



Fr. Koshy with his numerous children



Fr. Jose Mathew at UNHCR, Geneva



Fr. V M. Thomas at UN, Geneva



A home for former child labourers



An award from the German government



In Andhra Pradesh, a Children's Parliament is an important element of Don Bosco's Child Safety Net

Editorial

Some time ago I took a friend to visit some of our institutions in Chennai.

In the first place we were at, we went directly to the office of the head of the institution. We found a large group of children there. Some were crowding right by the side of the rector (director), others around his table, still others sitting on chairs. They were engaged in a lively, cheerful conversation with him. When they saw us, they said, “Good morning, Sir!” shook hands with us and left the office.

In the second centre we visited, the director was out on the veranda, surrounded by a group of kids, chatting and laughing. They were teasing the priest and being teased in return.

In a third place there was a football game going on. Among the young players there was also an adult. It turned out that he was a priest in shorts, and the referee was the director!

At the end of the day my friend shared with me what surprised him the most.

He was astonished that the head of such large institutions, the chief administrator of the place, could be so informal with kids, and the children themselves could ‘dare’ to be so much at ease with the person holding ultimate authority over them.

This is an essential characteristic of Don Bosco institutions. Salesians maintain discipline, keep everything functioning smoothly, and get things done, not through fear of their authority, but through their love. Don Bosco, our founder, wanted a ‘family atmosphere’ in each of his homes. Salesians are with the kids wherever they are – at games, work, classes, meals, study, prayer

We find the same informality in all the developmental



Fr. M. C. George Menampampil

work we do in villages and slums. Our beneficiaries do not look at us as great administrators, but as their brothers and sisters, as partners in a programme for the good of the community.

Some people mistake this atmosphere as proofs of superficiality on our part, and see us as ‘do-gooders’, but unprofessional and inefficient.

In this issue of our newsletter we bring you evidence of our professionalism and the high standards we maintain in all we do. You read of two Salesians who lectured at UN institutions in the month of June. You read of an award from the German government to a Don Bosco institution in Mumbai. You read about yet another award to BOSCO, Bangalore, in the long list of them it has won. You read of a work of Fr. Thomas Koshy, who got a national award from the President of India as far back as 1996 and still keeps getting fresh ones even today.

Regular readers of this newsletter may not be surprised because we have earlier covered the national award winning programmes of Bro. Alex in Ahmednagar, Bro. T. V. Mathew in DBSERI, Howrah, Fr. T. V. Scaria in six central jails of Bengal and Jharkhand, etc.

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CHILD SAFETY NET



Street theatre - an effective medium in creating social awareness

Sunitha studies in class IX. Her parents had a piece of land, but had no papers to prove their ownership of it. They went repeatedly to the panchayat for these documents. Illiterate as they are, they were totally ignored. Sunitha attended a training provided by Don Bosco known as CAMP. She learned about her rights and grew in self-confidence. After the CAMP she herself went to the panchayat and, in no time at all, her parents had all the documents to prove the ownership of their property.

CAMP stands for “Children As Media Producers”. It is a concept developed by the UNICEF. Children are usually seen only as “consumers” of information – they buy books and magazines; they watch films and the television. UNICEF felt that marginalised children could be empowered by giving them the opportunity to be “producers” of information.

UNICEF knew that Don Bosco Navajeeven, Vi-



Disadvantaged children shooting a documentary film
jayawada, had an excellent programme going on called Child Safety Net (CSN). They invited Don Bosco to delegate 18 children to their next CAMP. These 18 children produced 17 short documentary films. Each film highlighted a problem they themselves faced in their daily life. Under the guidance of experts, the children went through the whole process from script-writing to the release of the



Fr. Koshy among his beloved children

films. This experience totally transformed the lives of these children.

CSN aims at creating Child-friendly villages in Andhra Pradesh. It follows a rights-based approach. Children have rights. They need to know them. They can build sufficient self-confidence to stand up for themselves and get their rights met. Navajeevan gave special emphasis to the most vulnerable children.

Fundamentally important elements of the Child Safety Net are: Children's Parliaments, Evening Tuition Classes, Kitchen gardening, Life Skills Education, Caring Communities, Back to School Campaigns, etc.

"We want to give voice to every child by creating a platform for them to share their problems and issues that are directly related to their welfare," says Fr. Koshy.

Fr. Thomas Koshy has spent his entire life with street children. Way back in 1996 he was already given a national award. Since then he has received numerous other awards at various levels. He was the founder of Don Bosco Navajeevan, Vijayawada, and is the chairperson of the government's CWC (Child Welfare Committee) of the district.

"There can't be a happier scenario than children understanding their problems and defending their own rights." - Fr.Koshy.

