

DON BOSCO MAKKALALAYA



A N N U A L

R E P O R T

All Rights for All



ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Director's Message 03

RESCUE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

Street Presence 04

Don Bosco Makkalamane 05

Open School Programme 06

Skill Training Programme 07



DON BOSCO YOUTH MOVEMENT 10

DON BOSCO SUMMER CAMP 11

FOSTER CARE PROJECT 12

CHILD SAFETY NET PROJECT

Awareness Campaigns 15

Caring Community Groups 16

Child Rights Volunteers 18

Success Stories 19

Gallery 20



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

At Don Bosco Makkalalaya Mysuru, our commitment has always been rooted in the belief that every child and youth deserves a life of dignity, opportunity, and hope. Since our inception, we have worked tirelessly to reach the unreached — child labourers, school dropouts, unemployed youth, and vulnerable children — transforming their lives through holistic education, skill development, and social reintegration.

Grounded in the principles of the Right to Education Act, UNESCO's "Education for All" policy, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, our work is not merely about service

delivery, but about promoting a movement towards a rights-based society. Inspired by the educational system of Don Bosco and our vision to "empower the young to build a holistic society," we aim to create lasting change in communities by addressing systemic issues and fostering an inclusive culture.

We apply the P4 strategy — Problem, Project, Process, and Progress — to our interventions, ensuring that every identified issue is transformed into actionable projects that evolve into sustainable processes, ultimately leading to real and measurable progress.

Our services are tailored to meet the varied needs of our beneficiaries. We offer Direct SSLC and PUC coaching for school dropouts between the ages of 15 and 50, ensuring that no one is left behind due to age or circumstance. Our Skill Development Programme for youth aged 18 to 35 equips them with practical knowledge in basic computing, Tally, Photoshop, Nudi, spoken English, life skills, and interview preparation, along with job placement assistance.

Additionally, our Foster Care Project ensures that children without parental care are placed in loving, safe environments, while our Child Safety Net Project identifies and rehabilitates vulnerable children including those involved in labour, begging, child marriages, and those from migrant communities. These projects not only rescue children from exploitation but also restore their right to a secure and meaningful childhood.

As I step into the role of Executive Director, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Fr. Siju Thomas SDB, our former Executive Director, who offered his dedicated service over the past four years. His unwavering commitment and compassionate leadership have laid a strong foundation upon which we continue to build. I also convey my profound appreciation to our dedicated staff, committed partners, and the larger community who walk this journey with us. Together, let us continue to build bridges of opportunity, empower the marginalized, and create a society where no child is forgotten and every youth is empowered to thrive.



Fr. Jim Jose SDB
Executive Director,
Don Bosco Makkalalaya Mysuru



RESCUE AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

The project “Rescue and Rehabilitation of Children in Risk Conditions through Education and Skill Training in Mysore city” aims at establishing a safety net for the children at risk conditions in the city of Mysore in Karnataka state in India. During the reporting period, the project strives to achieve this goal by providing rescue and rehabilitation services for the vulnerable children such as children on the streets, child labourers, school dropouts and unemployed youth who are living in the streets/slums of Mysore city by integrating the strategies of street presence, rescue operations and rehabilitation services. It aims at providing support to vulnerable children, particularly those who are marginalized or at risk due to various socio-economic factors. The project was started in November 2020. This report highlights the activities conducted from March 2024 to April 2025 to uplift disadvantaged and vulnerable children and youth to lead fulfilling lives and contribute positively to society.

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. Surveying of Mysore city in hotspots for child rights violations, revealed alarming statistics:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>
▪ Child Labourers	38	05	43
▪ School Dropouts	53	40	91
▪ Begging Children	19	17	36
▪ Migrant Children	61	59	120
▪ Street Children	04	03	07
▪ Substance Abuse Cases	04	00	04



Street Presence involves providing Child Rights awareness in Mysuru city. As part of the public awareness initiatives, pamphlets were widely distributed to educate the community on key social issues. Awareness sessions were also conducted for stakeholders through group discussions to enhance their understanding and involvement. An extensive auto campaign was carried out across various taluks to spread important messages to the public. Street plays were performed in vulnerable communities to address serious issues such as the POCSO Act, child marriage, child begging, and child labour, helping to raise awareness in an engaging and impactful way. Several collaborative events were organized with government departments and local institutions, including celebrations for World Environment Day, World Day Against Child Labour, and National Girl Child Day. These programs brought together children, school staff, government officials, and social workers to promote collective responsibility and action. Meetings and training sessions were held with government bodies to strengthen partnerships and ensure effective implementation of child protection measures. Additionally, volunteers from various colleges and academic backgrounds were trained to support these initiatives. Special summer camps were also organized in slum areas to engage children vulnerable to begging and child labour, providing them with a safe and enriching environment during the holidays.

