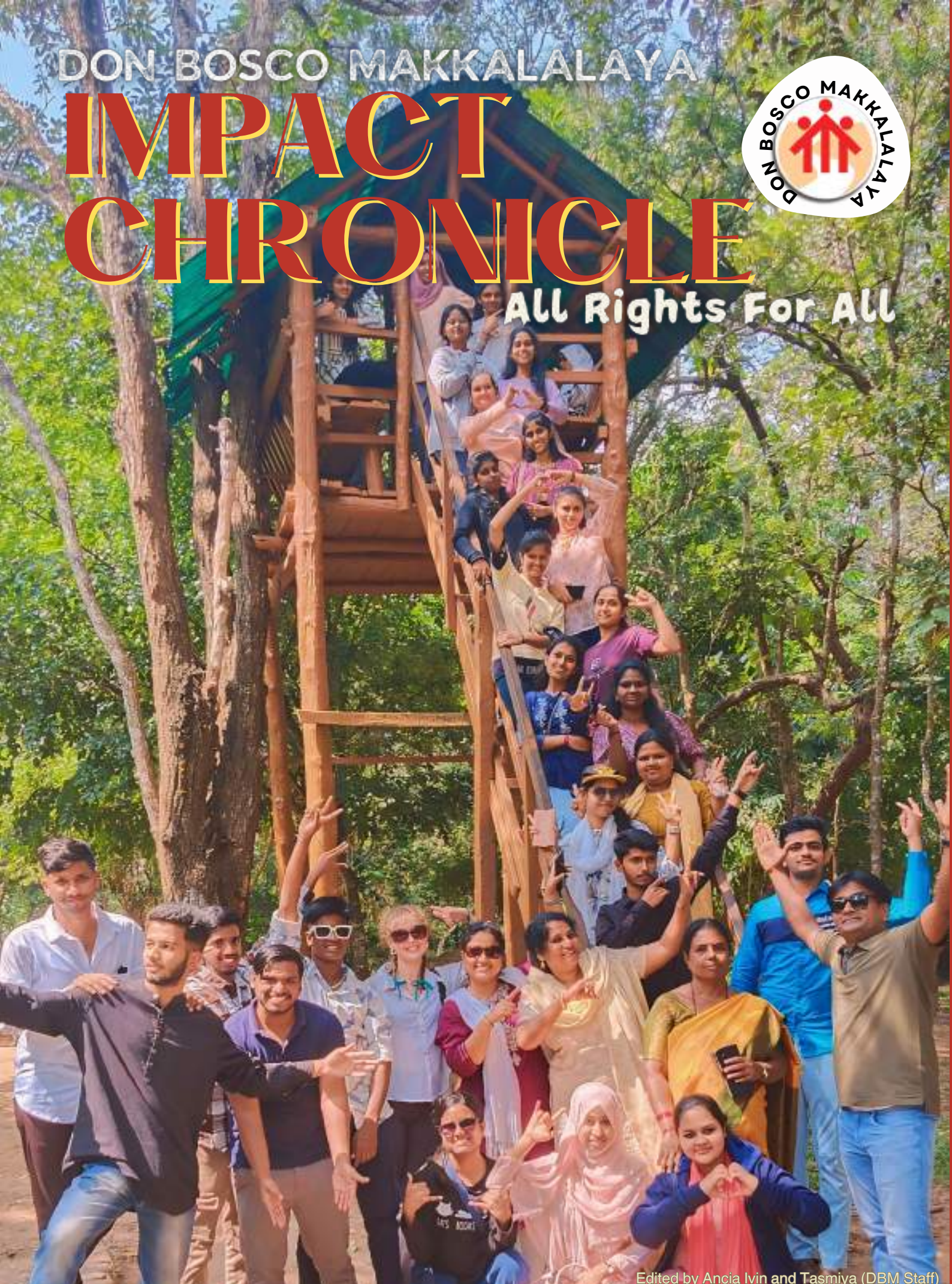


DON BOSCO MAKKALALAYA

# IMPACT CHRONICLE



All Rights For All



Edited by Ancia Ivin and Tasmiya (DBM Staff)

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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Fr. Siju Thomas SDB**  
Executive Director

Don Bosco Makkalalaya is a youth empowerment NGO, accompanying young people with multifaceted programmes, personally reaching out to every young person who needs a guiding light in channeling one's life in the intended direction. We reach out to young people on the streets, out of school and at risk with various life situations and guide them towards becoming fully part of the mainstream society.

Humanity's future depends on ensuring Child Rights. Every child having access to every right would ensure prevention of rights' violations, protection of rights and formation of a bright future.

Everyone can do their bit to ensure that every right is accessible to everyone by knowing the rights and then acting upon them.

For the past eighteen years we have been partnering with BREADS Bangalore to achieve this reality of accomplishing that Child Rights are accessible to every child through various programmes like identifying and accompanying the children on the street, school dropouts, child labourers and the Young at Risk at large, through joining hands with the existing systems of the government and taking effective actions through Counselling, Educating and providing Skill Training to young people and forming them to be employable and self-reliant citizens contributing to the growth of the country and humanity.

