

DON BOSCO MAKKALALAYA



IMPACT CHRONICLE

All Rights for All



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Director's Message



Fr. Siju Thomas SDB
Executive Director,
Don Bosco Makkalalaya

After four years of service, as I move on to my new appointment at BREADS Bangalore, I would like to place on record my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have partnered with Don Bosco Makkalalaya Mysuru in transforming many lives into holistically enhanced humanity and socially contributing to the families and mainstream society by being responsible citizens.

For the last four years, I was humbly privileged to team up along with my staff, with government and non-government systems in remoulding hundreds of lives of young people. In Don Bosco Makkalalaya, we try to change something for the better in everybody. As our beneficiaries are from the poorer economic strata of the society, they are ignited to shine brightly as they chase their dreams in life. I am proud to say that we have achieved a lot as a team in reaching the unreachable in society, as we have trained more than seven hundred young people in skilling themselves and becoming job-ready and guided four hundred young people to come back to the mainstream education system through open school programmes and hostel facilities.

In these four years of my service here, my experience has taught me that what the young people of today need is that 'one should always keep trying'. The young people have the power within themselves to create the world of their dreams: a peaceful, inclusive and successful world. Success may seem gradual, and one may slow down at times due to the challenges in the living situations of each one, but 'one must always keep trying and move ahead even when life pauses challenges and hardships'. Young people must build trust in themselves, and only then can one walk the dreams of one's own life.

Keep trying constantly and trust in yourself that all your dreams come true!



RESCUE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR YOUNG AT RISK

STREET PRESENCE PROGRAMME

Don Bosco Makkalalaya's Street Presence initiative is more than a project; it is a daily mission entrenched in Mysuru's streets. This dynamic outreach program, supported by full-time social activists, monitors important metropolitan zones where vulnerable children are frequently encountered, ensuring that they are not overlooked or unheard.

Don Bosco Makkalalaya works together with the District Labour Office, SJPU officers, Childline staff, and Labour Inspectors to identify and rescue children in need of intervention. These efforts lead to direct referrals of the child to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), which ensures the children receive immediate care and safe repatriation to their families. The Street Presence programme operates under the framework of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), blending institutional care with community-based support.

The Street Presence project also raises awareness and provides training to MSW students. They are prepared to work as frontline volunteers and alert informants to spot and signal issues like child labour, child marriage, begging children and school dropouts, hence transforming them from passive learners to active changemakers in the society.



AWARENESS AMONG PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS



We conducted awareness programs for public and community stakeholders focusing on child rights, child safety, child protection, and the Juvenile Justice Act. The programs targeted various groups, including Self-Help Group members, Panchayat Institute members, school teachers, College students, and ASHA workers. A total of 8 training programs were conducted, reaching 125 participants. These awareness programs had a significant impact on enhancing knowledge and sensitizing public and community stakeholders about key Child Rights issues. By engaging diverse groups, the initiative helped strengthen the community's capacity to identify, prevent, and respond to child-related concerns more effectively, thereby contributing to a safer and more supportive environment for children. The public awareness program also reached out to more than four thousand people in the last few months.



DON BOSCO MAKKALAMANE



Don Bosco Makkalamane is an institution dedicated in its commitment to the care and holistic development of young individuals. This centre, located in Kuvempunagar, serves as a haven where children are provided not only with shelter and education, but also with human values, emotional support, and opportunities necessary for their personal growth. Rooted in the principles of compassion, discipline, and service, the home fosters a strong sense of community and belonging among its residents. With the dedicated efforts of educators, caregivers, and staff, the institution continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children it serves.



Respect for all and appreciation of different cultures contribute to creation of an inclusive attitude therefore, the month of December was filled with festive cheer and community spirit as students wholeheartedly engaged in Christmas celebrations. They beautifully prepared a traditional crib and, on Christmas Day they visited nearby houses to distribute cake and share the joy and warmth of the season with the neighbors. It was a heartwarming expression of unity, generosity, and the true spirit of Christmas.

Holistic development being the aim of our system, January was dedicated to celebrating Saint Don Bosco, and the entire house came alive with a variety of programs held in his name. Students participated enthusiastically in events such as Quiz, Singing Competition, and a series of fun and engaging games. The month served as both a tribute to Don Bosco's legacy in serving the poor young people all over the world and a platform for students to discover and develop their talents and sportsmanship.



