

DON BOSCO MAKKALALAYA



A N N U A L R E P O R T



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ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

At Don Bosco Makkalalaya, we believe that every child and young person carries within them a possibility waiting to be discovered. Our mission is to stand with those who are often overlooked, create opportunities and help every person move towards dignity, confidence and hope. The year 2025 - 2026 has reminded us that meaningful change begins when we see the person behind the situation.

Through our Child Safety Net initiatives and Street Presence, we reached children in difficult and vulnerable situations, accompanying them and their families towards safety, education, stability and hope. Awareness programmes, rescue and reintegration efforts, stakeholder coordination and Caring Community Groups have strengthened community participation in protecting and supporting children.

Education remains a powerful instrument of transformation. The Open School Programme gave young people who had discontinued their education an opportunity to begin again. The encouraging SSLC and PUC results, including Distinction and First Class achievements, show what is possible when a young person receives another chance. Our Skill Training Programme reached 195 youth, equipping them with computer applications, spoken English, life skills, personality development and workplace readiness, opening pathways to employment, further studies and self-reliance.

Through the Foster Care Project and Child Friendly City Project, we worked with families, schools, government departments and child care institutions to create safer and more nurturing environments. These efforts remind us that children need not only protection, but also someone to listen, understand and walk with them.

I sincerely thank our staff, volunteers, partners, government departments, benefactors and well-wishers for their continued support. Every achievement is the fruit of many hands, many hearts and a shared commitment.

As we move forward, may we ask not only, "How much have we done?" but also, "Whose life has become better because we were there?" May Don Bosco Makkalalaya remain a place where children find safety, young people discover possibility and every person experiences dignity, value and purpose. Together, let us build a community where no child is forgotten, no young person is left without opportunity and every life is given the chance to flourish.



Fr. Jim Jose SDB
Executive Director,
Don Bosco Makkalalaya



RESCUE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Rescue and Rehabilitation of Children in Risk Conditions through Education and Skill Training in Mysuru City project, initiated in November 2020, works towards creating a safety net for vulnerable children and youth through a range of integrated interventions. The project responds to children facing challenges such as homelessness, child labour, school dropout, family vulnerability and limited livelihood opportunities.

Through the Street Presence Programme, vulnerable children are identified, supported, and referred for appropriate care and rehabilitation. Don Bosco Makkala Mane provides care, shelter, education, medical assistance and a family-like environment for disadvantaged children. The Open School Programme offers opportunities for school dropouts to continue their education and complete their schooling. The Skill Training Programme equips unemployed youth with computer, communication, life and workplace skills, along with industrial exposure and job placement assistance.

Together, these interventions support children and youth towards safety, education, skills, employment and greater self-reliance.

STREET PRESENCE PROGRAMME

The Street Presence Programme is a full-time initiative with staff stationed across vulnerable areas of Mysuru to identify, support and respond to children at risk. The staff regularly surveys hotspots and engages with children who are unaccompanied, out of school, involved in labour or begging, or exposed to exploitation and neglect. During the year, the staff attended to 358 cases involving children in vulnerable situations.

The major concerns addressed included 104 migrant/runaway children, 96 children involved in begging, 87 school dropouts and 41 child labour cases, along with cases involving street children, substance abuse, child marriage and other protection concerns. Through continuous street presence, timely intervention, referrals, family tracing, rehabilitation and coordination with government agencies, the programme continues to strengthen protection and support for vulnerable children across Mysuru.

The programme also engaged 352 student volunteers from 17 colleges through orientation programmes on child rights and protection, enabling young people to contribute to community awareness and child safeguarding. Awareness activities included pamphlet distribution, child rights stickers and child rights rally involving 300 children, raising awareness on child rights, education, child protection and the prevention of child labour, child marriage and school dropouts. Through continuous presence and community engagement, the programme strengthened vigilance and promoted safer, more child-friendly public spaces across Mysuru.