Today and everyday let us protect and support Child Rights for all children in the world and meaningfully contribute to make our world better, brighter and more peaceful place for everyone.



# RESCUE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR YOUNG AT RISK



“Rescue and Rehabilitation for young at risk conditions through Education and Skill Training in Mysore city” focuses on establishing a safety net for the young at risk conditions in Mysore city. The project strives to provide rescue and rehabilitation services for vulnerable children such as children on the street, child labourers, school dropouts and unemployed youth.

## OPEN SCHOOL PROGRAMME

The issue of school dropout is complex and has far-reaching consequences for both individuals and society. A significant number of students drop out at the secondary and pre-university levels due to various reasons, but this trend can be addressed through distance education. Don Bosco Makkalalaya seeks to create a nurturing and inclusive learning environment that helps individuals who have left school to reach their full potential. The faculty members at our institution offer personalized educational programs, vocational training, and opportunities for personal growth to assist dropouts in either rejoining the formal education system or exploring alternative career options. At present, we have 34 candidates registered for Karnataka Open School (KOS) SSLC and 38 for PUC of which 29 are registered for for the 2nd PUC exams.



## SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMME

The three-month Skill Training Programme focuses on training the underprivileged and unemployed youth with Basic Computer (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Powerpoint), Tally ERP 9, Nudi, Typing and Photoshop Skills, Spoken English, and Life Skills classes to equip them with the skills they need to succeed in life. Job Placement Assistance is also provided through which their employment needs are met. They are also encouraged to pursue their higher education through correspondence, evening college, or as a full-time student if their socio-economic conditions are favourable

## INAUGURAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF SSLC, PUC AND THE 37TH BATCH OF THREE MONTH SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMME

We held the inaugural programme for the academic year of SSLC, PUC and the 37th batch of three month skill training on 10-09-24 with Sri. Yogesh, Program Officer, Women and Child Department, Mandya as the Chief Guest.

Fr. Siju Thomas SDB gave an introductory speech to the gathering on the importance of making use of all the opportunities we get in life.

During his speech, Mr. Yogesh, the Chief Guest of the event, expressed gratitude to Don Bosco Makkalalaya for influencing the lives of countless children and youth in Mysore and discussed the value of skill training and wished all the students good luck for their future endeavors.

The Chief Guest distributed ID cards to the students after which the Chief Guest was honored. Other cultural activities, such as group singing, solo and group dancing were featured at the event.

The chief guest, Mr. Yogesh, officially launched Don Bosco Makkalalaya's first quarterly newsletter, "Impact Chronicle" Volume-1, with the staff at DBM receiving the first copies.



# INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT DON BOSCO MAKKALALAYA



Independence Day is a day for citizens to join together and celebrate their common identity and ideals. It promotes patriotism, unity and pride in the nation's history and accomplishments. This collaborative celebration strengthens people's ties, regardless of their backgrounds or differences.

On the 78th anniversary of India's Independence, we at Don Bosco Makkalalaya commemorated and honoured this momentous occasion by reinforcing the spirit of unity and patriotism.

Students from PUC class and Skill Training spoke about the significance of Independence Day.

Fr. Siju Thomas SDB, after the flag hoisting, gave a message on the occasion on cherishing the rich diversity of our country, the meaning of freedom and the importance of respecting the freedom of others. Every student then received sweets as they enjoyed listening to patriotic music.

## TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION AT DON BOSCO MAKKALALAYA

We celebrated Teachers' Day with a vibrant and heartfelt program designed by the students of DBM to honor and appreciate the dedicated efforts of their teachers.

In his introductory speech, Fr. Siju Thomas SDB talked about the significant impact that teachers have on the futures of their students and expressed gratitude for their service to the children.

During his speech, Fr. Devassy, the Director of Don Bosco Makkalamane, emphasized the value of having a mentor and urged the students to heed their teachers' wise counsel.

Students showcased their enthusiasm and creativity through group dance and solo dance performances and a skit performed by the PUC class students.

The afternoon included a series of interactive games for the teachers and staff members and the winners of the games were honored with medals.

Teachers received thoughtful gifts from students and the Executive Director as a token of appreciation and gratitude.



# CULTURAL APPRECIATION AT DON BOSCO MAKKALALAYA



On September 14, 2024, Don Bosco Makkalalaya celebrated Onam with great enthusiasm and a variety of engaging activities. The event was marked by vibrant displays of traditional Kerala culture, with students participating in multiple competitions and games.

Fr. Siju Thomas SDB delivered an introductory speech about Onam festival and wished everyone a happy and prosperous Onam. Various competitions like pookalam designing, wealth out of waste, marble and spoon race, jumping to catch the crisps, tug of war, pot breaking (uriyadi) added a festive and playful element to the celebration. Students displayed their creativity and skill through pookalam designing, demonstrated their ingenuity by crafting decorative items from waste items, the games also fostered teamwork and friendly competition among their peers.

