

# BOSCONET

Vol. 9, No. 2, April - June 2018

**THE SEARCH  
FOR HUMANITY**

**INITIATIVES  
FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

Bosc  Net **DON BOSCO INDIA**  
*A Friend to Anyone in Need* Resource Mobilisation Unit of South Asia



# EMPOWER CHANGE! LIVE THE JOY OF TRUE GIVING

## Message from Director

**WHEN** one glances through the daily newspapers, there is no single day without the news about violations against women. The shocking episode of Nirbhaya shook the collective conscience of the youth of our nation. The children, especially girl children, have become targets for the perpetrators of hate and violence, who heartlessly devour their lives. There are thousands of innocent children and women who still keep vanishing with no trace in history. There are others who endure silently day after day, suffocated swallowing the arrogant and violent bestiality. Where is humanity? This is the question, booming loud from all quarters of our nation. In this situation, for those who are engaged in humanitarian work, counting on the solidarity and the goodwill of people, it is a formidable task to spread a sense of solidarity and mobilise resources, to support vulnerable persons and communities in need. The sense of solidarity expressed in social media, public protests and above all by those patriotic persons, who are committed to truth and duty, are the hope of our nation. Don Bosco India through Bosconet and networking with other agencies envisions a harmonious society, where unfortunate and marginalized children and youth would have adequate access to opportunities for sustainable and dignified life..

Don Bosco, the change maker in his times did not lament about the degraded life of the neglected youth, but plunged into action with a preventive strategy, and rescued youth from all kinds of vulnerable circumstances. He was in the vanguard of social change in his times.

Today the followers of Don Bosco reach out to young people with a vast spectrum of initiatives, to give new life to them. With the agenda of preventing discrimination and atrocities against children and women, the national network of social development of Don Bosco in India, Bosconet has many initiatives under its flagship program of empowering women. The primary objective is to change the mindset of the future youth of our nation to ensure gender equality and justice.

The social engagement of Bosconet ensures the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the United Nations. It primarily envisages the education of the youth of today with the right values to be responsible citizens, true to the mission motto of Don Bosco. Our efforts of networking with many more people of goodwill like you, will certainly pave the way for a harmonious society.

This issue of the newsletter of Bosconet, while highlighting the dire need to promote gender equality, describes our multiple resource mobilization activities to promote and continue the mission for the youth. I am grateful to you dear friends, on behalf of the whole team of Bosconet, for your active partnership with us. Your contribution and collaboration touches the lives of many deserving youth and their families. Your solidarity and support to the Don Bosco initiatives through Bosconet ensure that your wish to see change is fulfilled by building a better world

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

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# THE SEARCH FOR HUMANITY

*From classrooms to boardrooms: 2018 is the era of the woman. She is the brightest mind in the classroom and the policymaker who runs the economy shoulder to shoulder with her male counterpart. The question is: is it as glossy as it seems...*

The year 2018 has seen a resounding anger erupt across the nation over repeated instances of violence against women. The increasing brutality of gendered crimes, jolted the nation out of its slumber and provoked the common man to ask how safe the girl children were in the Indian streets, schools and homes.

The Global Gender Index ranked India at the 108th position out of 144 participating countries in the listing for Gender Equitable nations. It was not a surprise that a country which witnessed 83% rise in crimes against women in the past 10 years, has slid down 21 places from the 83rd rank in the year 2016. 26 cases of crime against women are claimed to be reported every hour, in a country which boasts of being the fastest growing economy in today's times.

The scream of the baby girl, the tears of the adolescent teenage girl and the pain of a wife and a mother has today reached the doorstep of every Indian household. It is in times of such acute crises that every individual wakes up to the responsibility of safeguarding the life and the respect of every girl and every woman. The responsibility takes shape within every child, when he or she is taught not to harm and to not be harmed. Bosconet and its partner Don Bosco institutions has always believed in the power of the young to bring about any change in the ideological systems of the society. Guided by this spirit, Bosconet launched the Gender Equity Education program 2017-18, which sensitised over 4500 students across 40 schools towards creating a gender equitable environment in the schools and the homes. The highly interactive workshops and brainstorming sessions enabled the students to inculcate gender equity even in the smallest deeds they undertook in their day to day lives. "Every girl out there deserves the best", that is the belief which drives every initiative for girl children launched by Bosconet, including the Gender Equity Education 2018-19, which would train more students and teachers in many more cities of the nation.

For justice to be delivered to the millions of victims, the mind has to change when it is still forming - that change begins at the homes, schools and playgrounds.

Data Resources:

NCRB 2017 & Global Gender Index 2017-[www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org)

# INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## Promoting Gender Equality (SDG 5) through Socio Economic Empowerment in collaboration with Don Bosco Mondo

### Project Goal

Sustained Income for Rural Women through Entrepreneurial Activities and Social Empowerment.

### Project Site

12 districts in Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra

### Beneficiaries targeted

Over 3,000 women from rural households

### Project Duration

3 years

### Relevance of the program

Empowering one woman translates into an economically sound household, educated children and a socially empowered family. Bosconet has reached out to the most vulnerable and doubly marginalized women belonging to rural, Below Poverty Line and Dalit backgrounds, through its numerous initiatives. Under this project, 3,000 rural women have been transformed into empowered individuals, who are conscious of their rights and educate those around them about the same.



