

BOSCONET

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A photograph of a woman with a bindi and nose ring, wearing a dark blue top and a vibrant, multi-colored patterned shawl. She is smiling and holding a young child with blue eyes who is wearing a green shirt. They are in a room with various items in the background.

**WHERE IS
OUR HOME?**



Editorial

Dear Friends

Warm greetings to all the friends and partners of BoscoNet!

As I write this introductory note, my thoughts go to the people affected by the grim situation of floods in the states of Assam, Rajasthan and Gujarat. A total of 130 people have reportedly died in the North East. In the state of Assam, hit most by the deluge, over 25 lakhs people have been affected and displaced. The aftermath of floods leaves the lives of the people totally broken, with a bleak future. Most of them have to begin their life all over again. I would like to bring to light, the situation of inhuman exploitation of the victims of natural disasters. Those who suffer the most are the innocent children, youth and especially girls and women. While people are in dire need, to fend for their basic necessities, it is saddening to read the news report about, the flood relief camps being turned into hunting ground for human traffickers. This newsletter particularly highlights the acute problem of internal migration and migrant youth.

It might be wonderful to hear about the vision of making hundred "smart cities" in India. Will the smart cities, welcome migrants forced by floods, natural disaster, climate change, ethnic violence and political alienation? Each one of us is challenged today to make, not only smart cities, but cities, towns and villages, to welcome all people of different identities, forced to migrate on various grounds.

Will we accept them as brothers and sisters and provide safe cities, comfortable homes and offer sustainable living? In times of natural calamities, we hear stories of heroic people risking their own lives, to rescue people from the danger of death, just because they are human beings. We witness great sense of solidarity, when most people throw wide open their homes, offer food and shelter to people in distress. I am grateful to all the friends and partners of BoscoNet, who reach out in solidarity to people, struck by various man-made and natural disasters. Our efforts affirm that our "Earth is a home for everyone", everyone deserves a safe home and sustainable livelihood.

As the festival of Onam is fast approaching, I would like to extend my joyful wishes for a wonderful time of God's blessing and prosperity to all donors and friends, who celebrate Onam. I am urged to conclude on a sincere note of appreciation and thanks to all dear friends and partners, who journey along with BoscoNet to bring solace, comfort to those in distress and empower the marginalised, children, youth and women in Don Bosco way.

"Empower Change and live the joy of true giving"

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Photo by - Albert Lakra

WHERE IS OUR HOME?

On 24th May 2017, the 500 people residing in the slums of Palam-Manglapuri were rendered homeless in a matter of 10 minutes. Claiming that the land belonged to the government, officials from the Delhi Development Authority razed down the 50 makeshift houses of the dwellers. It was reported that the authorities arrived at 1:30 pm, which is usually the time when the locality is empty. Unannounced demolition of the house was timed with the arrival of the monsoon, which made matters worse for the dwellers. Mira Devi, 30, recounts the event and says, “All our clothes and blankets are destroyed. Our houses were flattened when we came back. Where do we go now?” She, along with the other dwellers are ready to relocate if the government provides them with another alternative. Ms. Sonia and Ms. Poonam, who are the representatives from Don Bosco mediating developmental activities in the slum, have taken the matter to the authorities and managed to get a stay order from the High Court of Delhi till June 21st 2017. She plans to fight for the justice of these people in the spirit of Don Bosco, and do her best for the poorest of the poor.

“My baby, just a week old couldn’t bear the rain, we just cremated her. We are so unfortunate that we can’t afford a roof for my new born baby” - Malti (slum dweller)

Eight year old Kiran, laughs and hides behind her mother’s Pallu on seeing the camera. A few months back, Kiran had been a malnourished and dirty child, who had never seen the threshold of a school. Today, along with the other 100 children living in her basti, she is seen running to school in clean uniform, a new schoolbag and a sparkle in her eyes. Her mother Mamta, 25, proudly looks on as three of her children begin to take their first steps to become empowered individuals. The teary eyed mother still remembers the day when the team from **Don Bosco-Young at Risk forum, an implementing partner of BoscoNet**, entered the slums of Palam-Manglapuri to change their lives forever. Over one third of India’s population constitutes of migrants. [UN, 2015] The rural-urban migration is claimed to be the primary culprit behind the rising number of slums in the metropolitan cities. India is estimated to have a slum

population of approximately 93 million people, most of whom are migrants, originally from Bihar and UP. Largely illiterate, these people flock to the cities of Delhi and Mumbai in search of better employment opportunities, only to come face to face with the pathetic life in the slums.