DON BOSCO MAKKALAMANE

Don Bosco Makkala Mane provides a safe, family-like environment where children receive education, care, guidance and opportunities for holistic growth. During the 2025–26 academic year, 17 boys from 5th Standard to 1st PUC pursued their studies in nearby schools while actively participating in sports, cultural programmes, prayers and extracurricular activities. Kho-Kho was a special highlight for the year, with the boys' dedication and teamwork, earning prizes and strengthening their confidence and leadership skills.

The community also welcomed the Provincial, Economer General and well-wishers for meaningful interactions and activities. Christmas, Don Bosco's Feast, birthdays, Holy Week, and Easter were celebrated with joy and fellowship. In June 2026, 26 boys began the new academic year, continuing their studies and community life with guidance and encouragement.



OPEN SCHOOL PROGRAMME

The Open School Programme provides educational opportunities to school dropouts, underprivileged youth and learners unable to pursue formal education. Through Bridge Classes, students who lack basic reading and writing skills first receive foundational literacy support. Once they become ready, they are guided to appear for the 10th Standard examination through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), enabling them to progress towards PUC education. Alongside academics, the programme nurtures life skills, values, leadership, social responsibility and holistic development.

A moment of pride was the achievement of Roohi Banu, who secured Third Rank in the Karnataka Open School SSLC Examination 2024 - 2025. She was honoured at the Meritorious Student Award Ceremony at Sri Suttur Math, Mysuru.

The outstanding SSLC and PUC results were the major highlight of the academic year 2025 - 2026. In SSLC, 19 students appeared for the NIOS examination, of whom 16 successfully passed. Among them, 2 secured Distinction, 11 achieved First Class, and 3 obtained Second Class.

In PUC, 16 students appeared, with 1 securing Distinction, 2 First Class, 2 Second Class, and 1 Third Class.



SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMME



During the reporting period from July 2025 to June 2026, 195 youth were admitted to the three-month Skill Training Programme. As part of the outreach and mobilisation efforts, staff regularly visited economically disadvantaged communities across Mysuru during July, November and April, reaching out to hundreds of young people and creating awareness about opportunities for skill development and employment.

The three-month programme provides training in Computer Applications, Spoken English, Life Skills and Personality Development, helping participants develop practical knowledge, communication skills, confidence and workplace readiness. Industrial visits are organized for every batch, giving students an opportunity to gain exposure to workplace environments and understand professional expectations. Upon completion, students are supported through job placement assistance and guidance in exploring suitable employment opportunities. Regular counselling is also provided to those requiring personal, educational, or career guidance. The programme has encouraged some participants to pursue higher studies, while others have moved towards employment and greater self-reliance.

July 2025 - June 2026	Retail	BPO	Total
Batch 40 (Aug 2025- Oct 2025)	32	32	64
Batch 41 (Dec 2025- Feb 2026)	20	21	41
Batch 42 (Apr 2026- June 2026)	45	45	90
Grand Total			195

LAUGHTER YOGA

Laughter Yoga is a regular feature of every Skill Training batch, helping students understand the positive effects of laughter on physical and emotional well-being. Through simple laughter exercises, participants learn how laughter can reduce stress, improve mood and stimulate the release of feel-good hormones. The sessions encourage positivity, relaxation and joyful interaction among students.



LIBRARY

Library time is an integral part of student activities at DBM, encouraging reading and continuous learning. Our library has a diverse collection of Kannada and English books across different genres, including children's literature, fiction, non-fiction and theology. Students make use of this space to explore their interests, develop a reading habit and strengthen their English language skills through regular reading.



INDOOR GAMES

Indoor games offer students a fun way to relax, refresh and interact with their peers. A variety of games such as chess, carrom, Jenga, memory chess and Scrabble encourage concentration, creativity and teamwork. Students also enjoy playing badminton, providing an active break from their daily sessions and helping them relieve stress.



WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS:



TIME MANAGEMENT



CONFLICT MANAGEMENT



LEADERSHIP SKILLS



PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT



ADDICTION



GENDER EQUALITY



CYBER SECURITY



HEALTH AND HYGIENE



MEDITATION



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION



CAREER GUIDANCE



PROBLEMS FACED BY
ADOLESCENTS

Throughout the year, workshops and seminars were conducted for students of the Skill Training Programme, Summer Camp and Open School Programme on various aspects of personal development, safety, health and social responsibility. Sessions included Time Management by Fr. Devassy SDB, Director, DBMM; Conflict Management by Sr. Jenifer Pinto UFS; Leadership Skills by Mr. Raghu, District Childline Coordinator; Personality Development by Dr. V. S. T. Krishna, Juvenile Justice Board Member; Addiction Awareness by Dr. Robin K. J., Assistant Professor, St. Philomena's College; Gender Equality by Mr. Dhananjaya, former CWC Member; Cyber Security by Mr. Anil Chauhan, City Crime Branch; Health and First Aid by Mrs. Shabeena Taj, Primary Health Care Officer; Meditation and Respectful Living by Mrs. Savitha, former CWC Member, and her team; Environmental Protection by Mr. Manju Kiran, Leader of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and President of Hasiru Sene; and Adolescent Concerns by Mrs. Kamala, former CWC Chairperson. These sessions enhanced students' awareness, confidence and ability to make informed and responsible choices.

CULTURAL DAY:



We conduct cultural day for every batch of Skill Training students with the following competitions: Rangoli competition, vegetable carving, quiz competition, debate, solo singing, group singing, solo dance, group dance and cooking without fire. These competitions provide an opportunity to encourage the students to push themselves outside of their comfort zones, which in turn foster resilience, confidence and personal growth. They also help the students develop their creative skills and collaborative spirit.



ONE DAY RECREATIONAL EXCURSION:



Recreational trips are an important part of holistic learning, providing students with opportunities to relax, refresh and enjoy meaningful experiences beyond the classroom. As part of each Skill Training batch, we organise a one-day recreational trip that combines leisure, exploration and learning. The trip gives students a chance to discover historical and natural places, enjoy recreational activities and spend quality time with their peers. Such experiences help reduce stress, strengthen friendships, build confidence and create lasting memories while contributing to the overall growth and well-being of the students.



CULTURAL APPRECIATION:

Don Bosco Makkalalaya celebrated several vibrant and meaningful events throughout the year (June 2025 - July 2026) that left a lasting impact on the students and the community.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The 79th Independence Day with patriotism and enthusiasm. The National Flag was hoisted by Fr. Jim Jose SDB, Executive Director of DBM, in the presence of chief guest Mr. Deepak Singh. The celebration included the National Anthem and reflections on freedom, unity and national responsibility, inspiring students to become responsible and committed citizens.

TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Teachers' Day was celebrated with warmth and appreciation through a lively student-led programme. Students presented solo and group dances, entertaining skits and engaging games for the staff. The celebration also included the presentation of thoughtful gifts and medals, expressing gratitude for the teachers' dedication, guidance and contribution to the students' growth.



CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Children's Day 2025 was celebrated on 14 November under the national theme, "For Every Child, Every Right," highlighting every child's right to protection, education, dignity and equal opportunities. Don Bosco Makkalalaya collaborated with nine schools to conduct awareness sessions on child rights, child protection and personal safety, reaching over 1,200 children, 180 teachers and 150 parents.

At Don Bosco Makkalalaya, the celebration featured ice-breaker activities, fun games, team-building activities and lively dance performances by the staff. Fr. Jim Jose SDB, Executive Director, and Ms. Mary Fathima addressed the gathering. Students Rita and Deekshith were honoured for their participation in the District-Level Children's Rights Parliament 2025. The celebration concluded with prizes, refreshments and joyful moments.