### Current Status

The program is in the last phase of completion, with 70% of the groups already being involved in Income Generation activities. Women affiliated to the groups have started participating in decision making within the household and in local governing bodies.



## Elimination of inequality through access to quality education (SDG 4) in collaboration with TM International (A JV of TATA Logistics)

### Project Goal

Empowering the underprivileged by prevention of child labour and reduction in school dropout among the children from the slums.

### Project Site

3 slums around Don Bosco SERI, Mirpara, West Bengal

### Beneficiaries targeted

125 children from the slums of Kolkata

### Project Duration

1 year

### Relevance of the program

The targeted beneficiaries lack the much needed educational support to pursue schooling regularly. Providing these underprivileged children with evening tuition classes would result in lesser drop outs, encouraging them to pursue their education seriously. The program targets 40% girl children, specially tutoring them on hygiene and safety.



### Current Status

There is a visible improvement in cooperation from the slum dwellers and the percentage of regular attendees in the evening school has increased from 15% to 65%. Families of the girl children have displayed better awareness regarding their safety and well-being, especially when they are sent out with other family members.

## PROJECTS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EXECUTED BY BOSCONET 2017-18

S.No	Name of the Project	Location	CSR Funding Partner	Total Project Amount
1.	Socio-economic emancipation of marginalized youth at Don Bosco Technical School, Liluah through job oriented skill training and employment	Don Bosco Liluah, Kolkata	TM International Logistics Limited (A JV of TATA Logistics)	₹ 5,35,500.00
2.	Education support for the marginalised slum children of Mirpara, Howrah, India	Don Bosco Mirpara, Kolkata	TM International Logistics Limited (A JV of TATA Logistics)	₹ 6,92,000.00
3.	Socio-economic empowerment of 100 underprivileged youth at Mirpara through competency based skill training	Don Bosco Mirpara, Kolkata	Pricewater Cooper (PwC)	₹ 10,00,450.00
4.	Adapting to climatic change through Tree planting Initiative	Pope John's Garden, Madhavaram, Chennai	UPS Foundation	₹ 17,23,410.00
5.	Adult literacy program through Computer Based Functional Literacy to empower the poor	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal	TATA Consultancy Services (TCS)	₹ 117,00,000.00
6.	Educational Sponsorship	Don Bosco Navajeevan, Warangal, Don Bosco Navanirman, Munigunda and Don Bosco Chandur	Hitachi	₹ 8,35,000.00
<b>Total Amount</b>				<b>₹ 164,86,360.00</b>

### BOSCONET FUND DISTRIBUTION- 2017-18

\*Projects are approved for provinces and funds are being distributed.

Province	CSR Fund*	General Fund	School Fund	Total
Mumbai	₹ 18,87,000.00	---	---	₹ 18,87,000.00
Kolkata	₹ 46,11,450.00	₹ 50,000.00	₹ 8,90,740.00	₹ 55,52,190.00
Dimapur	---	₹ 80,000.00	₹ 188,129.00	₹ 268,129.00
Guwahaty	---	---	₹ 1,54,857.00	₹ 1,54,857.00
Hyderabad	₹ 43,68,000.00	₹ 11,80,000.00	₹ 1,49,031.00	₹ 56,97,031.00
Bangalore	₹ 19,10,000.00	₹ 45,25,000.00	₹ 22,715.00	₹ 64,57,715.00
Chennai	₹ 17,23,410.00	---	₹ 1,44,678.00	₹ 18,68,088.00
New Delhi	---	₹ 1,50,000.00	₹ 3,000.00	₹ 1,53,000.00
Panjim	₹ 19,86,500.00	₹ 38,30,000.00	---	₹ 58,16,500.00
Shillong	---	---	₹ 2,61,464.00	₹ 2,61,464.00
Trichy	---	₹ 4,30,000.00	---	₹ 4,30,000.00
Sri Lanka	---	₹ 94,572.00	---	₹ 94,572.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>₹ 164,86,360.00</b>	<b>₹ 103,39,572.00</b>	<b>₹ 18,14,614.00</b>	<b>₹ 286,40,546.00</b>

## Don Bosco reaches out to children affected by rickets in North East.



### Success Story

Peaceful Rymbai, from Byndihati village, East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya, has been suffering from her illness (rickets) since she was an infant. Peaceful, at present, is eight (8) years old and is the fourth among her five siblings. She belongs to a very poor background as her parents earn their livelihood through daily wage and seasonal work, with a monthly income of Rs7500-10,000 only. Supporting five children with such an amount is a burden in the present scenario. Peaceful's parents did not take things seriously with regard to her illness, but as time passed by, the situation got worse day by day. It was then that BIDS (Bosco Integrated Development Society) ) intervened in the village in an attempt to provide free medical assistance for rickets affected.