DON BOSCO MAKKALAMANE



Don Bosco Makkalamane Children's Education Facilitating Centre is a dedicated home where children, once motivated about the importance of education, are welcomed and supported with continued care, guidance, and access to learning opportunities. About 10 boys between the age group of 10 to 16 were admitted to the Don Bosco Centre and were enrolled in the nearby government school for their regular education. Because they were accustomed to living outside of school, some boys initially found it difficult to attend regular schooling. However, with ongoing counselling and direction, the kids were able to establish a regular school

schedule over time. In order to support the children's overall development, they are offered residential care, nutritious food and medical attention.

At Don Bosco Makkalamane, children receive holistic care and development through structured programs. Basic education is strengthened through formal schooling, remedial classes, and tutoring, helping the children catch up academically. Life skills education, including communication, decision-making, conflict resolution, and time management, is imparted through group activities. They also learn self-care, teamwork, and leadership in a supportive environment. Values like respect, responsibility, and honesty are nurtured through community living. Regular counselling helps children cope with past challenges and identify personal growth areas. Sports play a key role, with children participating in games like cricket, football, kabaddi, and kho-kho, promoting physical and emotional well-being. Over the past year, the boys actively engaged in events like the Chamundi Run, district-level kho-kho, and the Pratibha Karanji competitions, earning accolades and showcasing their talent and spirit.



OPEN SCHOOL PROGRAMME



The staff of Don Bosco Makkalalaya mobilised to the streets to find and motivate children and youth from poverty-stricken families and disadvantaged groups in the community. This has provided valuable insights into the needs of these vulnerable populations. The staffs have mobilised and counselled over 75 school dropouts to register themselves under the Open School Programme for Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) and Pre-University Course (PUC). Additionally, the staff individually visited the homes of the students and their children to encourage them to enrol their kids in SSLC and PUC and to discuss the value of education in the modern world.



A total of 75 children were admitted to DBM for SSLC and PUC courses, 08 of them attended bridge school, 24 were registered to attend the SSLC open school examination, and 30 were registered to attend the PUC Open school examination. 20 of them went back to varied situations of their lives to support their families, and some of them were even married off. The open school teachers have been following up on the continuity of the education of these 75 children. The teachers also organised guided classes for the open school students. The students also receive adequate academic help through frequent tests and preparatory exams.



BRIDGE COURSE: FUNDAMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Don Bosco Makkalalaya has launched an endeavour to increase the literacy levels of students who struggle to read, write, and comprehend basic text. In the past year, 08 students attended the bridge course. Effective literacy skills provide pupils with greater educational and employment opportunities, allowing them to lift themselves out of poverty and chronic underemployment. Literacy is essential for economic progress, as well as personal and communal well-being.

SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMME



In a remarkable outreach effort, our dedicated team of skill training staff successfully connected with 646 underprivileged individuals from low socioeconomic backgrounds from the educationally backward and slum areas of Mysore city and motivated 170 individuals for the admission to the job-oriented three-month skill training with the goal of training and preparing the youth with essential skills and knowledge that will allow them to find work and support their families.

To boost employability in today’s competitive job market, our three-month training program equips youth with essential skills in Computers, Life Skills, and Spoken English.

The Computer Training module builds digital confidence by teaching Microsoft Office, Photoshop, Tally ERP 9, and typing in English and Kannada—skills that directly enhance workplace efficiency.

Through Life Skills and Personality Development classes, students gain critical soft skills such as communication, leadership, time management, and teamwork. This helps them overcome stage fright, improve problem-solving, and become effective team players and confident individuals.