As the academic year progresses, students especially those in the tenth standard have been diligently preparing for their board examinations. We are proud to report that this year, four boys appeared for the SSLC examination and all of them passed with First Class honors. This is a moment of pride for the institution and a testament to the students' hard work and the dedicated support of their teachers.

OPEN SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Education is a powerful tool that shapes the future of individuals and communities. However, not every child or young adult gets to complete their schooling due to various challenges such as financial difficulties, personal issues, or lack of access to quality education. School dropouts remain a major concern in many parts of the world, leading to lost opportunities and unfulfilled potential. Don Bosco Makkalalaya aims to build a supportive and welcoming learning space where those who have dropped out of school can discover and achieve their true potential. Our dedicated teachers provide customized education plans, skill-based training, and personal development opportunities. These efforts are designed to help students either return to mainstream education or pursue other meaningful career paths that suit their interests and abilities.



Over the past three months, our SSLC and PUC open school students have engaged in a focused and productive journey toward their exams. They received adequate academic help through frequent tests, preparatory exams and dedicated coaching sessions. We also held a Parents-Teachers Conference, where our teaching staff and the Executive Director met with students and their parents to discuss progress, share valuable feedback, and strengthen the support system around each learner.

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



The 38th Batch Skill Training Programme was inaugurated with great enthusiasm at DBM. The event began with a prayer song by the staff and a welcome speech from a student representative, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by distinguished guests, symbolizing the start of a new journey. Chief Guest Fr. Christopher Mathew and Guest of Honour Fr. Devassy were present, with Fr. Siju Thomas, Executive Director of DBM, delivering an inspiring introduction. He encouraged students to seize opportunities, sharing the story of John R. Rockefeller to motivate them. Fr. Mathew emphasized Mahatma Gandhi's vision of vocational training, urging students to set clear goals, while Fr. Devassy highlighted the importance of skill training, especially for empowering women. ID cards were distributed to mark the beginning of their training. The event featured vibrant cultural performances by students, showcasing their creativity through dances and songs.

SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHILD RIGHTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

We celebrated International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2025, to raise awareness about basic human rights and why they are important for making the world better. Fr. Siju Thomas, the Executive Director of DBM, gave an impactful talk about what human rights are and how they help prevent problems and protect people. He encouraged everyone to support human rights and inspired young people to take responsibility and be positive change-makers.

Miss Gnanamani held a helpful seminar for SSLC, PUC, and the 38th Batch Skill Training students, explaining the history of human rights and discussing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) created by the UN in 1948. This seminar helped students understand their own rights and the rights of others, making them feel empowered and aware of issues like abuse and neglect. She also talked about child rights, stressing the importance of ensuring children can live safely and grow into responsible adults. Overall, the event provided valuable lessons, encouraging students to stand up for their rights and become responsible citizens in the society.



WORKSHOP ON TIME MANAGEMENT

A workshop on Time Management was held at Don Bosco Makkalalaya for the 38th batch of Skill Training students. Fr. Devassy SDB with immense knowledge on the subject was the resource person. The workshop focused on the crucial importance of managing time effectively, as this skill is vital for building a successful career. Fr. Devassy taught students how to recognize time-wasting habits and avoid engaging in unproductive activities that can hinder their progress. During the workshop, students learned practical strategies for prioritizing tasks, setting goals, and creating schedules that help them stay organized.



This helped them understand how effective time management can lead to improved performance in both their studies and future careers. Moreover, students realized that mastering time management not only helps in academic success but also contributes to personal development and stress reduction. Overall, this experience provided students with a strong foundation for creating a successful future, enhancing their confidence and motivation as they move forward in their careers.

WORKSHOP ON CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

A workshop on Creativity and Innovation was held at Don Bosco Makkalalaya for the 38th batch of skill training students. This initiative aimed to equip students with essential skills for improving productivity, personal growth, and creative thinking. The workshop was led by Fr. Devassy SDB, who guided the students through engaging and interactive sessions designed to boost their creativity.

The workshop included various activities that encouraged students to think outside the box and come up with innovative ideas. Fr. Devassy emphasized how creative thinking is vital for solving problems and adapting to different challenges in life.