Peaceful and her parents attended the camp and she began to receive treatment on 24th June 2014. Today, Peaceful cured of the illness and is living life like other children of her age. Another camp was conducted in the village on 20th February 2017, the doctor stated that Peaceful Rymbai had recovered from her illness completely. The process of follow up and medicine distribution taken up by the staff of BIDS Shillong, has saved thousands of children from ricket a debilitating illness which affects the children.

## Don Bosco school-hut in a slum



### Success Story

Kacherapalem slum a locality in the city of Visakhapatnam, about 800 people live in 150 tents and huts. The shanty has existed for 20 years and is located under a bridge near the railway. Most adults recycle waste on the street, collecting plastic, glass, metal, cardboard, and sell small handicrafts or fruit products. Children do not attend school because parents cannot afford it and prefer to let their children their children work.

The Salesians of Vishakapatnam started educational activities in the slum in December 2016, initially under a small tent. In February 2017, Massimiliano Schiliro, an Italian traveler from Gavi visited the slum and left a small contribution, with which a wooden school-hut was built. This new structure, although small, benefits a greater number of children aged between 4 and 14 years. The children are given basic education through bridge school, provision of one nutritious meal per day and medical assistance.

Back in Italy, Massimiliano (known in his area as "Massi on the road") started a fundraising program for the project. Through the sale of his two travel books, and various public and school readings and presentations, he collected 4,000 euros for the school-hut, which was then sent to the director, Fr. Ratna, via the "Don Bosco nel Mondo" Foundation. In the past months, about 60 boys and girls have had a small but clean and safe place to learn, play, eat and grow together. A number of initiatives have also been created for parents, who have thus become actively involved in the project itself.

# ENHANCING CAPACITIES OF BOSCONET TEAM

*Platform for exchange of ideas to foster innovation and creativity in fundraising.*

**THE** Annual Training of Bosconet was held from the 4th to 9th April, 2018 in Goa, comprising of a three day intensive session on capacity building of various departments, followed by two days of teambuilding. A total of 30 Bosconet team members from various cities across India got together to exchange ideas, share experiences and build a healthy rapport to enhance the fundraising initiatives in the coming year.

The three day capacity building had experienced professionals from Street Pitching, School Fundraising and Corporate Social Responsibility backgrounds, as resource persons, who trained the Bosconet team in the essentials of their respective domain skills. The program opened new vistas to develop into good fundraisers and excellent social workers. The training was inaugurated by the welcome session by Fr. Noel Maddhichetty, Director, Bosconet, who briefed participants about the culture and prime values of Don Bosco. The annual capacity building program enabled the Bosconet team to learn about the new possibilities, grow in their respective fundraising stream and ultimately to lead the organization into raising funds effectively which in turn would benefit thousands of children, youth and women across South Asia.



## EDUCATION TO INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

“ Even though the strength of the students is small and their families are just ordinary, I see in them a generosity to contribute the need to humanity. ” - K. Kashisii Benjamin  
Bosconet Staff

**Don Bosco High School**  
Guntupally, Vijaywada,  
Andhra Pradesh



“It was good talking to the children for Bosconet program. The children were very much enthusiastic as it was for the first time Bosconet conducted a program in their school. Children were very much happy seeing the videos and they were able to relate with the present scenario of Girl child. Even though they were from a poor family, they were very happy to donate to the cause of Bosconet”- **Sikha Bor**  
Bosconet Staff

The program of Individual Social Responsibility is an engagement involving school children in order to create a sense of solidarity among them for those in need. This has been welcomed by the students in the schools with much enthusiasm.

They are motivated to become the change makers, in the life of at least one other child who is not privileged. We at Bosconet are happy to play a small part in creating these change makers of tomorrow.



**Divine Word School Roing,** Lower Dibang Valley Dist, Arunachal Pradesh

“The students and teachers were very responsive during the program. I spoke to them on topics like Individual Social Responsibility, the importance of educating girl child, Don Bosco social services for the Young At Risk and an appeal for voluntary support for the less privileged people. The entire program was so encouraging and participants pledged to support our cause in changing the lives of many less privileged children.”  
- **Kashisii Benjamin**  
Bosconet Staff

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

### **Donation Period (Jan - March 2018)**

1. Tata Consultancy Services	-	Rs. 58,50,000
2. Tata Capital Financial Services Limited	-	Rs. 2,47,500
3. Artemis Medicare Services Limited	-	Rs. 1,37,927
4. Donation from Music Charity Concert	-	Rs. 60,000
5. Lucy Fernandes	-	Rs. 50,000
6. Kala Saritha	-	Rs. 25,000
7. Farzan D Madon	-	Rs. 20,000
8. Mr.Rajseh Chirimar	-	Rs. 20,000
9. Mr.Joseph Martin	-	Rs. 15,000
10. Students of Dominic Savio H. S. School	-	Rs. 12,500
11. Chandrashila Bhattacharya	-	Rs. 12,000
12. K C James	-	Rs. 12,000
13. Arul	-	Rs. 10,000
14. Kathreena Poullose	-	Rs. 10,000
15. Lally Mathew	-	Rs. 10,000

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CSR  
Partners**



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*All donations towards this cause are subjected to 50% tax deduction under section 80G.*

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