, he inched over, closer to the man. After all, he was smiling!

"Why are you all wrapped up in a towel in this hot, humid weather?"

"My shirt is....."

"What happened?"

Gingerly, he pulled at the corners of the towel till he held it loose in his hands. He turned around. A 10-inch tear on the shirt exposed his back.

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35 years later, German Hansda recalls that day when he experienced love from a stranger. The headmaster, who gave him a new shirt, also offered him a seat in a classroom, and food and shelter in the boarding. He got educated and became a teacher in the same institution. German proudly declares Don Bosco, Azimganj, to be his 'home away from home'.

Don Bosco Welfare Centre is in service since 1966. The complex has a co-ed school, separate hostels for boys and girls and reaches out to the poor through social welfare schemes. Thanks to numerous generous donors in the past.

Decades ago parents dissuaded their children from going to school. They wanted them for household work. The parents today are past pupils of our school. They chuckle at their memories of general apathy towards education in their times.

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German says, "The respectability as a tribal that we enjoy today has been possible because of the Don Bosco Fathers in Azimganj."

"Had it not been for the hostel I would have been an illiterate housewife today. Living with our affectionate nuns, I rarely missed my family." Mary Soren is in her twenties and is a teacher. She has vivid memories of her painful childhood. Her father worked in a stone-crushing quarry. "I learned hard work from my family, but it was at Don Bosco I learned how to utilize my talents," says **Mary Soren**.



A man's home is his castle. Building and owning one's own home gives a person dignity. 20 families of Kusumkola have experienced this.

Education is not all

Don Bosco Welfare centre does not limit its service only to its campus, but reaches out to the villages. From day one to this day the institution has extended a helping hand to the needy irrespective of caste or creed. In villages like Kusumkola, 20 pucca houses were built. The village pond with its brackish water has now been replaced by 20 tube wells.

The villages around Azimganj are on a steady progress to development. A literate generation is on the rise. A group of teenagers rush forward to greet anyone coming from Don Bosco Welfare Centre. Though they do not study in a Don Bosco, elsewhere, they receive support to continue their schooling. Traditionally, children graze their cattle. Today they go to school and college.



"Knowledge is power. We facilitate the education of children. They will transform their villages. They need only an initial little push, and that is what Don Bosco offers them."

says **Fr. T.T. Sebastian, the Director of Don Bosco Welfare Centre.**

To support these services, sent your donations to:

Fr. Rector, Don Bosco, Murshidabad Dt., West Bengal 742 122

To support similar works anywhere in India, donate to BoscoNet.

PEARLS IN ARUNACHAL

(Project for East Arunachal Pradesh Rural Livelihood)

Bimal Lakra



Chamse, a member of Rangbo Self Help Group, is a talented and gifted lady. She underwent training in Bamboo and woodcraft conducted by AIDA. Now Chamse runs her own restaurant in the marketing them.

Agency for integral Development Action (AIDA) is the social development wing of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Province of Dimapur. The organisation is committed to the integral development of the weaker and marginalised sections of society in Assam (upper), Nagaland, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh.

AIDA has brought about a noticeable improvement in the state. The need for education for their

children, health, and sanitation is now strongly felt and on the way to being met.

Our work has generated enthusiasm among the people for change, savings, unity and collective action. There is greater awareness of their economic and political rights. Now, people in villages face less problems of food shortage because of the vegetable gardens we have promoted, multi-cropping and other income generating activities.



Mrs. Phewon is a member of Ottongkhua Self Help Group. She is a dedicated lady who guides and gives immense help to the other members of the group. In 2010 she took a sum of Rs.10,000 from the SHG to open a grocery shop. Since the village is far from any market town, it met a felt need of the people. She already earns a

to expand her shop with larger stocks of more commodities.



Chalai Wangsa is a community based trainer for Pongchau village. He took a loan of Rs. 20, 000 from AIDA in the year 2010 in order to start his own business. Today, he runs his own carpentry shop. He is able to meet his family's needs. He is a master carpenter today,

shelves, tables, chairs, cupboards, armchairs, etc. He is in the process of upgrading his shop with more materials and tools.

Terrace cultivation in Mintong



Jhuming' or 'slash and burn' system was the only method of rice cultivation the Wangchos knew. They cut down an area of the forest on hill slopes, burnt the wood and sowed their seeds. This method results in the destruction of forests, fast degradation of the soil, and an immense amount of labour, including frequent weeding, for an extremely meagre harvest.