As a result of this workshop, students gained confidence in their ability to think creatively and approach challenges in new ways. They learned that creativity is not just about art; it's about finding solutions and being adaptable. Overall, the experience helped them understand the importance of creativity in their personal and professional lives, making them feel more prepared to tackle future challenges with innovative ideas.



WORKSHOP ON CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

A valuable workshop on Conflict Management and Resolution was held at Don Bosco Makkalalaya for the 38th Batch Skill Training students, led by Sr. Jeniffer Pinto UFS, a legal advisor. The session aimed to equip students with essential tools for managing conflicts in personal and professional life.

The workshop was begun by explaining the concept of conflict as a situation where people have differing views or interests. Sr. Jeniffer discussed the various types of conflict, helping students understand how to navigate disagreements and improve communication.

She highlighted the consequences of not managing emotions during conflicts, explaining that feelings like anger and frustration can cloud judgment and escalate issues. This resonated with participants, who realized that controlling their emotions could enhance their interactions and reduce misunderstandings. Finally, she stressed the importance of emotional regulation and self-awareness, encouraging students to reflect before reacting in tough situations. By the end of the workshop, students felt empowered and more confident in their ability to handle conflicts constructively, leading to healthier relationships, building emotional intelligence, enhancing problem-solving abilities and promoting social harmony.



CULTURAL APPRECIATION AT DBM



We celebrated Cultural day for the 38th batch skill training students in which we conducted several competitions like Rangoli Competitions, Vegetable Carving, Solo Singing, Group Singing, Solo Dance, Group Dance and Cooking without fire competitions.

These competitions provided a vibrant platform for learning, expression and personal development. It played a significant role in shaping students' skills, confidence, and personality. For students who are training for jobs, these competitions offer valuable learning experiences that can help them in their professional careers. They develop creative skills as these competitions require students to think creatively and come up with unique ideas that further helps in problem-solving, innovation, and finding new approaches to challenges. They also learnt time management, leadership skills, teamwork and they overcame their shyness and stage fright. as these competitions require students to think creatively and come up with unique ideas that further helps in problem-solving, innovation, and finding new approaches to challenges. They also learnt time management, leadership skills, teamwork and they overcame their shyness and stage fright.

ONE-DAY EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION

We organised a one-day educational tour to Kushalnagar, Madikeri for the SSLC, PUC, and 38th batch Skill Training students. The objective of this trip was not only to provide a break from routine academics but also to enhance the students' personal, social, cultural, and environmental awareness.

The trip commenced early in the morning with the first stop being the Namdroling Monastery, one of the largest teaching centers of the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism in the world. Here, students witnessed the grandeur of Tibetan architecture and the tranquility of monastic life.



The monastery's serene environment also allowed them to reflect on inner peace and mindfulness.

Next, the group visited Kaveri Nisargadhama, known for its scenic beauty and biodiversity. Walking across the hanging bridge and exploring the thick bamboo groves, sandalwood, and teak trees, students experienced nature firsthand. This provided a chance for students to relax, play, and bond in a natural setting.

The final destination was the Harangi Elephant Camp, where students had the rare opportunity to observe and interact with elephants in a safe and guided environment.

Throughout the day, students learned valuable life lessons— sharing responsibilities, being considerate of others, and appreciating the diversity that makes up our world. Such experiences play a vital role in shaping young minds, helping them grow into empathetic, informed, and responsible individuals. As they returned with hearts full of memories and minds enriched with new insights, it became evident that such outings are more than just a day away from school—they are powerful tools for holistic education.

CONCLUSION AND CERTIFICATION OF SKILL TRAINING 38TH BATCH



The conclusion and certification of the 38th Skill Training batch took place on March 8, 2024. The program began with the lighting of a lamp to seek God's blessings, followed by a procession by the students. Fr. Siju Thomas, Executive Director of Don Bosco Makkalalaya, opened the event by discussing the four C's of building a successful career: confidence, concentration, commitment, and character. The Chief Guest, Fr. Devassy, Director of Don Bosco Makkalamane, celebrated Women's Day, emphasizing the importance of women's self-sufficiency and continuous learning.