Our Spoken English classes focus on grammar, vocabulary, and conversational practice through role plays, discussions, and presentations. This fluency boosts students’ confidence and performance in interviews and professional environments. Together, these courses not only prepare students for employment but also help them grow into self-assured, capable professionals ready to thrive in any field.

ASSEMBLY AND MEDITATION:

Students begin their day with an assembly and meditation in the auditorium. Daily meditation helps them remain relaxed and at ease throughout the day. Daily newspaper reading practice helps pupils build reading and public speaking skills, as well as general knowledge and awareness of their surroundings. Motivational speeches and quotes by great speakers are shared and the staff shares inspirational messages to the students every day. This inspires the students to succeed and motivates them to achieve great things in life.

April 2024 - March 2025	Section A	Section B	Total
Batch 36 (Apr 2024-June 2024)	39	39	78
Batch 37 (Aug 2024-Oct 2024)	30	29	59
Batch 38 (Dec 2024-Feb 2025)	16	17	33
Grand Total			170



WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS:



TIME MANAGEMENT



HEALTH AND FIRST AID



CHILD RIGHTS



PERSONAL HYGIENE



SELF DEFENCE



CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

We host a variety of workshops and seminars on topics such as conflict resolution, soft skills, fire and safety awareness, first aid, health and hygiene, self-defence, yoga, time management, and artistic skills to give the youngsters with additional essential information. The resource persons, who are experts in their fields, enrich the youth with their knowledge and insights, inspiring them to become better leaders and team players when they join reputable companies.



OPEN HOUSE PROGRAMME ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY AT SJPU

The Skill Training students attended an open house program held by the Sub-Juvenile Police Unit on the 19th of September 2024 at the Lashkar Mohalla Police Station.

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 and emphasized the importance of collective action and community participation in promoting gender equality and Child Rights.

INDOOR GAMES:

The youth enjoy their leisure time by playing indoor games such as carom, chess and badminton in the auditorium. Such indoor game helps the students to reduce their stress and encourages productivity. It gives them an opportunity to spend time together and socialize with each other. It sharpens their cognitive skills and improves their mood to study and perform well in their academics.

CULTURAL APPRECIATION:

Don Bosco Makkalalaya celebrated several vibrant and meaningful events that left a lasting impact on the students by fostering creativity, community spirit, and cultural pride.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

On the 78th Independence Day of India, the spirit of patriotism was rekindled as students from PUC and Skill Training courses reflected on the value of freedom, followed by an inspiring message by the Executive Director of DBM after the flag hoisting. The day ended with sweets and patriotic music, reinforcing national pride and unity among the students.

ONAM CELEBRATION

On September 14, 2024, the Onam celebration brought together tradition and fun through a range of engaging competitions such as pookalam designing, wealth out of waste, marble and spoon race, jumping to catch the crisps, tug of war, and pot breaking (uriyadi). These activities not only allowed students to showcase their creativity and ingenuity—especially through crafting from waste—but also encouraged teamwork and healthy competition.



TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Teachers' Day was marked with warmth and gratitude through a vibrant student-led program featuring solo and group dances, creative skits, and interactive games for staff, with thoughtful gifts and medals presented in appreciation of the teachers' dedication.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Christmas celebration on December 23, 2024, was filled with joy and festive cheer as students presented energetic dance and action song performances, a heartfelt nativity skit, and received funny gifts from Santa Claus. The celebration concluded with a shared dinner, strengthening bonds and joyful spirits among students and staff.



CAMPUS INTERVIEW:



We have collaborated with reputed companies who are invited to conduct campus interviews for the youth at the end of each skill training batch. The HR managers orient the students on the nature of work and the salary package. They then take interviews and select the students according to the vacancies in their respective companies. Through this, the youth get a complete turnover in their lives by securing jobs directly after completing their skill training. This not only boosts their confidence but also provides them with a stable source of income to support themselves and their families. Many students have pursued education through the income

they make from the jobs, breaking the cycle of poverty in their families and improving their standard of living.

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 EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION:



Educational excursions are an integral part of the learning process. It offers students immersive, hands-on, experiential learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom environment. These excursions provide a wide range of benefits that contribute to the overall development of students. We organise one-day educational trip for each skill training batch which allows them to explore new historical, cultural, social and natural settings of the world and provide better exposure to apply their knowledge and skills.