YEAR-END CELEBRATIONS

The festive year-end celebration was filled with joy and cheer as students presented energetic dances and action songs, along with a heartfelt nativity skit. The arrival of Santa Claus added to the excitement, with fun gifts bringing smiles to everyone. The celebration concluded with a shared dinner, creating an atmosphere of togetherness and strengthening the bonds among students and staff.



SUCCESS STORIES

FINDING HIS WAY BACK TO EDUCATION: CHINMAY'S STORY

For Chinmay S. Rao, school was once a place of fear rather than learning. After experiencing repeated bullying and harassment from classmates, he gradually developed a fear of attending school. His confidence declined, he became socially withdrawn, and his interest in studies faded. His attendance became increasingly irregular until he eventually dropped out of school.

Chinmay's challenges were further compounded by difficult family circumstances. His father had passed away when he was young, leaving his mother as the sole earning member of the family. With his mother at work during the day, Chinmay often remained at home, spent excessive time on mobile games and struggled to maintain a routine.



During a street mobilization, Chinmay's mother was informed about Don Bosco Makkalalaya. After attempts to secure his re-admission to his former school and a nearby government school were unsuccessful, the team recognised his need for psychosocial support. After counselling, he was enrolled in the Bridge Course Programme at Don Bosco Makkalalaya. Initially, he attended classes only twice a week. Through regular home visits, individual and family counselling, motivational sessions and close follow-up, the team worked patiently with Chinmay and his family. Gradually, his attendance improved, his interest in learning returned and he became more disciplined and focused.

After completing the Bridge Course, Chinmay joined the 10th Standard through NIOS. With continued guidance from the social work team and support from his family, he regained confidence and became committed to his studies. His hard work paid off when he successfully completed his 10th Standard with Distinction. He subsequently secured admission to the PCMC stream at Sharada Vilas College.

Chinmay's journey demonstrates that timely intervention, counselling, family participation and persistent support can transform a child's future. From a boy who had withdrawn from education, he has become a confident student with renewed hope and aspirations. His story reflects Don Bosco Makkalalaya's commitment to helping vulnerable children overcome barriers, return to education and build a brighter future.

SKILLS THAT CHANGED HER LIFE: SNEHA'S JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE

Sneha P., a resident of Mandi Mohalla, Mysuru, comes from a family of five. After completing her PUC, financial difficulties forced her to put her dream of college on hold. Eager to support her family, she wanted to find a job but lacked the skills, confidence and direction to begin.

During field mobilisation, a staff member from Don Bosco Makkalalaya introduced her to the three-month Skill Training Programme. Desperate to become financially independent, Sneha decided to take the opportunity.



Throughout the training, she was diligent and eager to learn. She improved her English-speaking skills, learned basic computer applications and Tally, and gradually developed confidence to face new challenges. The programme helped her recognise her abilities and prepared her for the workplace.

Today, Sneha works as staff in a reputed hotel group, earning ₹16,000 per month. Her dedication has earned her the Employee of the Month award, and she is now set to be promoted to GM Secretary.

"I am thankful to Don Bosco Makkalalaya for giving me the skills and confidence I needed. My English has improved, and learning computers has helped me at work. Today, I feel confident and independent." Sneha's journey demonstrates how timely guidance, practical skills and the right opportunity can turn uncertainty into confidence and open the door to a brighter future.

CHILD SAFETY NET PROJECT

The Child Safety Net (CSN) Project works to create a safer environment for children living in vulnerable situations across Mysuru. The project identifies children at risk and connects them with appropriate care, protection and support. Through street presence, community engagement, awareness programmes and coordination with child protection systems, the project works to prevent risks and respond to children's needs. It also strengthens communities through Caring Community Groups, encouraging local individuals and networks to actively participate in protecting children and ensuring that every child receives the care, safety and opportunities they deserve.