Students showcased various cultural activities, including dance and song performances. Awards were given to the top-performing teams, and students presented a gift to DBM in appreciation. A video highlighting memorable moments from the batch was screened, and certificates were distributed to all students who completed the course. Additionally, International Women's Day was marked with a game for female staff and a celebratory cake cutting.

The program concluded with snacks and refreshments, leaving everyone with lasting memories and a sense of achievement. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the course and the students' accomplishments.

LIGHTS, LAUGHTER, AND UNITY: A FESTIVE CELEBRATION AT DON BOSCO MAKKALALAYA

Christmas celebration at Don Bosco Makkalalaya on 23rd December 2024 was a joyous occasion, marked by festive cheer and community spirit. The event was graced by the presence of distinguished guests, including the Chief Guest, Fr. Stephen OCD, the Guest of Honour, Fr. Devassy, and Fr. Siju Thomas SDB, the Executive Director of Don Bosco Makkalalaya. Students presented variety of dance and action song performances showcasing their talents and energy. The highlight of the evening was a beautifully enacted skit that depicted the nativity scene and conveyed the message of Christmas. Which left the audience deeply moved. Funny gifts were given to the students and staff by Santa Claus and Impact Chronicle Vol 1, Issue 2 was released by the Chief guest and dignitaries. The program concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the organizers, performers and guests. As a token of togetherness, a delicious dinner was provided for all attendees, allowing everyone to bond and celebrate the occasion.



CHILD SAFETY NET PROJECT

FORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF CARING COMMUNITY GROUPS



Between December 2024 and March 2025, we formed six Community Child Groups (CCGs) in identified areas, namely Bamboo Bazaar, Gandhinagar, Hudco Bannimanatapa, Ashokapuram, Kyathmaranahally, Rajendranagar and Nazarbad which aims to have a deep and long-lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable children. Through the formation of CCG's we have implemented a comprehensive, community-driven approach to child safety challenges. The group was formed by working across sectors and involving a total of 69 diverse local stakeholders such as Childline, Special Juvenile Police Unit, District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Police Officer, ASHA worker, Anganwadi teacher, School Headmaster, Youth Leader, Self-Help Group Leader, Auto Union Leader, Community Leader, Corporator, Religious Leader, School CRC Leaders. During the formation process, discussions were held on crucial topics such as child rights, child safety, child protection, and the Juvenile Justice Act. The groups also deliberated on child rights violations, common problems faced by children in the area, and the issue of school dropouts. To facilitate communication and collaboration, a WhatsApp group was created for each CCG. This effort exemplifies shared responsibility from the community for protecting and empowering vulnerable children.

ADVOCACY WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS JUVENILE JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS

We've conducted advocacy meetings with government departments, juvenile justice institutions, and other stakeholders, focusing on pro-child treatment, legal support and convergence initiatives. A total of four meetings were held, featuring regular interactions on child development, protection and welfare. These meetings covered 97 officials from various departments, including Women and Child Development Department, Childline, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), Education Department, Health Department, Police Department, Railway Department, Deputy Commissioner, Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The objective of these meetings was to ensure a collaborative approach towards promoting child welfare and protection.



By engaging with key stakeholders, we aimed to foster a supportive environment for children's development and well-being.

RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

In the past four months, we have conducted field visits to high-risk areas, including:

- Public Places, Transportation Hubs, Street corners, railway stations, city bus stands, suburban bus stands, highway circles and ring roads, Marketplaces, exhibition surroundings, Mandi Mohalla, Lashkar Mohalla, Residential Areas, City slums, palace surroundings, Chamundi Hill, Kailaspuram, Ashokapuram, Udayagiri, Rajivnagar, Kesare, Rajendranagar, Naidunagar, Kurimandi, Hudco Bannimantapa, Yellamma Colony, Bharath Nagar, Sathanagar, Ganeshnagar and Gandhinagar. We've collaborated with government departments for Rescue including:

- Labour Department, Childline, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU). Our outreach efforts have reached 158 (Female -68, Male – 90) children, including - Street Children: 8 - Child Labourers: 22, Child Beggars: 11, School Dropouts: 25, Migrants: 89, Substance Abuse Children: 3.

These areas are often characterized by poor living conditions, limited access to essential services and increased vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Children in these environments are more likely to experience health issues, drop out of school and face various forms of exploitation.