Students embraced the spirit of Onam by dressing in traditional Kerala outfits, adding to the cultural richness of the event. A variety of snacks were served, allowing everyone to enjoy delicious treats while socializing and participating in the day's activities.

## OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY THE SPECIAL JUVENILE POLICE UNIT (SJPU)



The 37th batch of Skill Training students attended an open house program held by the SJPU on the 19th of September 2024 at the Lashkar Mohalla Police Station. Guest attendees included Sri. Gayathri S, Assistant Sub Inspector, Sri. Geetha M.B, Women Assistant Sub Inspector, Sri. Rajini R, Women Police Constable, and Sri. Jyothi E, Women Head Constable, Fr. Siju Thomas SDB, the Executive Director of Don Bosco Makkalalaya and the staff of DBM.

The resource person for the program was Sri. Prasanna Kumar G.S, Assistant Child Welfare Police Officer and City Head Constable. Mr. Prasanna Kumar, in his session enlightened the students on important social issues such as child labor, child marriage, and child poverty, and provided them with information on how to address these issues on their own. He also educated the students about gender inequality and disparities resulting from patriarchal societies, violence against women, and how to combat it.

This Open House Program successfully sparked discussion about critical social issues affecting the community. It emphasized the importance of collective action and community participation in promoting gender equality and protecting children's rights.

Workshops for students accomplish a number of significant learning and growth objectives. They offer chances for practical education, skill development, and individual advancement.



# Workshops

**Time Management** Workshop was conducted by Fr. Devassy, Director of Don Bosco Makkalamane on 24-08-24 wherein activities were conducted to check the time managing abilities in the students, a discussion was held after the activity on how to effectively manage time.

A **Self-Defense** Workshop was conducted by Husna Aslam, Social Activist (CSN project) of Don Bosco Makkalalayaon 26-09-24 for the girl students of SSLC, PUC and the 37th batch of Skill Training students. The goal of this workshop was to provide students with essential personal safety skills. Students learnt about personal boundaries and practiced self defense techniques which helped boost their confidence in handling potentially dangerous situations.



Workshop on **Health, Hygiene and First Aid** was conducted by Sr. Jenita, Nurse and Health Educator, on 27-09-24, wherein the students were informed about the concept and significance of physical and mental health, personal hygiene practices, the most common ailments that affect our body, it's symptoms and first aid methods like CPR, snake bite treatment, etc.



A workshop on **Personal Hygiene** was conducted by Ms. Husna Aslam on 30-09-24 for all the girl students of SSLC, PUC and Skill Training 37th Batch. Through this workshop, students were informed about basic feminine hygiene which the students found informative. The session created a safe space for girl students to discuss and debunk several feminine health myths and empowered them with knowledge regarding menstrual hygiene.



# CULTURAL DAY

We celebrated a talent-filled Cultural Day for the 37th Batch Skill Training students on 05-10-24. The event featured a variety of competitions including Rangoli, Vegetable Carving, Solo and Group Dance, Solo and Group Singing and Cooking without Fire. The Cultural Day was a great success, exhibiting our students' unique skills and talents. Participants displayed exceptional ingenuity and excitement, making the event a memorable celebration of self-expression and creativity.

These competitions allowed students to also hone their talents and discover new skills valuable for their personal and professional growth, performing on stage in front of their peers boosted their self confidence and the competitions further fostered teamwork, teaching the students how to work together towards a common goal.



## ONE-DAY EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION

The Skill Training students had an informative day of discovery and learning as they embarked on an educational excursion to Namdroling Monastery renowned for its stunning architecture and vibrant murals. Fr. Siju Thomas SDB educated the students about the history of Tibetan Buddhism in Kushalnagar as they witnessed the peaceful ambiance, and appreciated the intricate details of the 40-foot statues of Buddha, Padmasambhava, and Amitayus.

They also visited Nisargadhama, a lush bamboo forest by the river Kaveri. There they visited a bird park where the students had the opportunity to interact and feed colourful budgerigars, cockatoos, emu, and iguanas. They then visited the Harangi Elephant Camp, where the students gained insights into caring of the majestic elephants. The students had a chance to observe the elephants up close, and also had a chance to feed them. This excursion was not only educational but also provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature and understand different cultures. The students also learned to share and care for each other as they returned with unforgettable memories.

## PARENTS-TEACHERS CONFERENCE FOR THE 37TH BATCH SKILL TRAINING

We hosted a successful Parents-Teachers Meeting for the 37th batch of Skill Training students at Don Bosco Makkalalaya on 22-10-24.

Fr. Siju Thomas SDB emphasized how important it is to be their child's best friend and urged parents to take an active role in learning about their children's social circles and cultivating strong bonds with instructors. He also discussed the need of making educated decisions regarding their children's futures and the intrinsic worth of seeking higher education as an approach to success.

Parents were given the chance to speak with teachers one-on-one at the meeting, which allowed us to get insightful input on the child's progress.