From July 2025 to June 2026, the Child Safety Net Project attended to 358 cases involving children in vulnerable situations across Mysuru. Of these, 337 cases were successfully closed, while 21 cases remain under follow-up, with no cases recorded as lost contact. The major categories were migrant/runaway children (104), children found begging (96), school dropouts (87) and child labour (41). The project also responded to cases involving street children, substance abuse, child marriage and other concerns. The highest number of cases was recorded in April 2026 (95), largely involving migrant/runaway children. Overall, the data reflects consistent case intervention, follow-up and coordination to support children towards safety, protection and appropriate rehabilitation.

CONSOLIDATED DATA FOR THE CITY MYSORE (JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Attend ed case</u>	<u>Closed case</u>	<u>Follow -Up</u>	<u>Lost Conta ct</u>	<u>Child Labour</u>	<u>School Dropo ut</u>	<u>Childre n found Begging</u>	<u>Migran t/Runa way.</u>	<u>Street Childr en</u>	<u>Substan ce Abuse Children</u>	<u>Child Marriage</u>	<u>Slow Learner/ Other Issues</u>
July, 25	14	14	0	0	1	6	5	2	0	0	0	-
Aug, 25	15	15	0	0	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sept, 25	35	35	0	0	3	1	17	9	3	2	0	-
Oct, 25	31	31	0	0	4	0	17	4	6	0	0	-
Nov, 25	35	35	0	0	0	15	18	0	0	0	2	-
Dec, 25	15	15	0	0	1	3	10	0	1	0	0	-
Jan, 26	21	21	0	0	3	11	5	0	2	0	0	-
Feb, 26	28	28	0	0	2	21	2	0	2	1	0	0
Mar, 26	30	30	0	0	6	5	0	12	0	1	1	5
Apr, 26	95	95	0	0	11	3	8	71	2	0	0	0
May, 26	18	9	9	0	0	7	6	4	0	0	1	0
June, 26	21	9	12	0	1	10	8	2	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	358	337	21	0	41	87	96	104	16	4	4	6

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS:

Under the Child Safety Net Project, the team conducted interactive awareness sessions on child rights, protection laws, the Juvenile Justice Act, Child-Friendly City initiatives and the prevention of child labour and child marriage. Child rights awareness stickers were also displayed at schools, hospitals, shops, bus stops, auto stands, government offices, and other public places. The messages highlighted child safety, education, legal provisions and ways to prevent and report violations, strengthening community responsibility towards children.

AWARENESS TO STAKEHOLDERS:

We conducted awareness programmes to strengthen understanding of child rights, child protection and the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in safeguarding children. The sessions reached a diverse group of participants, including SHG members, Panchayat Raj Institution representatives, school teachers and principals, Anganwadi and ASHA workers, mothers, community leaders, students from professional and academic institutions, foster and adoptive parents, government school children and teachers, as well as auto drivers, police personnel, bus drivers, conductors and members of the general public.



AWARENESS ON WHEELS -

AUTO AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Child Safety Net Project conducted a street-level auto campaign across 30 locations in Mysuru to promote child rights and protection. A specially equipped auto-rickshaw broadcast messages on child rights, child marriage, child labour, POCSO, gender equality and reporting violations. 16,200 pamphlets were distributed, reaching a wide section of the public. The campaign strengthened community awareness, encouraged reporting of violations and promoted collective responsibility for protecting children.



CHILD RIGHTS KIOSKS:

As part of the Child Safety Net Project, a street-level auto campaign was conducted across 30 different locations in Mysuru to promote awareness on child rights and protection. A specially equipped auto-rickshaw with a microphone system travelled through vulnerable and high-footfall areas, broadcasting messages on child rights, prevention of child marriage and child labour, POCSO, gender equality and reporting child rights violations. 16,200 pamphlets were distributed to the public, extending the campaign's reach. The initiative generated public interest and strengthened community awareness, encouraging citizens to recognize, prevent and report violations and take collective responsibility for creating safer environments for children.