DON BOSCO YOUTH MOVEMENT:

The Don Bosco Youth Movement aims at empowering young individuals to become leaders and role models within their peer groups and the community.

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.



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 youth leaders also attended the South Asian Region Youth Movement Fest (SYMFFEST) 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. Our youth group participated in a tableau competition and proudly won first place, showcasing their extraordinary creativity and teamwork.

SUMMER CAMP:

Don Bosco Makkalalaya successfully conducted an impactful one-month summer camp for adolescents aged 15 to 18 years—a highly impressionable age group. The initiative aimed at empowering the young from disadvantaged areas and slums across Mysuru, where the dedicated social mobilizers from Don Bosco Makkalalaya worked tirelessly to identify and motivate young individuals to participate.

The summer camp focused on holistic development through daily classes in spoken English, including vocabulary-building and conversation practice. Additionally, engaging classes were held everyday on vital life skills topics such as public speaking, stress and anger management, time management, creativity, teamwork, environmental awareness, health and hygiene, etc.

To broaden the children’s perspectives and ideas, expert resource persons were invited to conduct interactive workshops on topics like child rights, gender equality and women empowerment, time management, conflict management, first aid, health and hygiene, environmental awareness, yoga and meditation, and laughter yoga. Daily games and activities were integrated into the programme to reinforce the topics covered.

A highlight of the camp was an enriching one-day educational excursion to Namdrooling Monastery, Kaveri Nisargadhama, and the Harangi Elephant Camp in Kushalnagar, Madikeri. This outing provided the campers with exposure to relaxing environments in the nature, taught them about different cultures, and conservation and care for wildlife.



FOSTER CARE PROJECT

Foster Care is a form of temporary, family-based care provided to children who have been orphaned or are otherwise deprived of a nurturing family environment. Recognizing the importance of such care in ensuring a child's holistic development, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, provides a legal framework for the implementation of Foster Care in India. In line with this mandate, Don Bosco Makkalalaya (DBM) has been actively implementing a Foster Care Project aimed at creating awareness, building capacities, and supporting the actual process of foster placements in the Mysore and Chamarajanagara districts.

A significant component of this initiative involves extensive awareness programmes targeting a wide spectrum of stakeholders who play vital roles in child protection and welfare. DBM conducts regular training sessions, orientation workshops, and awareness campaigns for government officials and staff members, including those from the Department of Women and Child Development. These sessions aim to equip them with a clear understanding of the Foster Care system, its legal provisions, and the procedures for identifying and placing children in suitable families.

In addition, the programme engages with Gram Panchayat elected representatives, recognizing their role as grassroots influencers and decision-makers in the community. They are sensitized on the importance of alternative care and encouraged to support local foster care initiatives. Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members and District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs), being the official authorities in approving and monitoring foster placements, are given specialized training to streamline the process and ensure child safety and well-being.

DBM also extends its awareness efforts to school teachers, college students, Women Self Help Groups (SHGs), Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and mothers' groups, emphasizing the community's collective responsibility in ensuring safe and nurturing environments for children in need. Through interactive campaigns, stakeholder meetings, and community outreach events, these groups are educated on the concept of foster care, its benefits for vulnerable children, and how to become foster parents or refer children in need of care.

Moreover, Don Bosco Makkalalaya plays a crucial role in assisting prospective foster parents by guiding them through the application process to the DCPO or CWC. The organization not only facilitates placements but also ensures continuous follow-up through home visits, school interactions, and family counseling sessions. These efforts are aimed at supporting the integration of the child into the foster family and ensuring a stable, caring, and secure environment.

Overall, the awareness programmes by DBM have been instrumental in breaking social myths, building community participation, and strengthening the foster care system at the grassroots level, thus ensuring that more children grow up in loving families rather than in institutional settings.