This meeting proved to be vital for nurturing a collaborative atmosphere that enhances student learning and well-being.



## CERTIFICATION AND CONCLUDING DAY FOR 37TH SKILL TRAINING BATCH



The concluding day for the 37th Batch Skill Training students was conducted on the 9th of November.

The programme began with a prayer song and lighting the lamp by the Skill Training students

Fr. Siju Thomas SDB, the executive director of Don Bosco Makkalalaya, in his speech instructed the students to make use of opportunities that life provides us. He advised the students on the ABCs of success, which include having the right positive ATTITUDE toward life, having the correct BELIEF in oneself, and understanding the importance of COMMUNICATION in one's daily life.

Few students spoke on their experience in Don Bosco Makkalalaya and on how DBM impacted their lives.

The students performed a variety of cultural activities, including dancing, singing, and a ramp walk. The students also enjoyed a video edit of the batch's fondest memories.

The winning teams were awarded first, second, and third place prizes based on their activities over the course of three months. Students who had perfect attendance in the course were also awarded prizes. Certificates were awarded to students who successfully completed the course. The program concluded with cheerful reminiscing, snacks, and refreshment.

# STREET PRESENCE

Street Presence is a full-time project with full-time staff stationed on the streets of Mysore to supervise and over-see multiple areas in the city where young at risk are regularly found. Street Presence project imparts **Awareness to MSW students** across various colleges in Mysuru who are trained as **volunteers and informers** to identify and report cases involving Child Labour, Child Marriage, Child Beggary, School Dropouts, etc. Don Bosco staff along with a team of dedicated officers including District Labour Officer, Labour Inspectors, SJPU Police Officers, Child Helpline Staff carries out **Rescue of Children** who need interventions to gain access to all child rights. These children are identified and referred to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The CWC takes immediate action, rescues the children and ensures their safe return to their native places.

This project's efforts align with the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), a scheme that provides institutional and non-institutional care to the children in need of protection.

Through the Street Presence Project, we participated in several child-related **Stakeholder Meetings** and training sessions. On September 12, 2024, we participated in NCPCR meeting along with ALC Mysore, APC Mysore, SP Office Division, Labour departments Project Director in which we discussed on topics like child labour, school dropouts, child beggary, rescue operations, inspections and adolescent children.



## CHILD RIGHTS CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY DBM

On November 28th, 2024, we organised a Child Rights Campaign in Govt. High School, Hudco Urdu Higher Primary School, and Hudco Urdu High School. Mr. Revanna, Block Education Officer (BEO); Ms. Rukmini, Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU); Mr. Ravichandra, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC); Mr. Ragu, Childline Coordinator; Fr. Siju Thomas, Director, Don Bosco Makkalalaya, Mysore; Mr. Chandrakumar, DCPU Legal Officer; and Mrs. Rukmini, Head Mistress, Government High School were the esteemed guests in the program. The public meeting aimed to raise awareness about child rights, safety and welfare. The distinguished guests shared valuable insights and emphasized the importance of collective efforts in ensuring a secure and nurturing environment for children.



# CHILDREN'S DAY PROGRAM



On Children's Day, Don Bosco Makkalalaya (DBM) organized four programs across different locations.

**Programme 1:** DBM collaborated with the District Administration, Women and Child Development (DCPU), CWC members, and various CCIs to host an event at the Government Girls Home in Mysore. The program featured a prayer song by the children, a welcome address by Chandrakumar C, and introductory words by Mr. Yogesh, DCPO. The children performed cultural programs, and Fr. Siju Thomas SDB, Executive Director of DBM, participated in the event and was felicitated for the contributions of DBM towards the life of children. The Department of Women and Child Development continues its efforts to improve the well-being of women and children, especially from vulnerable sections.

**Programme 2:** At Adi Jambava Higher Primary School in Gandhinagar, Mysuru, Don Bosco CSN organized a vibrant Children's Day celebration. The headmistress, Miss Gundamma, was the chief guest. The event included a prayer song, a speech by Mr. Tony Clifford on social issues like child labour and child abuse, and a presentation by Mr. Emmanuel on the child helpline and government support. The program concluded with a vote of thanks and sweets for the children.

**Programme 3:** Children's Day program was conducted by DBM along with the MSW students of Mahajana College, Mysuru for the students of DBM. It started with a prayer song, followed by a speech by Mr. Tony Clifford. Chief guests included Miss Revathi (Mahajana MSW College), Miss Mary Fathima (DBM), and Fr. Siju Thomas SDB. Miss Mary emphasized the day's significance, and cultural programs were presented. An oath-taking ceremony to protect children was held, and Mr. Emmanuel conducted an orientation on the Child Safety Net. The event ended with sweet distribution and a group photo.

**Programme 4:** At Government High School, Bogadi, the Don Bosco CSN team organized a Children's Day event with speeches, a floral tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru, and sessions on child rights. The event concluded with the distribution of sweets to all students.