Terrace cultivation was introduced in Mintong village in the year 2003. Seeing is believing. AIDA organized an exposure trip for SHGs to Nagaland and Manipur. The Wangcho farmers saw for themselves how terrace cultivation is done in hilly areas. AIDA sponsored Rs. 50, 000/- to support the cutting of terraces. Now in Mintong village there are 21 individuals doing

farmers tremendously. The production is high, whether the rain comes in time or

they got 30-35 baskets out of 20-30 kg paddy sown. In terrace cultivation they get 20 baskets out of 7 kg

Hamonkhong group (candle making)

Hamonkhong, a Self Help Group in Borduria village, runs a candle making unit. It was started in the so well. They takes part in various exhibitions organized at the district level and state level. They have started exporting their product to neighbouring districts too.

Earning one's own livelihood builds one's self-esteem and

when people, whose economy was exclusively subsistence agriculture, start earning cash through other means, no matter how small the scale of it, they take giant leaps forward. Arunachal is changing.



So they say about the AIDA intervention in Arunachal



“Earlier, I didn’t know the importance of saving money. Whatever I got I spent. But now I have learnt it. It is like “little drops of water make the mighty ocean.” Now I have more than Rs.3000 in the group savings account. And also, I’ve started saving in my personal account, too.” *Noncha Tesia of Kamse group*

“Our village used to be full of pig dung and cow dung. We mostly used open toilets where pigs run around, but after AIDA supported and trained us how to use the low cost toilets, the situation completely changed. Now we put pigs in their sty and most of our villagers have proper toilets. Sanitation has improved to a great extent.”

Wangli Wangsu of Lungkhojan Group



“I do not need to depend on the market for vegetables. AIDA gave me assistance to and now I am equipped with that skill. My products are marketed in good quantities. I have learnt the habit of saving as well as the value of saving.” *Atha Wangsu of Tuntam Self Help Group*

INDIAN SALESIAN – WORLD STANDARDS



Father Barnabe D’Souza SDB, an Indian Salesian belonging to the Province of Mumbai, has taken charge as the deputy secretary general of the international Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) that has members in 58 countries. He will now coordinate the works of 200 IFCU members, including 11 in India.

In May 2008, Fr. D’Souza was awarded a doctorate from the University of Coventry, UK, after he successfully defended his thesis: ‘Changing Mindsets: Evolution of a Rehabilitation Programme for Chemically Dependent Male Street Adolescents in a Major Indian City’. His research ended 21 years of experience that he gained from working with street children in Mumbai, especially in the rehabilitation of drug abusers.

He has also lectured in several Universities in Asia, Africa and Australia, and published 17 books and made several presentations on social research, community development, and the social sciences at various international forums.

Your dedication, enthusiasm, and insight are really inspiring. We wish you many years of great

around the globe!

PHYSICAL CHALLENGES A

“At the age of 1 I got polio. School was out of the question. Don Bosco staff took me to Don Bosco Prem-



Nivas. One year after I joined, Father got me operated. I was 12 years old when I started my schooling from scratch. I completed my diploma course with the support of the Fathers. Today, I am proud to say, I am an Asst. Engineer, Electricity dept. Happily married.”

“He gave me everything, he gave me life.”

Venkataramana Korrapati

“I was only 5 when the sisters bought me to Don Bosco PremNivas.



I had no idea about my parents. But I would be safe. I was a bad student; I dropped out of class 10. But father never gave up on me. I joined baking classes. Today, I run my own business.

I am married and blessed with two children.

Alexander

“I was a polio victim. I lost my parents very young. Lourdu Raj



master brought me to Don Bosco PremNivas. I was 16 then. Don Bosco gave me treatment, education, a job, and shelter. I completed class 10. Fr. Sebastian John taught me how to live. Today, I run my own

Xerox shop.” ***G. Venkat Rao***

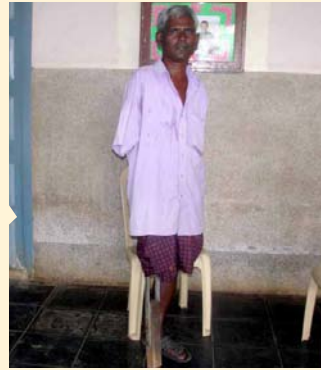


ARE NO BLOCK TO PROSPERITY



at I was happy. I knew I
t; I did not complete my
up on me. Instead I took
run my own bakery.
d with two kids.”

“I
lost my
family, my
arm and a leg
in the cyclone of
1977 when I was
10 years old. God
saved me through
Father Thomas Chin-



nappa. He nursed me and looked
after me. I have completed class 10. Today, I am happily mar-
ried and run a grocery shop.

“Don Bosco is my home. I have seen Jesus Christ in the
face of Father Thomas Chinnappa.”