FOSTER CARE PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED (MARCH 2024 - APRIL 2025)

Programs (March 2024 - April 2025)	Programmes	Participants	Programmes	Participants
	Mysuru		Chamarajanagara	
Public Awareness	105	13690	137	12,100
Awareness for PRI Leaders	12	202	13	207
Awareness for Anganwadi mothers	14	232	14	283
Awareness for College Students	6	312	9	534
Awareness for SHG groups	14	294	15	302
Training for Anganwadi Teachers/helpers	12	281	12	250
Training for Asha Workers	14	217	11	153
Training for Primary Teachers	4	122	6	380
Advocacy meetings for Government Departments	8	95	10	106
Identification of Potential Children	2		4	
Identification of Prospective Parents	34		23	
Application to DCPO	3		3	
Adoption	8		28	
Home Enquiry of Potential Children	4		1	
Home Enquiry of Prospective Parents	1		1	
Placing Children in Foster Care	5		0	
Follow up of Placed Children	10		10	
Prospective Foster Parents and Children Meeting	2	44	2	34
CWC Followup of Foster Children and Family	0	0	1	3
Network Meeting with 15 - 30 Non Governmental Organisation	1	11	1	17
Meeting with individual NGO Staff	9	16	13	26
Meeting with DCPO and Unit Staff	3	15	2	13
Meeting with CWC Members	2	14	2	12
Meeting with Police Officials	2	14	2	20
Sharing BOSCO Foster Care experience and knowledge	8	55	9	99
Radio, Newspaper, Promotional Advertisements, etc.	2		1	

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 reinstating 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.

From July 2024 to June 2025, a total of 302 cases were attended, comprising 184 boys and 118 girls. Among these, 276 cases were closed-165 boys and 111 girls. Seven cases lost contact, and 19 cases are yet to be followed up.

Out of the total cases, 43 involved child labourers (38 boys and 5 girls), 91 were school dropout children (53 boys and 40 girls), 36 were begging children (19 boys and 17 girls), and 120 were migrant children (61 boys and 51 girls). Additionally, there were 7 street children (4 boys and 3 girls), and 4 boys were found to be involved in substance abuse in the city of Mysuru.

CONSOLIDATED DATA FOR THE CITY MYSORE (2024 JULY TO 2025 JUNE)

Month	Attended case	Closed case	Follow-Up	Lost Contact	Child Labour	School Dropout	Begging	Migrant	Street Children	Substance Abuse Children
July, 24	36	36	0	0	1	2	0	33	0	0
Aug, 24	7	4	0	3	4	0	3	0	0	0
Sept, 24	13	10	0	3	6	3	4	0	0	0
Oct, 24	12	11	0	1	1	7	4	0	0	0
Nov, 24	23	23	0	0	2	21	0	0	0	0
Dec, 24	10	10	0	0	7	1	2	0	0	0
Jan, 25	16	16	0	0	2	7	1	0	3	3
Feb, 25	100	99	1	0	2	4	2	88	4	0
Mar, 25	26	19	7	0	7	13	6	0	0	0
Apr, 25	15	12	3	0	8	5	2	0	0	0
May, 25	22	18	4	0	1	13	8	0	0	0
June, 25	23	19	4	0	3	14	5	0	0	1
Grand Total	303	277	19	7	44	90	37	121	7	4

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS:

To strengthen child protection systems and raise awareness on child rights, a series of targeted public campaigns were conducted across Mysuru district. A total of 63 awareness programmes were organized, reaching 1,159 participants. These sessions were designed for various key stakeholders, including government officials, schoolteachers, Anganwadi workers, Child Welfare Committee members, health professionals, and members of the general public.

The programmes covered vital topics such as child protection laws, the POCSO Act, child marriage, child labour, and the importance of community participation in safeguarding children. These sessions helped enhance stakeholders' understanding of their responsibilities and the mechanisms available to report and respond to violations.

To ensure that awareness reached even the most underserved populations, we distributed 12,556 educational pamphlets in local languages. These pamphlets were shared in schools, community centers, marketplaces, and government offices to increase accessibility and visibility.



CHILD RIGHTS KIOSKS:

19 kiosks were strategically installed at high-traffic city circle locations throughout Mysuru, such as bus stands, markets, and busy intersections. These kiosks were equipped with informational posters, audio messages, and leaflets covering various child protection themes. Functioning as round-the-clock awareness hubs, they provided the general public with easy access to important information, encouraged reporting of violations, and helped keep the message of child safety alive and visible within the community on a daily basis.