These programs raised awareness about child rights and safety, educated students on government support, and encouraged the community to foster a nurturing environment for children.

## COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

A collaborative effort with various departments of Govt. of Karnataka, the Labour Department, SJPU, DCPU, consisting of Mrs. Veena, Assistant Labour Commissioner; Mr. Madappa, Senior Labour Inspector; Mr. Jaganna, Senior Labour Inspector; Mr. Chethan Kumar, Labour Inspector; Mr. Prasanna Kumar, SJPU Officer; and Mr. Mallikarjuna, Programme Officer, Labour Department along with DBM CSN team conducted a raid and awareness in JK Ground and Hebbal Industrial Area where we inspected firecracker shops and manufacturers. The team also educated shop owners on prohibiting employment of children below 18 years, posted child labor awareness posters outside each shop and distributed pamphlets emphasizing the importance of reporting child labour cases. This joint operation reinforces the commitment to preventing child labour and ensuring a safe, healthy environment for all children.



# CHILD SAFETY NET PROJECT

Child Safety Net Project (CSN Project) aims at creating a child safety net to safeguard at-risk children living in vulnerable conditions on the streets, slum areas, marketplaces, and transit points by employing strategies such as street presence in key locations like railway stations and bus stations through constant patrolling and by fostering community involvement. The CSN Project launched in July 2024 also aims at reinstituting the rescued children to their families, engaging in government systems, and providing care through alternative programs and care homes, thus ensuring a holistic and sustainable process for the well-being of the rescued children. The project also emphasises community awareness and the establishment of "Caring Community Groups," comprising a network of supportive communities, volunteers and individuals to ensure continuous 24/7 care and protection for the vulnerable children.

## INAUGURATION OF THE CHILD SAFETY NET PROJECT

The Child Safety Net Project was officially launched on September 18, 2024 at Don Bosco Makkalalaya {DBM} Mysore.

Inauguration of the Project was done by lighting of the lamp by the Executive Director of DBM, Fr. Siju Thomas, Project Co-Ordinator Mr. Emmanuel.C, Project Social Activist and Community Organizer Miss. Husna Aslam, Street Educator Mr. Divine Joseph, Senior Counsellor and Teaching staff Dr. Mary Fathima along with two child representatives. Mr. Emmanuel.C the project Co-Ordinator gave the words of introduction in which he explained about the relevance and importance of the project in



Mysore. Fr. Siju Thomas SDB delivered his speech on Child Rights and the Child Safety Net Project. He spoke about the objectives of the project such as creating social responsibility among the public and making effective use of the existing Government systems for providing child safety, like using Child Helpline 1098 and Emergency Helpline 112. He also urged the audience to pluck up courage and take action other than merely feeling sympathy for the begging children, child labourers, victims of child marriage, school dropouts etc., by informing Child Helpline-1098 and Emergency Helpline-112 whenever needed. He also spoke about empowering the society through formation of Caring Community Groups at different areas in the city through which the common public will take responsibility in creating a child-friendly city through the Child Safety Net. Rescue and Rehabilitation of the affected children is the prime objective of the project.

## STAFF TRAINING AND PROJECT ORIENTATION



Staff Training and Project Orientation was conducted on August 20-21, October 22-23, 2024 at the Provincial House, Bosco Mane and Bosco Yuvakendra, Bangalore respectively. The training was conducted on Human Rights and the orientation covered CSN project strategies and objectives, documentation procedures, fieldwork guidelines, stakeholder awareness, and caring community groups. The staff were trained to identify informers from local areas to report children at risk and on the strategies to increase public awareness on child rights and protection.

# CHILD SAFETY NET (CSN) CARING COMMUNITY PROGRAM



On November 29, 2024, a Caring Community Group was established at Mandi Mohalla Kailash Puram Government High School. Community and department leaders, including an ex-corporator, a youth leader, PSI, a school headmaster, an anganwadi teacher, an ASHA worker, an SHG president, a mechanic union member, an auto union member, a religious leader, a CRC leader, and a student of criminology and forensic sciences, participated in the program, which was chaired by Mr. Renukaswami. The welcome speech was delivered by Tony Clifford, followed by Mr. Emmanuel's detailed explanation of the Child Safety Net Caring Community Group's formation. The group's primary objective is to rescue and rehabilitate vulnerable children, including those affected by child labour, child marriage, child begging, rag picking, migration, orphanhood, conflict with the law, school dropouts, and runaway children.

Mr. Emmanuel also discussed key legislation, including the Juvenile Justice Act, labour acts, and POCSO Act, as well as various government schemes. He informed attendees about government mechanisms, such as the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Helpline (1098), Emergency (112), and Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU). Leaders expressed interest in supporting vulnerable children by becoming socially responsible and promised to help every child in difficulty. The Caring Community Group was officially formed and a WhatsApp group was created for effective communication, the program concluded with a vote of thanks by headmaster Mr. Renuka Swamy.

## CHILD RIGHTS VOLUNTEERS



The Street Presence Project has successfully imparted awareness to MSW students across 3 colleges in Mysore (Aug 2024 to Nov 2024).