AWARENESS AMONG PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

“CHILD RIGHTS ON WHEELS” - AUTO AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



Don Bosco Makkalalaya, Mysore in collaboration with the District Administration, District Legal Services Authority, Labour Department, and District Child Labour Project Society, conducted a five-day auto campaign starting from February 17th, 2025 across Mysore and nearby Taluks of K.R.nagar, Saligrama, Hunsuru, Periyapantna, T.Narasipura and Nanjangud to raise awareness on child rights and eradicate child rights violations and encourage timely reporting of violations and abuses. An autorickshaw with a microphone system spread the information. Along with that, more than 4000 of brochures containing information on child rights, the need to prevent child marriage and child labour, the POCSO Act, gender equality, and a call to action for protection of child rights and timely reporting of violations were distributed. The campaign was flagged off by senior officials from the District Labour department, the campaign received curious, encouraging and positive public response, The campaign engaged with local authorities, teachers, parents, children and common public in strengthening child protection efforts.

CHILD RIGHTS KIOSK



On February 28, 2025, the Child Safety Net (CSN) team of Don Bosco Makkalalaya, Mysore, set up child rights awareness kiosks at Rajendranagar Circle and in front of the bus stand at Rajendranagar Arch. Inaugurated by officials from the Special Juvenile Police Unit, Childline. The kiosks served as information hubs to educate the public on child rights, child marriage, child labor, begging children, school dropouts, and child-related laws. Throughout the day, more than 500 pamphlets were distributed by CSN staff and BSW student volunteers, engaging students, teachers and the general public. Officials from the local police station and child welfare department were invited as guests, reinforcing the importance of collective action in protecting children's rights. The initiative successfully raised awareness and encouraged community involvement in safeguarding child rights and ensuring timely reporting of violations. We have also installed Kiosk at Maruthi Circle, FTS Circle, Kurimandi and Rajendranagar and distributed 1845 Pamphlets.

FOSTER CARE PROJECT



- Identification of potential children:
Mysuru: 01
- Identification of prospective parents:
Mysuru: 10, Chamarajanagara: 05
- Home enquiry of potential children:
Mysuru: 01
- Application to DCPO:
Mysuru: 01, Chamarajanagara: 01
- Network meeting with 15-30 NGO's:
Mysuru: 01
- Meetings with individual NGO staff:
Mysuru: 02, Chamarajanagara: 03
- Meetings with DCPO and Unit Staff:
Mysuru: 01, Chamarajanagara: 01
- Meetings with CWC members:
Mysuru: 01, Chamarajanagara: 01

Programs (Dec 2024 - March 2025)	Programmes	Participants	Programmes	Participants
	Mysuru		Chamarajanagara	
Public Awareness	37	4890	46	3705
Awareness for PRI Leaders	04	64	04	59
Awareness for Anganwadi mothers	04	63	04	82
Awareness for College Students	02	66	02	85
Awareness for SHG groups	04	90	04	80
Training for Anganwadi Teachers/helpers	03	95	04	91
Training for Asha Workers	04	98	04	59
Training for Primary Teachers	01	30	01	42
Advocacy meetings for Government Departments	05	66	02	27

List of programs covered by DBM Foster Care (Dec 2024 - March 2025)

Don Bosco Makkalalaya's foster care project provides foster care as an alternative care option for children without biological families by finding (1) youngsters in need of parental care and (2) potential parents. The children are placed in loving families through the District Child Protection Officer or the Child Welfare Committee. It also provides training and awareness programs for a wide array of stakeholders including government officials, Gram Panchayat representatives, Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Officers, school teachers, Women Self Help Groups, college students, Anganwadi teachers, mothers, helpers, ASHA workers, Child Care Heads and the general public of Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts. This helps in creating a more informed and supportive community. This engagement can result in better identification of at-risk children and quicker intervention. By fostering children in a family environment, the project helps break the cycle of poverty, abuse, and neglect that many children face. The education and emotional support that children in foster care receive can lead to better opportunities for their future, which in turn benefits the community and society.

Our foster care project extends well beyond providing temporary homes for children; it fosters a stronger, more informed community and a more responsive child welfare system. It creates an ecosystem of care that benefits both the children who are placed in foster care and the larger society, leading to long-term improvements in child protection and community wellbeing, allowing children to grow up in more nurturing, stable environments, which can lead to better educational, emotional, and long-term health outcomes compared to institutional care.