Emmanuel Manava



“My
life
turned
tragic after
the accident. I
lost my parents
and my left foot



in the accident. I could not
recall what had happened. The next thing I remembered was,
I was in Don Bosco PremNivas. It was in the year 1973. Don
Bosco became my family after that. I did my schooling here
and now I am an Instructor here in the limb centre. I walk

P.V. Narayan

BREAK THE SILENCE!

PARA (People's Action for Rural Awakening)

Angel Zimik



Political parties list what they propose to do. Our women, under the leadership of PARA discuss what they want done.

PARA is located in Ravulapalem of Andhra Pradesh. It was started after the tragedy of a cyclone that destroyed the happiness of villagers on 6 August 1986. To offer relief to the people, Don Bosco Father M. Sebastian started PARA (People's Action for Rural Awakening), totally based on the philosophy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, father of the Indian Constitution.

They began by organizing night schools for children, replacing household items they had lost, reconstructing their houses, etc. Gradually they moved on to the whole concept of self-respect -
ual abuse, and a struggle against Human Rights violations.



Women with broken lives rebuilding their future with a helping hand from PARA

Education on Human Rights became one of the important elements of the work. Human Right Clubs were formed to educate people on the defense of Human Rights. PARA aims at creating an empow-

their demands without fear.

Other welfare Measures

- * Women and Child Rights home for:



“PARA’s work is greatly appreciated all around Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere. The man behind this work is Fr. Thomas Pallithanam. He is doing a wonderful work organizing people, especially the marginalised. The focus is mainly on education in human rights. I wish him success in networking with all Don Bosco institutions in India,” says **Father M. Sebastian (Founder of PARA)**

- * Medical treatment for AIDS patients
- * Home for differently abled people



Physically challenged people enable themselves through PARA to live normal lives

To support these services, send your donation to:

Account Name: People’s Action For Rural Awakening, Account Number : 0248053000001343 Bank Name: The South Indian Bank Pvt. Ltd IFS Code: SIBL 0000248

To support similar programmes in any part of India, donate to BoscoNet.

FR. BIMOL HEMBROM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP 2014



Fr. Nirmol Gomes sdb with Scholarship holders

Six Santals doing engineering or following other Post Graduate courses are the beneficiaries from Don Bosco Self-Employment Research Institute, two from Don Bosco Park Circus, one from Don Bosco Liluah and one from the Rabindra Bharati University.

An impressive ceremony was held at Azimganj on 4th May 2014 to honour Fr. Hembrom and the awardees. Fr. Nirmol Gomes SDB, the Provincial-elect of the Salesian Province of Kolkata, presided over the function.



“Tribals have to press forward for higher studies, for the sake of their own individual selves and, even more importantly, for the survival of their culture,” said Fr. Nirmol Gomes sdb. He was giving away scholarships to promising students of the Santal tribe.

Fr. Jude Sebastian SDB, a batch mate and close friend of Fr. Bimol, initiated the BHMS. He established a corpus fund for the purpose with the generous monetary help of his friends.



SALESIANS
OF SOUTH ASIA
DON BOSCO

SALESIAN PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF SOUTH ASIA

Whereas it has been brought to the notice of the **SALESIAN PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF SOUTH ASIA**, and thereafter verified by us, that **BOSCO**, the Development Office of the Salesian Province of New Delhi, has, since 2003 been caring for refugees and asylum seekers from various countries, and is presently serving 22,000 of them in the National Capital Region of New Delhi, India, supported by a staff of 230, of whom 50% are themselves refugees, and offering through its 14 centres and 7 outreach centres, services such as education, sponsorship for vocational training, job placement, psychological support through counselling, group therapy and home visits, a wide range of health services including de-addiction and rehabilitation of substance abusers, enriching the young through Youth Clubs and empowering women through income generation activities, and offering these services with a quality that prompted the **UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES** to present it as a model to be emulated and imitated by all nations round the globe, having studied the programme for its innovation, replicability, sustainability, partnerships with government and NGOs, and its impact on youth and their families,