1. St. Philomena College, 2. Mahajanana's First Grade College, 3. JSS College

These students are trained as child rights volunteers who can contribute to upholding of child rights and act upon assisting the children to save themselves from child labour, child marriage, child begging, child abuse, drug addiction, school dropouts, runaway children, out-of-school children, rag pickers, affected migrant children, and physically challenged children.

This initiative empowers college students to become change-makers, promoting child protection and welfare in Mysore. The volunteers also receive training on using the child helpline and emergency helpline whenever necessary. They are informed about high-risk areas for child violations, such as city and suburban bus stands, Markets (RMC and city), Railway stations, Hotels and lodges, Dhabas, Industrial factories, Highway roads and ring road signals, slums and public spaces such as parks, zoo, Chamundi Hill, Mysore Palace and Race course. Additionally, they were alerted to vulnerable locations like Mechanic shops, Scrap shops, Petty shops, Juice and grocery shops, Tea shops, Welding shops, Panipuri and pan beeda shops. The volunteers pledged to report child-related issues to the Child Helpline (1098), District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and to Don Bosco Makkalalaya.

# FOSTER CARE

Foster care refers to temporary family-based care for children who are orphaned or lack family support. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act of 2015 offers foster care as an alternative care for children without biological families. Don Bosco Makkalalaya's Foster Care Project conducts training and awareness programs for a wide range of stakeholders, including government officials, Gram Panchayat representatives, Child Welfare Committees (CWC), District Child Protection Officers (DCPO), school teachers, Women Self Help Groups (SHG), college students, Anganwadi teachers, mothers, helpers, ASHA workers, Child Care Heads, and the general public in Mysore and Chamarajanagara districts. The project helps prospective parents apply for foster children through the DCPO or CWC and follows up continuously. After the child is placed in a foster home, Don Bosco Makkalalaya's foster care team conducts family and school visits to support the integration process.

- **Identification of potential children:**  
Mysuru: 01, Chamarajnapagara: 02
- **Identification of prospective parents:**  
Mysuru: 09, Chamarajnapagara: 09
- **Home enquiry of potential children:**  
Mysuru: 01, Chamarajnapagara: 00
- **Placing children in foster care:**  
Mysuru: 07, Chamarajnapagara: 02
- **Follow up of placed children (Home Visit):**  
Mysuru: 04, Chamarajnapagara: 03
- **Follow up of placed children (School Visit):**  
Mysuru: 06, Chamarajnapagara: 03
- **Network meeting with 15-30 NGO's:**  
Chamrajnapagara: 18
- **Meeting with individual NGO staff:**  
Mysuru: 09, Chamarajnapagara: 13
- **Meeting with police officials:**  
Mysuru: 06, Chamarajnapagara: 11

Programs (July 2024 - Oct 2024)	Programs	Participants	Programs	Participants
	Mysuru		Chamarajanagara	
Public Awareness	32	3500	44	3550
Awareness for PRI Leaders	04	71	03	42
Awareness for Anganwadi mothers	04	74	03	61
Awareness for College Students	02	184	02	149
Awareness for SHG groups	04	80	04	80
Training for Anganwadi Teachers/helpers	04	86	04	73
Training for Asha Workers	04	48	04	44
Training for Primary Teachers	02	72	02	80
Advocacy meetings for Government Departments	02	16	04	42

List of programs covered by DBM Foster Care (July 2024 - Oct 2024)

## PROSPECTIVE PARENTS AND CHILDREN'S MEETING



We organised a Prospective Parents and Children's Meeting with Mr. Yogesh DCPO, Mrs. KT Kamala, CWC chairperson, and more than 40 families at Don Bosco Makkalalaya.

The meeting aimed to provide information on the adoption process and support available to prospective parents. It was a valuable opportunity for families to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the steps involved in welcoming a child into their home. The meeting also allowed families to interact with each other and with experienced professionals in the field of child welfare and adoption, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among all stakeholders involved. The Child Safety Net Project was also involved in giving awareness on topics like child labour, child beggary and child marriage and the steps to be taken to overcome them. The project aimed to empower families with the knowledge and resources needed to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children in need of a loving home. By addressing important issues such as child labor, begging, and marriage, the project sought to create a more informed and supportive community for vulnerable children.



"For you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready even to give my life." Don Bosco placed great emphasis on young people. It is natural for young people to form bonds of friendship with one another. The Don Bosco Youth Movement capitalises on this experience as a way to guide young people towards a deeper relationship with their community. By fostering these connections, Don Bosco youth group aims at empowering young individuals to become leaders and role models within their peer groups and the community.

## ZONAL YOUTH LEADERS ELECTION

On the 4th of August 2024, the Zonal Youth Leaders Election took place at Don Bosco Makkalalaya, where leaders from Prakash Palya, Don Bosco Makkalalaya, Velankanni Parish, and Don Bosco Srirampura gathered for a Leaders Meet and to elect the Zonal Leaders of Mysore Zone. Nearly 30 enthusiastic youth along with 7 dedicated animators participated in this event, which was organized under the capable leadership of Fr. Siju SDB, the Zonal Director of Mysore Zone who initiated the program with a warm welcome, setting a positive tone for the day.