The slums of India present a similar picture regardless of the city they are in. Falling roofs, open drain, lack of water and most importantly, lack of toilets. The illegal nature of its construction force the people in the slums to live in the constant shadow of being de-sheltered and left on the streets. Recent incidents of entire areas

of slums getting gutted down in fire or being razed down within minutes reveal the utter vulnerability of their situation.

A report by the Hindu claims that 78% of the community toilets in the slums of Mumbai lack water, while the figure remains similar for the number of slums who lack toilets all together. Lack of clean drinking water breed water borne diseases in these areas, which are the major cause of death among children below the age of five. Nearly two million children under five die every year in India – one every 15 seconds – the highest number anywhere in the world. [The Guardian]

Trapped within this vicious cycle of economic betterment and social upliftment, the slum dwellers often close their eyes to the health hazard posed by their living. The dwellers of the Palam-





Manglapuri slum are no better. These migrants from Uttar Pradesh live under perilous conditions of utter poverty and social exclusion. With the legacy of being illiterate continuing into generations, their children refused to be educated and empowered.

Today, with the constant intervention of Don Bosco, all the children above the age of six regularly attend schools and are in the process of being socially assimilated through education. Additionally, the people have now been sensitised about the importance of saving money and having access to clean drinking water. Ms. Sonia, from Don Bosco-Young at Risk forum, who mediates the activities of Don Bosco in this slum, is no longer an outsider to the people but a part of their own closely knit family.

She said, “Initially, they were reluctant to be helped; they would run looking at us and even turned violent at times...it is only after extended sessions of interaction over a period of six months that they have opened up and accepted the help we offer.

Today, there is nothing they hide from me.” Even though the dream of complete emancipation is still far fetched, these slum dwellers claim that life has improved for them, as now they can dream of their children rising above these gutters of deprivation. **It has always been the aim of BoscoNet to reach out to such vulnerable communities in need. We hope to continue our mission through facilitating our partner organisations throughout our nation.**

Success Stories of BoscoNet and Network Partners

From Poverty to University

I belong to a poor family from Bibi Bagan, Tangra. It was very difficult for my father, who was a rickshaw puller, to support my education. I started getting help from Nitika Don Bosco through the sponsorship program. I was in class 4 when I started getting my sponsorship help” are the words of Taisum Khatun, who comes from a marginalised family and got an opportunity to study and prove herself. She is now preparing for her Joint Entrance Exam for Medical Studies. Taisum gleefully announced, “I am thankful to Don Bosco for their help for my educations all these years. Without Don Bosco’s help I would not have reached where I am today”. Taisum is amongst the many girls that Nitika Don Bosco supports and empowers.



Road to Prosperity



Sambhaji is a farmer who is from the Pimpalgaon Landga village in Ahmednagar. His village falls in drought prone zone and since childhood he saw villagers migrate to cities in search of jobs during the lean season. Bosco Gramin Vikas Kendra (BGVK), Ahmednagar. BGVK adopted this village under its rural development activities.

A micro level plan was prepared with the participation of village. Integrated watershed project in the village which created awareness on water conservation and water management was implemented. These efforts led to an increase in the water table level and increase in the availability of surface water in the village. Due to the effort of BGVK, Sambhaji’s and other farmers financial situation has increased. When asked, Sambhaji said “My village falls in drought prone zone. I could take only one crop in a year and for rest of the year I would work as labourer. Now my life has changed after the intervention of BGVK in my village. I now take four to five crops in a year.”

Shabnam's Beauty Parlour



Shabnam Shaikh comes from a poverty ridden family from the Bangalipura slum at Antop Hill area in Mumbai. After completing her HSC exam, she began to search for a job but was unable to find one as she lacked the specifications and experience. During this time Shabnam met a Social Worker of Don Bosco Development Society (DBDS), Mumbai who encouraged her to join the four months job oriented Beautician course at DBDS.

Today she has her own beauty parlour called "Shabnam Beauty Parlour" and is well known among young girls and women alike. Shabnam is now an independent women who supports her family. "I am very grateful to Don Bosco, not merely for giving me an occupation in life but for what I am today", said Shabnam Shaikh on the inauguration day of her beauty parlour.


The Ramanakkapeta Community Centre is the centre for the destitute, orphans, child labourers, widows, youngsters and depressed people, who seek for guidance and support. It is located in a rural village where there are no educational Institutions. Durga and Devamma are 10 and 8 respectively, who are sisters from a schedule tribe and lived with their parents until they borrowed money from their landlord for health reason. Durga and Devamma were taken as bonded labourers by the landlord.