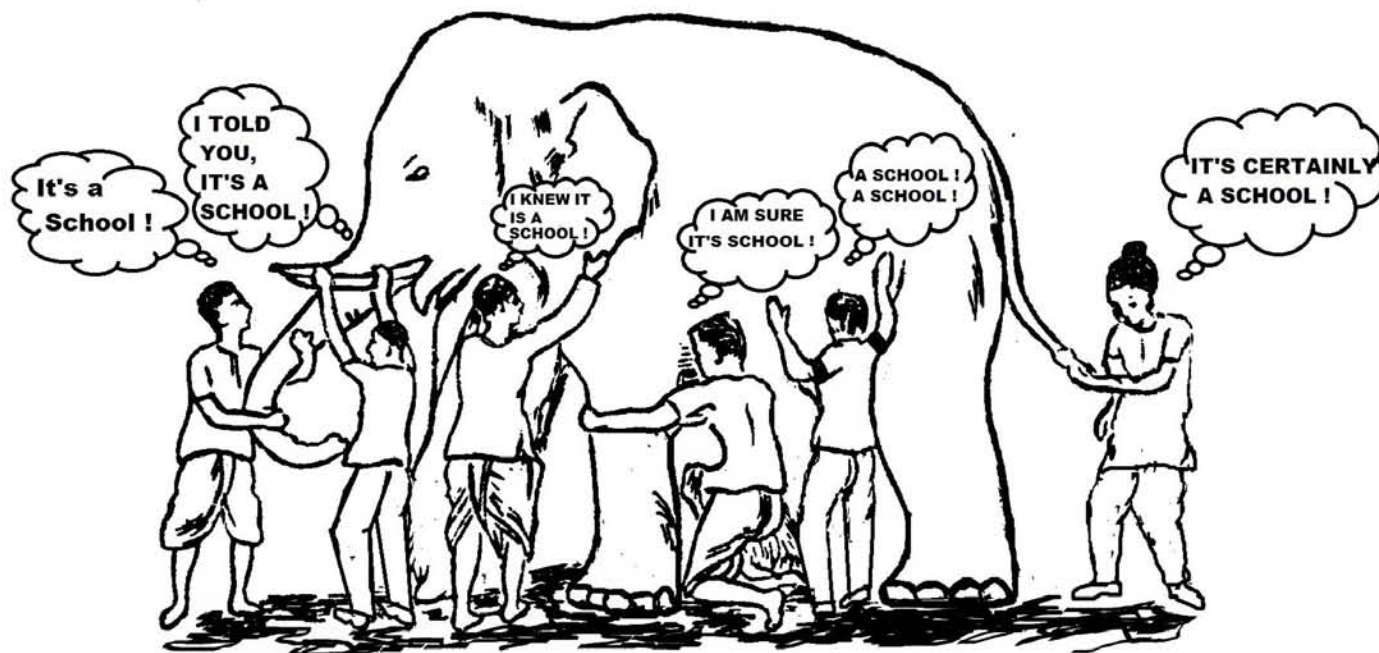
We are pleased to confer on
BOSCO, New Delhi, India, the
PASCUAL CHAVEZ AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE MINISTRY
for the year of the Lord 2013.


(Fr. Noel Maddhichetty SDB)
Secretary - SPCSA




(Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga SDB)
Regional Councillor - South Asia

SIX BLIND MEN OF HINDUSTAN



DON BOSCO ALSO RUNS SCHOOLS!

Don Bosco was a Catholic priest who dedicated his life to needy children and youth. The society he founded serves them in a variety of ways.

- Rehabilitation of street children
- Rescue of Child labourers
- Prevention of dropouts from school
- Re-schooling of school dropouts
- Vocational skills training
- Technical training
- Career Counselling
- Job placement
- Agricultural training
- Promotion of self-help groups
- Evening classes
- Cultural Development

SUCCESS! Mary Kom in boxing, Sylvia Kom in studies!



Sylvia Kom belongs to the same tribe as Mary Kom. Sylvia was in class X in 2012. In November of that year, due to some misunderstandings around her unpaid school fees, she did not sit for the “selection” examinations. Sylvia went back home in tears.

Her sad situation was brought to the notice of BOSCONET too late for us to make it possible for her to write her Matriculation examinations in 2013. We asked her what she would like to do. Sylvia replied, “I am not very bright. I don’t mind repeating class X.”

BOSCONET got her readmitted into class X in 2013, paying all of her school fees. In March of this year Sylvia wrote her Matriculation examinations. The results were announced on 15 May 2014. **Sylvia passed in the First Division, securing “star marks” in social studies.**

CONGRATULATIONS, Sylvia! You have made BOSCONET very proud of you!

If you would like to sponsor Sylvia (or other girls and boys like Sylvia) for further studies, write to us.

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3	Bosco Aid Trust	912010016238760	AXIS Bank	Janakpuri B Block, New Delhi	UTIB0001147	110211087

*Donors to BoscoNet may deduct 50% of their donations from their taxable income under **80 G**. Write to us for the required documentation.*

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These **LITTLE**
EYES dream
a great **FUTURE**
Your **LITTLE HELP** will **CHANGE** her **LIFE**

Your **Happiest** moments
Share with our **Children**

Contact our **CSR** team to guide you

Call : +91 9811297121, E-mail: bosconetdelhi1@gmail.com

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