The event was graced by Fr. Kaplikunnel Varghese SDB, the Youth Ministry Delegate who delivered an inspiring talk on leadership, emphasizing the qualities and responsibilities of effective leaders, and Fr. Uday Kumar SDB, the Regional Youth Director of Karnataka who provided a comprehensive briefing on the activities of Don Bosco Youth Services and oversaw the election process. Additionally, Fr. Jaison SDB, Fr. Mithun SDB, Br. Sandesh SDB, and Br. Rimal SDB were also in attendance, lending their support and expertise to the proceedings. Br. Sandesh SDB skillfully conducted group dynamics exercises, fostering teamwork and camaraderie among the participants. The newly elected leaders were congratulated by all, marking the culmination of the event. The program concluded on a joyful note with tea and snacks.



## BICENTENARY CELEBRATION OF DON BOSCO'S DREAM AT THE AGE OF 9



On 17th November 2024, The Don Bosco Youth Movement, Mysore Zone, organized a vibrant celebration at Don Bosco Sreerampura to commemorate the Bicentenary of Don Bosco's Dream. Youth from Sreerampura, Makkalalaya, JP Nagar, and Prakash Palaya came together for a day filled with Spiritual enrichment, Dynamic sessions, and cultural expression. The program began with the Holy Eucharist, followed by breakfast and registration. Fr. Uday and Fr. Freddie delivered inspiring words. a hymn to Don Bosco, welcome dance and lighting of the lamp created a profound tone for the day. The first session, conducted by Fr. Mithun SDB, focused on Don Bosco's dream, while the second session featured group dynamics and stimulating discussions facilitated by Fr. Devassy SDB. Fr. Siju SDB led the third session after lunch. The last cultural presentation featured performances by youth from Makkalalaya, JP Nagar, Prakash Palaya and Sreerampura, along with heartfelt sharing of experiences. The event concluded with a hymn to Don Bosco and light refreshments before departure. The celebration was a vibrant blend of spirituality, education, and camaraderie, leaving the youth inspired and connected with the legacy of Don Bosco.



## DON BOSCO MAKKALAMANE

Don Bosco Makkalamane is a center dedicated to providing a nurturing environment for children, offering them a safe haven where they receive basic education, care and opportunities for holistic growth. Currently, the center houses 10 boys studying in standards 7 to 10 at a nearby government school. Apart from excelling academically, the students have showcased exceptional talent in sports and other cultural activities, earning recognition and awards in various competitions.

### SARDAR VALLABHAI PATEL UNITY MARATHON



On the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birthday, a unity marathon was organized by the Police Department to honor his legacy. The boys enthusiastically participated in the event, demonstrating their athletic spirit and dedication.

### CELEBRATING TALENT AND TEAMWORK: THE BOYS OF DON BOSCO MAKKALAMANE SHINE IN DIVERSE EVENTS

The boys of Don Bosco Makkalamane participated in the Chamundi Run, showcasing their stamina and athleticism, and achieved commendable positions in the event. They excelled in the district-level kho-kho competition, demonstrating teamwork and earning recognition for their sportsmanship. The boys also participated in the Pratibha Karanji and secured prizes in the singing competition. Don Bosco Makkalamane helped foster holistic development in the boys by providing opportunities to excel in various fields, encouraging them to explore their interests and talents beyond academics. Through their participation in diverse activities, the boys were able to showcase their skills, build confidence, and learn valuable life lessons that will serve them well in the future.

Don Bosco Makkalamane continues to be a beacon of hope and growth for its residents. Through its unwavering support, the boys have achieved excellence in sports, academics and cultural activities. With continued encouragement and support the children will achieve even greater success and make a positive impact in their communities.





# SUCCESS STORIES

## RESILIENCE REDEFINED: BHAVANA'S PATH TO EMPOWERMENT

Bhavana was born in Mysore, to a loving family. Her early years were marked by academic excellence, cultural involvement, and leadership skills. However, her parents' troubled relationship cast a shadow over her childhood. After her mother relocated with her and her brother to Mysore, she completed her education up to 2nd PUC, all while facing financial struggles due to her father's neglect. As a child, Bhavana aspired to become a doctor, but her family's financial constraints made this dream unfeasible. Despite challenges, she excelled in academics, scoring 95% in her SSLC exams and earning a gold medal as the top scorer from Kannada medium. She pursued PUC in Science but struggled with English terminologies and personal issues, including her arranged engagement. Bhavana, due to the complexity of challenges in her family life, receiving support from no corners, feeling lost and fully depressed, retreated from society until her mother encouraged her to take action. Motivated by her mother's words, Bhavana joined Don Bosco Makkalalaya's Skill Training Course. The nurturing environment helped her regain confidence and learn valuable skills, including Computer skills, Spoken English, and Life Skills.