With the support and participation of Don Bosco, a Rally and Awareness Programme named "Child Labourers' week" was organised. There were invitees from the Police Department, Child Safety Net, Child Welfare Chief Coordinator.

After all these effort and help from Don Bosco's fathers, Durga and Devamma were free from the crutches of the landlords and are now placed safely in the care of Child Safety Net and Holy Family Sisters (organisations to support orphaned children) where they happily live and go to school.



The Tale of Durga and Devamma







Bosco Seva Kendra, Hyderabad – Migrant Help Desk for nomad children

Promoting the mission of health services and education for underprivileged children, Don Bosco Navjeevan in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, Inaugurates a migrant Help Desk for the marginalised children of migrant labourers.





Konkan Development Society, Panjim - Film workshop for children

On January 28 & 29, 2017 in the district of Sindhudurg, Don Bosco Youth Festival of India was celebrated. Prior to the festival, workshop for school children on film making was conducted which will culminate into a project by the children making short films.



CAUVERI, Tiruchy- Encouraging young entrepreneurs

Youth Mela 2017 was celebrated on 28 & 29th January by the Don Bosco Tiruchy province along with three hundred youths gathering to celebrate the theme “youth and entrepreneurship” where young entrepreneurs were awarded “young entrepreneur award 2017.”



Don Bosco Developmental Society, Mumbai- Preventing substance abuse amongst school children

The Don Bosco Research Centre, undertakes three-year-long study on substance abuse among school children, the findings have been published in a book penned by Father Fernandes, entitled “Preventing Substance Abuse Among School Children” a manual for teachers, launched by Cardinal Oswald Gracias on June 29 in Mumbai.



Don Bosco Development Office, Kolkata- Peace March

Celebrating family value and promoting social harmony, Youth from 30 Don Bosco Institutes spread across India and Nepal held a Peace rally in Kolkatta from 20th to 23rd January 2017.



News of BoscoNet's Network in India





SURABHI, Chennai - Youth Exposure Camp

Organised by Don Bosco Youth Empowerment Services, a nine day Youth Ministry Exposure Camp was conducted in Chennai from 1st to 9th May 2017 on topics like health, education and entrepreneurship along with providing practical training experience to the youth.

BOSCO, Delhi - World Day against Child Labour

On June 12th 2017- World Day Against Child Labour- Don Bosco Ashalayam organised a rally from Don Bosco Ashalayam, Palam Village till Mangalapuri. 43 children along with staff members and volunteer depicted the significance of the day through a street play which reminded the community of humanity and selflessness.

BREADS, Bangalore - Saving the young at risk

Don Bosco Yuva Marg organizes child rights awareness programme and Inaugurates a child Club named after Dr. A.P. J Abdul Kalam to fight against child labour and child marriages under the Auspices of CREAM II Project.

Bosco Reach Out, Guwahati - Educational Heights

A Don Bosco Higher Secondary School has been open for the marginalised children in Sirajuli, the inauguration was conducted on the 31st January at Archbishop Hubert D'Rosario Missionary Aspirantate Campus.

AIDA, Dimapur- Excellence in Youth Work

The founder director of Don Bosco Youth Centre in Itanagar, Father Cyriac Pulinthanathumalayil SDB of the Dimapure province, received a state award for excellence in youth work by honourable Home Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singh.

Bosco Integrated Development Society, Shillong - Empowering Youth

A unique program of youth animation that brought together 226 students of class IX to XII from nine Meghalaya schools for a three day program, conducted in St. Joseph Sec. School Pynthorumkhrah Shillong, to spread greater awareness and empower youth to lead better lives.

Reaching Out to Flood Victims



With the death toll rising up to 34 and over 2000 villages inundated and more than 1 million hector of irrigated land under waters, the state of Assam is facing an emergency situation. According to the state disaster management authority report, over 1.2 million people in 20 of the total 28 districts remained affected in both Brahmaputra and Barak valleys. Along with Assam, neighbouring states like Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram are also facing heavy rainfall and water flooding leaving millions of people homeless, hungry and in dire need of external assistance.

The following is an eye-witness account of the floods in Assam by Hingba Ezekiel, a staff of Bosco Reach Out, the network of implementing partner of BoscoNet, which is the social development wing of the Don Bosco Province of Guwahati in North East India.