AWARENESS ON WHEELS - AUTO AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

To further expand our reach, a mobile auto campaign was conducted across 7 Taluks in Mysuru. Loudspeakers mounted on autos played messages on child rights, helpline numbers, and laws protecting children from abuse and exploitation. These mobile announcements helped engage people in rural and densely populated urban areas who might not have access to formal awareness programmes.



CARING COMMUNITY GROUPS:



Caring Community Groups (CCGs) were formed in 10 vulnerable areas across Mysuru city. These groups, made up of local volunteers, parents, youth, and leaders, were trained to act as first responders to child protection concerns in their neighbourhoods. Their presence has strengthened the community's role in identifying and preventing abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

STREET PLAY:



We organised an Anti-Child Labour and Anti-Child Beggary Campaign in the streets of Mysore with Street Play and distribution of pamphlets on child rights was organised by Don Bosco Makkalalaya Mysuru in Collaboration with BREADS, Department of Studies in Social Work, University of Mysore and Department of Social Work, Mahajanas College and Philomena's College. Mr. Ganesh- the Women and Child Department Police Officer, Mr. Prasanna Kumar- the Special Juvenile Police Officer (District Resource Person on Child Rights), Mr. Dhanajya- Child Welfare Committee Member, Mrs. Apeksitha- District Child Protection Unit, PONIC Officer, Chairperson of MSW Department, University of Mysore- Mr. Chandramouli, HODs of MSW Departments of JSS College and Mahajanas College, were the invited guests.

On January 24, we conducted an awareness campaign at Good Shepherd and St. Anne's Girls High Schools in Mysuru, reaching 606 students and staff. The sessions addressed key issues faced by girl children, such as child rights violations, child labour, child marriage, school dropouts, and gender discrimination. Discussions also covered nutrition, health, and protection from societal and familial bias. The campaign emphasized the significance of National Girl Child Day, honoring Indira Gandhi's legacy, and educated students on key laws and helplines like the POCSO Act, Child Marriage Act, RTE, Childline (1098), and Emergency Services (112). The initiative aimed to promote a safer, more equitable future for girls.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY:



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

We celebrated World Environment Day at Don Bosco Makkalalaya. Fr. Siju Thomas SDB, the Executive Director of DBM, spoke about the theme of this year's World Environment Day--Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience, emphasizing the importance of growing and protecting plants for a sustainable future.

We then had a "show and tell" activity in which the students explained the nutritional value and medicinal properties of the plants they brought from their homes. The students then exchanged plants and gave some of them to Don Bosco Makkalalaya.

Students learned about the importance of growing native plants and their practical applications, and pledged to start growing more plants in their communities.



WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Don Bosco Makkalalaya organized a rally to commemorate Anti Child Labour Day on 15th June 2024.

The rally began at Govt. High School, Kailashpuram, and Govt. High School, Gumchi, with students holding placards and banners condemning child labor.

The rally, led by Fr. Siju Thomas SDB, Executive Director of Don Bosco Makkalalaya, Mr. Prasanna Kumar, SJPO, and Mr. Chennappa (BRP Nodal Officer) proceeded to St. Philomema's Church Circle before returning to Govt. High School, Gumchi, where a programme awaited them.

Fr. Siju gave an introductory speech. Mr. Suresh K and Mr. Mahesh, the members of the schools faculty delivered speeches followed by a speech from the Chief Guest, Mr. Prasanna Kumar and Mr. Chennappa.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and snacks and refreshments for the students.

The event successfully raised awareness about the pressing issue of child labour while also advocating for child rights and well-being.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025

On March 8, 2025 we partnered with the Panchayat Raj Institutions Gram Panchayat of Tandavpura to raise awareness about critical social issues on International Women's Day programme. We addressed a diverse group of 150 SHG members, Anganwadi teachers, ASHA workers, Taluk Panchayat members, and Gram Panchayat members. We highlighted crucial topics, including Child rights and human rights Importance of Women's Day and gender equality Child marriage and child labor, POCSO Act. Our efforts had a positive impact on the community, promoting awareness and inspiring action on these critical issues. We also had an event at Don Bosco Makkalalaya is part of a larger movement to recognize and celebrate women's achievements with women staff.