DON BOSCO YOUTH MOVEMENT

Don Bosco Youth Movement stands as a beacon of empowerment, guiding young individuals to discover their true potential and step confidently into the world. Every young person holds the key to a future full of possibilities, and it is the mission of the movement to help unlock that potential. Through support, mentorship, and a shared sense of purpose, youth are encouraged not only to dream big but also to take active steps toward turning those dreams into reality. By fostering responsibility, compassion, and a sense of community, the necessary tools are provided to help them become leaders who positively impact society. Youth are inspired to embrace their unique strengths, challenge their limits, and grow in character, ensuring lives filled with purpose and fulfillment. The belief is nurtured that, when empowered, young people can create lasting change and contribute meaningfully to a brighter future for all.

SYMFEST 2024

Our youth group members attended the The South Asian Region Salesian Youth Movement Fest (SYMFEST) 2024-2025 organised by the Chennai Province at the Sacred Heart College, Tirupathur. The event was held to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Don Bosco's dream under the theme "Anchored in Hope: Youth as Agents of Change" to inspire youth to embrace their role as catalysts for positive change.

Over 1500 young people from across India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh representing diverse cultural and social backgrounds attended the SYMFEST. The four day conference was thoughtfully designed to provide an immersive experience for all young people. On 30th December 2024, a massive peace and unity rally was organized which brought together all the youth in their traditional attires advocating for peace, environmental protection and inclusion.

With the theme of "Youths as agents of change," our youth group participated in a tableau competition and proudly won first place, showcasing their extraordinary creativity and teamwork.



CHILD RIGHTS VOLUNTEERS

Between December 2024 and February 2025, the Street Presence programme imparted awareness and trained child rights volunteers from various colleges: St. Philomenas College, JSS College, Mahajanas First Grade College and Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore. Equipped with knowledge, compassion, and a sense of mission, our child rights volunteers ventured into the streets, stations, and slums of Mysuru to be the eyes, ears, and voice for children at risk of child labour, child marriage, abuse, drug addiction, begging children, school dropouts and migrant children.

In addition to theoretical training, they also received active intervention training, including training on child protection protocols, like using the Child Helpline (1098) and coordinating with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) to recognise the young at risk in vulnerable areas like bus stops, train stations, slums, roadside stores, public parks and even famous sites like Chamundi Hills and Mysore Palace.

Through this programme we are able to sow the seeds for a culture of vigilance and care for children's rights and create a sustainable safety net that strengthens Mysore's child protection framework from the ground up.

In addition to their fieldwork, the Child Rights Volunteers also engage directly with children and youth through life skills sessions and skill development activities like debates, skits and games on topics like critical thinking skills, effective communication, creative skills, decision making, self awareness and women empowerment for the Open School and Skill Training students in DBM.



PAST PUPILS MEET AT DBM

We held a Past Pupils and Youth Meet at DBM in which Fr. Uday Kumar SDB, Karnataka State Youth Director; Fr. Devassy SDB, Director, Don Bosco Makkalamane; and Fr. Siju Thomas SDB, Executive Director, Don Bosco Makkalalaya, were the distinguished guests in the programme. We had several ice-breaker activities, the past students introduced themselves and outlined their current endeavors and everyone enjoyed a hearty lunch.

Events like this play a vital role in nurturing a sense of belonging, continuity, and inspiration among young people and alumni. By bringing together past pupils, current youth, and Salesian leaders, such gatherings reinforce values like—faith, service, and social responsibility. These meetings not only celebrate shared experiences but also create a platform for mentorship, motivation, and networking.



SUCCESS STORIES

EMPOWERED BY OPPORTUNITY: SHALINI'S LEAP INTO THE FUTURE

Shalini, hailing from a humble background where both her parents worked as daily wage laborers, faced the daunting challenge of building a future amidst financial hardship. After completing her second PUC from a government college, she joined a degree program but due to her lack of resources, she couldn't complete the course. Her search for employment met with challenges as she was not sufficiently equipped.