After completing the course, she was placed at a prestigious school for a teaching job. Today, Bhavana works as a Spoken English Educator at an esteemed institution and part-time at a popular Coaching Centre, while also pursuing her degree. With a new sense of purpose and fulfillment, Bhavana's message to others is: "Life may test you, but your strength will prevail. Embrace challenges, learn, and rise."

## FROM SHATTERED DREAMS TO SUCCESSFUL TEACHER: REENA'S STORY



20-year-old Reena Mary lives in Mysuru with her father, a dedicated daily wager, her mother, a part-time tailor, and her younger brother, who works as an auto driver. At the tender age of 18, her life was disrupted due to real-life situational challenges she had to face and her life became uncertain. For two years, she stayed at home until a Don Bosco Makkalalaya staff member introduced her to a three-month Skill Training course.

Initially unsure, Reena gained confidence through the course, learning public speaking, English, and basic computer skills like Microsoft Excel and TallyERP9. She also developed leadership and teamwork skills, made new friends, and became a self-confident and self-loving person. Reena is now a kindergarten teacher earning Rs. 15,000 per month. She serves as an MC at school events without any stage fear, thanks to Don Bosco's training. Her journey didn't stop there. Reena is now an active

member of the Don Bosco youth group and was elected financial secretary. Reena's story of transformation through education and skill development inspires others, proving that it's possible to rise above adversity and create a better future.

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO LEGAL ASPIRATIONS: DIVYA'S STORY

Divya was born in Naguvanahalli village to a humble family. Her father worked as an auto driver, and her mother was a caretaker at a local school. As their only child, Divya was nurtured with love and high aspirations. She attended a government school until 10th grade, but a bout of typhoid caused her to fail 14 subjects and miss exams. Later she stayed at home and learned tailoring.

A teacher recognized Divya's potential and encouraged her to join Don Bosco Makkalalaya. Convincing her strict father was a difficult task, but after several visits from Don Bosco staff, he agreed. In 2017-18, Divya passed SSLC with first class and continued to excel, passing PUC in 2018-19. In 2020, she enrolled in LLB and is currently in her 4th year, aiming to become a lawyer to help young people facing problems. To support herself, Divya works part-time as an accountant at a hotel, earning Rs. 8,000 per month. She funds her education, easing her parents' financial burden. Divya's journey highlights the positive impact of Don Bosco Makkalalaya, which provided her with education, confidence, and opportunities to grow. As she pursues her law career, Divya aims to empower others and inspire young minds.



# The Insight Lounge

## Mother's Voice

### THREE IDEAS TO KEEP THE DAY HAPPY

1. As soon as you wake up in the morning, smile and thank the Almighty for one more beautiful day. Close your eyes and sit quietly to feel your inner being. Pray that today's thoughts, words, and deeds should be worth offering to God. Surrender yourself into His hand. Throughout the day, take moments to practice gratitude and mindfulness. Reflect on the positive aspects of your life and express appreciation for them. Remember to spread kindness and positivity to others, as it will contribute to your own happiness as well.

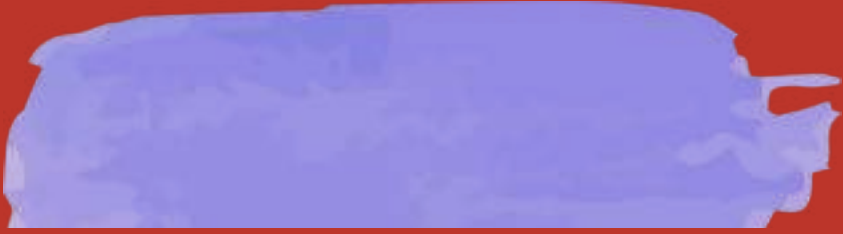
2. Truth. Whatever the situation may be, always speak the truth. As the Geetha says, "Satyam bruyat priyam bruyat, na bruyat satyam apriyam, priyam cha nanrutam bruyat." (Manusmriti 4.138) Translation: "Speak the truth in a pleasant manner; do not speak the truth in an unpleasant manner, nor utter lies even if they are pleasant to hear." Be aware of your words. Our truth should not hurt anyone. Practicing honesty and authenticity in your interactions will strengthen your relationships and build trust with others. Remember that being truthful not only benefits those around you, but also contributes to your own personal growth and integrity.

3. Living in the present. Give 100% service to what you do, mentally or physically. The result will be fruitful, and you will be satisfied that you did your best. Our thoughts create our destiny. By focusing on the present moment and giving our all to our tasks, we can ensure a successful outcome and a sense of fulfilment. It is important to remember that our thoughts shape our future, so maintaining a positive and dedicated mindset is key to achieving our goals.



Ms. Mary Fathima,  
DBM Academic Staff





Debate



Chart Making



Collage Presentation



Powerpoint Presentation



Wealth out of Waste



Digi-Training for Staff



Annual Staff Picnic

### Connect With Us:



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