CHILD RIGHTS VOLUNTEERS:



As part of our efforts to build a strong community-based support system for child protection, we trained 131 volunteers from various academic backgrounds and colleges. These young individuals received orientation and skill-based training on child rights, basic counselling, classroom engagement, and community outreach. The training aimed to empower them to contribute meaningfully to our programmes, particularly in areas with high vulnerability. By involving college students as volunteers, we not only enhanced the impact of our interventions but also nurtured a sense of social responsibility and leadership among the youth. These volunteers played a key role in facilitating awareness sessions, supporting children during events, and assisting in the implementation of community-based activities.

SUMMER CAMPS FOR CHILDREN IN VULNERABLE AREAS:

We organized summer camps in two slum areas—Yellamma Colony and Vande Matharam Colony—to engage vulnerable children in constructive activities during the long school break. A total of 90 children participated in the camps, which ran for one and a half months. The primary goal of these camps was to provide a safe and stimulating environment for the children, keeping them occupied and thereby preventing risks such as child labour, street begging, and neglect. The children were involved in a variety of activities including games, storytelling, creative arts, life skills sessions, and basic academic reinforcement. With the active support of the staff and trained volunteers, the camps created a positive and nurturing space that promoted learning, play, and protection.



MEETINGS AND TRAININGS:

Throughout the year, the staff of DBM attended 8 BREADS and 21 government meetings and trainings to address child welfare issues. These sessions strengthen collaboration among departments and enhance staff capacity, ensuring they stay informed, skilled, and equipped to respond effectively to the evolving needs of vulnerable children.

SUCCESS STORIES

DEFYING DESTINY: AKSHITA'S JOURNEY FROM CHILD BRIDE TO ACADEMIC ACHIEVER

Akshita's childhood ended abruptly at the early age when she was married off. With two daughters of her own, the conventional path of education seemed like a distant dream, replaced by the realities of early marriage and motherhood. Yet, a chance encounter would ignite a dormant potential within her.

Her friend, Rekha, a student at Don Bosco Makkalalaya, introduced Akshita to a world she never thought accessible. Taking a leap of faith, Akshita enrolled. What followed was a remarkable display of persistence and determination. She not only cleared the 2022-23 direct 10th class examination but secured the first rank. This achievement was swiftly



followed by another triumph: passing the 2023-24 direct secondary PUC exam, once again with the first rank. Behind her incredible success lies not just personal grit, but the unwavering support and motivation provided by the director, teachers, and mentors at Don Bosco Makkalalaya. They believed in her potential even when she doubted herself. Their encouragement, guidance, and faith helped her rediscover a strength she didn't know she possessed. It was within this nurturing environment that Akshita learned one of life's most powerful lessons: nothing is impossible if you believe in yourself and are willing to work for it.

Today, Akshita stands as a shining example of resilience, courage, and the transformative power of education. Her journey reminds us that it is never too late to dream, never too late to learn, and never too late to rewrite your story. With her two daughters watching her every move, Akshita is not only shaping her own destiny but also inspiring the next generation to rise above challenges and reach for the stars. Her story is a testament to the impact of a supportive community and the boundless potential that lies within every individual—waiting only for the chance to be awakened.

FROM JOB SEARCH TO SUCCESS: PRAVEEN'S TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY



Praveen remembers the days of relentless job searching, a time filled with uncertainty and the anxious hope of finding stable employment. The routine of seeking opportunities was a daily grind until a chance encounter changed everything.

One day, a staff member from the Don Bosco Makkalalaya visited Praveen's home, introducing him to their three-month skill training program. Seizing the opportunity, Praveen enrolled and dedicated himself to the training. The program proved to be a turning point, equipping him with practical skills and, crucially, fostering a newfound sense of self-confidence and greatly improved communication skills.

Today, Praveen is a successful employee in the crossword department at Nexus City Centre, earning a salary of ₹14,000. Praveen credits Don Bosco Makkalalaya not just for the vocational training, but for awakening in him the potential he hadn't recognized before. The support, mentoring, and positive environment helped him believe in himself again. His story is a powerful reminder of how timely guidance and a supportive community can change the course of a young person's life.

GALLERY



Fire and Safety Awareness



Industrial Visit



World Day Against Child Labour Programme and Street Play





Inauguration of Child Safety Net Project



Inauguration of Child Rights Kiosk

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