Then, a beacon of hope appeared. A staff member from Don Bosco Makkalalaya (DBM) visited her home, introducing her to a transformative 3-month skill training program. This chance was a lifeline and Shalini seized it with unwavering determination. Her days at DBM proved to be more than just skill development; it was a journey of self-discovery. DBM equipped her with the necessary tools required for her employment- like Basic Computer, Tally ERP9, communication, public speaking skills and the daily group dynamics conducted in DBM enhanced her self-confidence and interpersonal skills empowering her to face the professional world with newfound strength. Through our counselling program she could get apt guidance and clarity in her life which helped her to plan her future.

Today, Shalini is a valued employee, earning a salary of Rs 12,000. This income significantly alleviates the financial burden on her family, providing a sense of security and stability they had long yearned for. Shalini's journey is a testament to the role of DBM in transforming the lives of young people through skill development and the life-changing program offered. Her story is an inspiration, a reminder that with dedication and opportunity, even the most challenging circumstances can be overcome.



RAMESH: A LIFE REWRITTEN BY LEARNING

Ramesh's childhood was rooted in the hard-worn reality of his parents' lives, their days spent as civil laborers for the Maha Nagar Corporation. He was, by his own admission, a spirited and mischievous child. The path ahead seemed uncertain, bound by the limitations he was born into.

Then came a turning point, a seed of opportunity planted by a compassionate staff member from Don Bosco Makkalalaya. They saw something in Ramesh, a spark that deserved to be nurtured. With gentle persuasion, they convinced his grandmother to allow him to take the 10th-grade examination directly through KOS.

That single act ignited a fire within Ramesh. He grasped the chance with both hands, passing the examination and stepping onto a new trajectory. He continued to build upon his success, completing his second PUC, graduating from college, and then earning a Master's degree in Political Science. Today, Ramesh stands as an editor for a newspaper company in Hassan, his voice amplified, his words shaping narratives. But his journey doesn't end there. He is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science, driven by a thirst for knowledge and a desire to understand the world's complexities.

More than just academic achievement, Ramesh has embraced the responsibility to give back. He actively participates in social reform work, driven by the profound realization that his own transformation was made possible by the kindness of others. He credits Don Bosco Makkalalaya with instilling in him a deep sense of self-confidence, a belief in his own potential.

Ramesh's story is a testament to the power of opportunity, the strength of the human spirit, and the transformative impact of education. He proves that no matter where you begin, you have the power to write your own destiny, and to become a force for positive change.



IMPACT LOUNGE

MOTHER'S VOICE



Ms. Mary Fathima,
DBM Academic Staff

Love, Learn, Live and Leave a Legacy

Love — the very essence of creation. It was love that shaped the world and with deep compassion, God created humanity in His own image, placing within us a soul brimming with affection. Yet, somewhere along the way, mankind turned its gaze away from one another and toward the material world.

To remind us of true love's meaning, God Himself walked among us. In the form of a man, He lived and breathed love, ultimately sacrificing His life to teach humanity its highest form. His message was simple and profound: "Love one another as I have loved you."

But have we truly understood this? Loving those who love us back is easy. The real test lies in loving those who are starved and are yearning for love—those forgotten by society. Mother Teresa exemplified this rare kind of love. She didn't choose comfort. She chose the streets, the sick, the dying and the abandoned. Her love was fearless, unconditional and transformative—pure love in action.

To love in this way, we must learn to live fully in the present. The past is behind us, unchangeable. The future is unseen and uncertain. But the present moment holds the power to shape our lives, our relationships and our legacies. Living in the "now" reveals life's deepest truths—because the soul, our truest self, is a reflection of divine love.

An ancient truth from the Ishavasya Upanishad echoes this beautifully:

Purnamadah Purnamidam
Purnat Purnamudachyate
Purnasya Purnamadaya
Purnameva Vashishyate

This verse speaks of divine wholeness. Everything in this universe is complete. From that completeness, all things emerge and even when taken from it, what remains is still whole. So too is the soul—a spark of the Divine, whole and eternal.

When our journey in this world ends, our body, mind and intellect will fall away. But the soul—the eternal essence of love—returns to its source. Until then, what we choose to give to the world—our compassion, our presence, our love—will become the legacy we leave behind.

Let us love deeply, live meaningfully, and remember that in every act of kindness, we reflect the divine.



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