CARING COMMUNITY GROUPS

To strengthen community participation in child protection, 12 Caring Community Groups (CCGs) were formed across vulnerable areas of Mysuru, bringing together 259 community members and key stakeholders. The groups include community leaders, teachers, youth representatives, PRI and SHG members, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, police and SJPU personnel and child protection functionaries.

The CCGs work together to identify and report vulnerable children, address risks such as child labour, beggary, school dropout, substance abuse, street living, child marriage and support referral, rescue, rehabilitation and follow-up. Dedicated WhatsApp groups facilitate quick communication, alerts and coordination. The initiative has strengthened grassroots vigilance and promoted a shared community responsibility for the safety, education and well-being of children.



RESCUE AND REINTEGRATION

We carried out 17 Pan-India and targeted rescue operations in coordination with the Labour Department, Police, SJPU, Childline and other authorities. In addition, 19 rounds of district-level rescue operations were conducted with the DCPU and allied departments, focusing on child labour, school dropouts, migrant and working children, and other vulnerable cases.

These coordinated interventions helped rescue children from situations of exploitation and vulnerability and initiate appropriate rehabilitation and follow-up. The CSN team continues to provide support through family tracing, education, counselling, referral to government care facilities and follow-up services. Through sustained street presence, outreach, rescue and inter-agency coordination, the project works to strengthen protection systems and help vulnerable children return to safer and more secure environments.

ADVOCACY WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

A total of 23 advocacy, coordination, training and review meetings were conducted with key stakeholders including the DCPU, CWC, SJPU, Labour Department, Women and Child Development Department, Police, Railway authorities and other agencies. The engagements focused on child rescue, rehabilitation, foster care, prevention of child marriage and trafficking, and protection of vulnerable children. These efforts strengthened inter-departmental coordination, improved referrals and joint interventions and supported better implementation of child protection laws, including the JJ Act, POCSO Act, Child Marriage Prohibition Act and child labour laws.



INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG USE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING



Don Bosco Makkalalaya observed the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking with an awareness session for SSLC, PUC and Skill Training students. Fr. Jim Jose SDB and Mr. Emmanuvel spoke about the dangers of substance abuse, addiction and informed decision-making. The session highlighted the importance of self-control, peer support and guiding those struggling with addiction towards appropriate help.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

International Day of Democracy was observed on 15 September at Don Bosco Makkalalaya, highlighting the values of equality, participation and justice. Students reflected on their role as responsible citizens and the importance of active participation in society. They also took an oath affirming their commitment to democratic values. The programme encouraged students to practice responsibility, respect and unity in their daily lives and communities.



NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

National Girl Child Day was observed to focus on the rights, safety and empowerment of girls. Staff members from the CSN and CFC Projects sensitised students on gender equality, girls' education, legal safeguards and challenges faced by girls. The interactive session encouraged students to respect and support girls, oppose discrimination and promote equal opportunities, creating greater awareness and responsibility.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

World Environment Day was observed through a series of activities promoting environmental awareness and collective responsibility. A rally was organised under the supervision of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), with participation from government departments and educational institutions. Awareness programmes and tree-planting activities were conducted at Crescent Urdu Higher Primary School, DCPU Office, Boys' Home, NR Police Station and a Primary Health Centre.

At Don Bosco Makkalalaya, students participated in gardening and sapling-planting activities, learning about the importance of greenery and ecological balance. A plant exchange activity encouraged shared responsibility for nature, with saplings sponsored by Eco Sankalp Green Foundation. Students also took part in a "Wealth Out of Waste" competition, creatively transforming discarded materials into useful items and promoting recycling, reuse and sustainable practices.



CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN



As part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, students and staff of Don Bosco Makkalalaya, along with MSW student volunteers from St. Philomena's College and Bangalore North University, Kolar, participated in a cleaning campaign. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's vision of cleanliness, the activity promoted teamwork, discipline, dignity of labour and social responsibility. Through hands-on participation, students understood the importance of maintaining clean surroundings, responsible waste disposal and collective action in creating a cleaner, healthier environment.