Assam is no stranger to monsoon floods; however no one could have predicted the devastation that would be caused by this year's flood. Around 10 lakh people from 24 districts were affected by the flood. I was fortunate enough to be selected to visit the flood affected villages of Morigaon in order to

make a post-flood-rehabilitation-need-assessment on behalf of our organisation Bosco Reach Out. In order to travel to the villages we had to leave our vehicle midway and travel the rest on a boat. The boat was managed by a father and son duo; the father was busy navigating the boat, while the son was engaged in throwing out the water seeping into the bottom of the boat. Cheerful amidst difficult situation, the child of 12 years explained to me that he has been helping his father with the ferry for the last several days, while his elder brother a young lad of 15 years have gone to Guwahati in search of work. Their house and crops have been destroyed completely due to the floods. The family initially took shelter in the government established relief camps for a while; however, the family members were forced to disperse in different directions because of the lack of livelihood.

I witnessed the same problems as I visited different villages in the area. While many NGOs came forward to provide immediate relief during the floods, all seems to have forgotten these people, and almost no help is being provided in the post flood scenario. The houses of these people were destroyed by floods, in some cases completely washed and eroded away. Where will they live? Their crops have been destroyed and the cultivation land is still under water. What will they do to earn a living?

It is often said that children are the most vulnerable group in any emergency situation. I was deeply touched by the sad situation of the children affected by the floods. Most children above the age of ten have been sent to different nearby towns to earn a living; some have migrated as far as Guwahati in search of work. Those who remain are engaged in looking after the smaller children while the parents search for work.

Will you take this chance to become a better person and help your brothers and sisters in need?

Keeping with the mission to support people in crises and offering our aid to the vulnerable population, **BoscoNet in collaboration with Bosco Out Reach announces a Call for Action to help needy people and the desperate victims of the flood in Assam and the surrounded states.** The 1.2 million fellow human beings stranded and rendered homeless in the North East need your support to start a new life again. Make a donation directly to us through the bank information provided at the end of this newsletter to support this cause. All your Donation will go directly to aid the victims of floods. Please contact our office staff to learn about our detailed intervention in Assam and how you can help. Extend your helping hand to the needy.

Support Our Initiatives

BoscoNet seeks your financial support for the following vital social development projects. Partner with BoscoNet to help the needy by directly donating to the bank information provided at the end or by filling up the enclosed ECS form, mentioning the particular project code that you want to support. For more information on these or other projects please visit our website or contact us via the under given e-mail address. Every effort is appreciated!

Projects requiring assistance:

- 1) *Integrated Development and Training Programmes in the Rural/ Urban areas of Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Upper Assam (IND-004) - Rs. 29,07,800/-*
- 2) *Sensitization of the Youth on HIV / AIDS and Providing Life Coping Skills to Enhance Life in the Six Districts of Tamil Nadu (INT-005) - Rs. 49,50,250/-*
- 3) *Integral development of the underprivileged children from the fisher folk community in Trivandrum Kerala, through boarding care, value oriented education and life skill training (INK – 001) - Rs. 39,76,000/-*

Note to Donors

Dear Friends,

You can partner with BoscoNet in the followings ways:

- 1 Sign the enclosed Electronic Clearance Service (ECS) form for a monthly recurring donation towards our cause.
- 2 Support one of our initiatives by directly donating to us. Bank details provided at the end of the newsletter. Please state the particular cause you want to support.
- 3 Please visit our website and join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for regular updates and to interact with our wider community of well-wishers.
- 4 Spread the word- invite your family and friend to partner with us.

If you have any queries please call us or email us at the given contact. Our staff will be happy to assist you in any way possible. We value your contributions and are looking forward to your suggestions to improve our communication with you.

Youth Social Responsibility - BoscoNet Campaign

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Anybody can serve, you don’t have to have a college degree to serve, you don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” These words define the essence of Individual Social Responsibility, where every individual is taught to be responsible for the sustainable development of the world. Following the same spirit, the School Fundraising team from BoscoNet, visited a total of 39 schools from April-June, creating awareness among the school children, about serving the underprivileged.

On 3rd March 2017, BoscoNet had organized an animation program on Individual Social responsibility at Carmel Hr. Sec. School for the students of class IXth and Xth. A similar program was conducted in St. Mary’s School, Laitumukrah on 6th June 2017, to create awareness among children about social issues and how Don Bosco acts as a solution provider to the masses in need. Promoting young children to become agents of change by motivating them to take up initiatives towards humanitarian cause, was the theme of the animation program conducted on 29th April 2017 in St. Peter English Medium School,



Bihar. The children were inspired to contribute to the cause, by making them realize that even their small step would bring about a big difference in the lives of those in need.