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Don Bosco Makkalalaya, in collaboration with Crescent Urdu Nursery and Higher Primary School, observed Anti-Child Labour Day with an awareness rally. Students from Crescent Urdu School, Archline Urdu School, Savarline Urdu School, Adijambava Government School and Don Bosco Makkalalaya participated, carrying placards and raising slogans promoting education and child rights. The rally was inaugurated by Mohammed Sharief Rawther, ACP, Mysuru City and Senior Child Welfare Police Officer, and Ravichandra M., Chairperson, CWC Mysuru.

A special highlight was the felicitation of five students who had resumed their education and secured First Class in their SSLC and PUC examinations. The rally highlighted the importance of education, protection and opportunities for every child while strengthening the call for an end to child labour.



SUMMER CAMP

Don Bosco Makkalalaya conducted a month-long Summer Camp for adolescents aged 13 to 17 years from disadvantaged communities across Mysuru. The camp focused on holistic development through sessions on spoken English, communication, life skills, teamwork, goal setting and leadership.

Interactive workshops by resource persons covered addiction awareness, gender equality, cyber safety, health and first aid, adolescent challenges, meditation and respectful living, etc. Games and group activities made the sessions engaging and participatory.

A special highlight was the recreational trip to GRS Fantasy Park, which offered the students a refreshing break, opportunities for bonding and plenty of joyful memories. The camp brought together learning, recreation and personal growth in a lively and meaningful experience.



FOSTER CARE PROJECT

Foster Care provides children who are orphaned or deprived of a nurturing family environment with temporary, family-based care and support. Guided by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, Don Bosco Makkalalaya continues to promote foster care as an important alternative for the care and protection of children. The Foster Care Project focuses on creating awareness, strengthening the capacity of stakeholders and facilitating foster care placements in Mysuru and Chamarajanagara districts. Through collaboration with government departments, local institutions and communities, the project seeks to encourage safe, supportive and family-based care for children in need.

A significant component of the Foster Care Project is creating awareness and strengthening the capacity of stakeholders who play important roles in child protection and welfare. Don Bosco Makkalalaya conducts regular training sessions, orientation programmes and awareness campaigns for government officials and staff, including personnel from the Department of Women and Child Development. These programmes provide an understanding of the Foster Care system, its legal provisions, procedures and the role of stakeholders in identifying and supporting children who require family-based care.

The project also engages Gram Panchayat elected representatives, recognizing their role as grassroots leaders and community influencers. Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members and District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs) receive focused orientation on foster care procedures, responsibilities and child safety, helping strengthen coordination and facilitate safe and suitable foster placements.

Don Bosco Makkalalaya extends its foster care awareness efforts to school teachers, college students, Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Anganwadi, ASHA workers and mothers' groups, highlighting the community's shared responsibility in creating safe and nurturing environments for children. Through interactive campaigns, stakeholder meetings and community outreach programmes, participants are introduced to foster care, its benefits and ways to support or refer children in need of family-based care. The project also supports prospective foster parents by guiding them through the application process with the DCPO or CWC. Following placements, DBM provides continued support through home visits, school interactions and family counselling. These efforts help families address challenges, support the child's adjustment and promote a stable and caring environment.

Through sustained awareness and community engagement, DBM works to address misconceptions, encourage wider participation and strengthen foster care practices at the grassroots level, enabling more children to experience the care and security of a family environment.