On 9th June, 2017, a team from BoscoNet visited the project site for the children of brick kiln workers in Jhajjar. BoscoNet’s CSR collaboration with Artemis Hospitals had successfully brought about a difference in the lives of these vulnerable children. Before the intervention of BoscoNet, these children, exposed to the hazardous working conditions of the brick kilns, were malnourished, illiterate and filthy.

Today, 104 such children between the ages of 2-5 years, are being

given informal education and wholesome food once a day. The staff at Don Bosco Pahasaur, Jhajjar have managed to spread awareness about the importance of education and cleanliness among the parents of these 104 children. With the joint effort of Artemis Hospitals and BoscoNet, these children now have a better future to look forward to.

The vision of being agents of change and contributing to a better tomorrow is the driving force behind all the social development initiatives of BoscoNet. All the activities and awareness programs of BoscoNet are rooted in the motto of “Empowering change, live the joy of true giving”.



DON BOSCO

NATIONAL JOB PLACEMENT NETWORK

BoscoNet is happy to announce the formation of Don Bosco National Job Placement Network (JPN), with the primary goal to improve the economic standard of poor youth who are semi-skilled and skilled by providing career options and job opportunities across India. The formation of JPN portal would act as a catalyst in BoscoNet's work towards the socio-economic upliftment of disadvantaged people.

Objectives of JPN Service

- * To strengthen and scale up the national job placement coordinating centre at Delhi.
- * To initiate the job placement services at the state level in the provinces where they do not have the services.
- * To strengthen job placement coordinating centres in the major cities of India based in the province headquarters.
- * To produce and establish job placement website and to link the Job placement centres with the job seekers and employers.
- * To provide the poor young people with career options in the government sectors by making available information and training on government competitive exams at the nation level.
- * To make available entrepreneurship information and training for the young to take up career in private business.
- * To offer skills and capacity building information on job acquiring skills and life coping skills to enhance their career possibilities.

Target Group of JPN Services

- * Primary target group of the JPN services is the poor young people who are trained by the Don Bosco technical and academic institutions in India.
- * Poor young people who are semi-skilled and skilled at the service localities of Don Bosco institutions across India.
- * Any poor youth who comes to the Don Bosco institutions to find career options across India.



*We express our deepest thanks to all our donors.
Your generosity has
provided us with financial and moral support
needed to continue our mission.*

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

1. Agile Security Force & Systems Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	-	Rs. 1,00,000
2. Eliza Joseph, Kerala	-	Rs. 79,000
3. Biju Mathew, Kerala	-	Rs. 36,000
4. Thankamma Thomas, Kerala	-	Rs. 20,000
5. Mary Raju Mathew, Delhi	-	Rs. 12,000
6. Bhagwant Singh Sajwan, Delhi	-	Rs. 10,000
7. M M Thomas, Kerala	-	Rs. 10,000
8. Mini Jose, Kerala	-	Rs. 10,000
9. Alan Joseph, Tamilnadu	-	Rs. 10,000

Awards and Appreciations to Don Bosco Network - India

BoscoNet is proud to announce that two implement partners from our Don Bosco network have been recognized and awarded for their services rendered to the underprivileged population in India:

1. **Best Performing Training Partner (Category A), 2016-17 to Don Bosco Tech on 19th June 2017.** The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) honored DB Tech with the award for its outstanding services rendered to the skilling of marginalized youth. DB tech is one of the 315 partners implementing the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana in partnership with MoRD, which has trained a total of 62,863 youth of whom 48,425 (77.03%) have since been employed.

2. **'Mother Teresa Memorial National Award 2017 to BOSCO Bangalore on 1st June, 2017.** BOSCO Bangalore was honored for the services rendered in the field of care and protection of children in Karnataka.





“Empower Change, Live the Joy of True Living”

DONATE TO CHANGE

Direct bank to bank transfer can be made to:

BoscoNet

Sl	Account Name	A/c No	Bank Name	Branch	IFSC Code	MICR Code
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2	BoscoNet	15450100015254	The Federal Bank Ltd	Dwarka, New Delhi	FDRL0001545	110049018
3	BoscoNet	50100015733818	HDFC Bank	Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi	HDFC0000132	
4	BoscoNet	3011469965	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi	KKBK0000177	

Bosco Aid Trust

Sl	Account Name	A/c No	Bank Name	Branch	IFSC Code	MICR Code
1	Bosco Aid Trust	15450100013903	The Federal Bank Ltd	Dwarka, New Delhi	FDRL0001545	110049018
2	Bosco Aid Trust	912010016238760	AXIS Bank	Janakpuri B Block, New Delhi	UTIB0001147	110211087

All donations towards BoscoNet are 50% tax deductible under section 80 G.



BoscoNet

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