FOSTER CARE PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED (JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026)

Programs (July 2025 - June 2026)	Programmes	Participants	Programmes	Participants
	Mysuru		Chamarajanagara	
Public Awareness	76	10750	112	11,260
Awareness for PRI Leaders	12	194	12	189
Awareness for Anganwadi mothers	11	185	13	242
Awareness for College Students	7	285	6	371
Awareness for SHG groups	11	221	12	305
Training for Anganwadi Teachers/helpers	11	228	14	336
Training for Asha Workers	11	147	12	162
Training for Primary Teachers	6	241	6	239
Advocacy meetings for Government Departments	6	94	7	170
Identification of Potential Children	8		15	
Identification of Prospective Parents	27		13	
Application to DCPO	1		6	
Adoption	13		22	
Home Enquiry of Potential Children	4		9	
Home Enquiry of Prospective Parents	0		1	
Placing Children in Foster Care	2		0	
Follow up of Placed Children (Home Visit and School Visit)	16		16	
Prospective Foster Parents and Children Meeting	1	25	1	13
CWC Followup of Foster Children and Family	0	0	2	2
Network Meeting with 15 - 30 Non Governmental Organisation	2	37	0	0
Meeting with individual NGO Staff	2	4	9	13
Meeting with DCPO and Unit Staff	11	20	8	10
Meeting with PONIC by Staff	12	12	7	7
Meeting with Police Officials	1	8	2	14
Sharing BOSCO Foster Care experience and knowledge	10	16	9	62
Radio, Newspaper, Promotional Advertisements, etc.	2	2	2	2

CHILD FRIENDLY CITY PROJECT

The Child-Friendly City, Mysore initiative, launched in September 2025, aims to ensure that every child grows up in a safe, nurturing and supportive environment. Rooted in child rights and holistic development, the programme strengthens child protection systems and empowers institutions and communities. In response to concerns raised by the CWC Mysuru regarding the shortage of qualified counsellors in Child Care Institutions (CCIs), Don Bosco Makkalalaya appointed two trained counsellors to provide consistent psychological and emotional support under the guidance of the DCPO and CWC. The initiative also trains CCI staff in basic counselling, supports government school teachers in behaviour management and assists the DCPU, CWC and Childline in cases requiring specialised intervention, fostering a more compassionate and child-friendly Mysore.



Inauguration of Child Friendly City Project



Counselling support at Government Boys Home



School Outreach and Assessment



Group Activity at Government Girls Home



Staff Training Programme



Coordination Meeting with DCPO

CHILD FRIENDLY CITY PROJECT ACTIVITIES (SEPT 2025 - JULY 2026)

Intervention Area	Consolidated Achievement
Individual counselling	400 children reached
Counselling with verified gender breakup	86 boys and 314 girls
Group counselling	27 sessions and 590 participation instances
CCI orientation / inspection coverage	22 CCI Covered
Government officials / child protection stakeholders trained	150
CCI staff and counsellors trained	58
CCIs represented in capacity-building programme	22 CCIs
Teachers trained	42
Foster care workshop participants	33
Documented home/family visits	29
Coordination meetings with statutory authorities (DCPU and CWC)	30
Schools reached through identified school visits	13 Schools
Child Rights Club	1 club with 12 student leaders
Life skills programme	50 students and 3 teachers
Child Marriage awareness rally	300 Students, teachers and other stakeholders
Child labour awareness rally	300 students, teachers and other stakeholders
Environmental initiatives	Tree plantation and awareness activities across 6 locations/institutions

The Child Friendly City Project strengthened child protection through counselling, capacity building, institutional support and community awareness. The project provided individual counselling to 400 children and conducted 27 group counselling sessions with 590 participation instances. It covered 22 Child Care Institutions (CCIs), trained government officials, child protection stakeholders, CCI staff, counsellors and teachers, and conducted foster care workshops, home visits and coordination meetings with statutory authorities. The project also reached schools through child rights and life skills programmes, established a Child Rights Club and organised awareness rallies on child marriage and child labour. Environmental initiatives, including tree plantation and awareness activities, were carried out across six locations, promoting safer, more inclusive and child-friendly communities.

GALLERY



Child Rights Rally



World Environment Day



Visit from the Economist General



Staff Picnic



Staff Capacity Building and Training

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