I am very thankful to Navajeevan. CSN concept is a great thought to bring colour into children's lives. We are sure that soon we can make our village a child friendly village." - Mr.S.Bharagavi, teacher at evening tuition centre (ETC)

A few of the more striking achievements of the children under the CSN, in 2012:

1. Rescued 64 child workers
2. Got the midday meal scheme to function properly in Tadigadappa village
3. Got the process rolling for 47 cases of domestic violence
4. Prevented four child marriages
5. Identified 48 families affected by HIV and facilitated educational support for 326 children and nutritional support for 108 families affected by AIDS
6. Collected Rs. 3,28,232 to support the Evening Tuition Classes
7. Stopped sexual harassment of girls by a physical education teacher
8. Got the panchayat to repair the school building at Poranki



Children can identify, analyse and solve their issues



National Award for Fr. Koshy way back in 1996 from the president of India

I thought that through CAMP I would only be taught to handle a camera and to shoot small documentaries. Now I know that CAMP means responsibility. I learnt about child's rights and children's parliament. We thought about our problems and discussed them. Then we shot a clip to present them clearly to others. We found that we could

solve not only some of our own problems, but even a few problems of the village.

I am no longer shy. I lost my fears and I am able to speak in public. I like CAMP training very much.
V.Giridhara Sai, 2nd year Junior College, Kandhari, Vijayawada

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To support similar work anywhere in India,
send your contribution to **BoscoNet** - See inner back cover.



Fr. Koshy receives a token of gratitude and appreciation from Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner for his service to street children - Aug. 2011

FR. JOSE MATHEW at UNHCR GENEVA



Fr. Jose Mathew, the director of BOSCO - New Delhi - and the economist of the Salesian province of Delhi

Fr. Jose Mathew SDB was a resource person as well as a participant at a consultation of the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees). This consultation with Non-Governmental organizations was held from 11 to 13 June 2013 at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Geneva, Switzerland.

The main theme of the consultation was “Advocating together for protection”. 430 participants from over 90 countries participated. Fr. Jose Mathew was one of the main speakers. He made a presentation on “Urban Refugees: Protection, Livelihoods, Self-reliance and Promotion of Durable Solutions”. The presentation was well appreciated by the assembly.

Why Fr. Jose Mathew at the UN?

Since 2001 Don Bosco works with the UNHCR at Delhi to give care and protection to refugees and asylum seekers. We provide them access to health, education, and community empowerment/self-reliance, psycho-social and other support.

As of 31 December 2012 there are 18,491 refugees and 3,559 Asylum Seekers. 52% of the refugees are Afghans (9,633). The majority of them (76%) are Afghans of Hindu/Sikh origin. The remaining are Ethnic (Muslim) Afghans. These include Tajiks, Pashtuns, Hazaras, etc.



The Don Bosco model of holistic care of refugees won the admiration of all participants

The second largest group of refugees (42%) is from Myanmar (7,671). The majority are Chins and smaller numbers of Burmans, Arakenese, Kachin, Muslims, etc. The remaining (1,187) refugees include those from Somalia (739), Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia, etc. Some 3000 Rohingyas from Myanmar registered with UNHCR by the end of 2012.

Don Bosco has 14 centres to serve these refugees in Delhi, with 244 staff members, of whom 50% are, themselves, refugees.



The invitation to showcase the BOSCO - model was recognition from the highest international body for refugees



Leading from the front was what Don Bosco always demanded from his sons when it was a matter of quality of service for the disadvantaged

BOSCONET DIRECTOR GETS AN AWARD



Avishkaar is a 20-year-old national media group of cable operators. In 2012 they instituted awards to honour INDIANS WITH INTEGRITY.



Fr. M C George Menampampil SDB, Director of BOSCONET was awarded this year, on 17 August, for his CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY.

Fr.V M Thomas at UN Council on Human Rights, Geneva



Fr.V M. Thomas SDB and sister Molly Kaniampady FMA at Geneva



A well deserved recognition from the community of nations for the great work being carried out by the DBI, Guwahati

The Salesian provincial of Guwahati, Fr V M. Thomas (Vattathara), addressed the 23rd session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Plenary Assembly was attended by Ambassadors and Representatives from 193 countries, UN Bodies, NGOs, and media.

Fr. Thomas and Sr. Molly Kaniampady FMA made a presentation on – “Don Bosco Institute Kharguli : a Model in Youth Empowerment” - at a parallel session at the UN Headquarters

in Geneva on 4 June 2013 during the Human Rights Council.

Fr. Thomas founded DBI at Kharguli, Guwahati, in Assam, and served as its director till his appointment in 2012 as the superior of the Guwahati Province of Don Bosco.

The creativity of Fr. Thomas, inspired by Don Bosco, resulted in an immense variety of services to young people, teachers and internally displaced people. DBI also gives training even to high level bureaucrats from all the states of North-East India.

The gratitude of the state and national governments for the cost-effective, highly productive programmes of DBI led, finally, to this recognition from the United Nations itself in the form of the invitation to share the wealth of Fr. Thomas's experience with leaders at the global level.



Educated as he was at Harvard, Fr. V.M. Thomas is used by the government of India as a visiting faculty member of the National Academy of Administration that trains fresh recruits into the IAS



DBI, Kharguli, Gwahati, has between 2006 and 2013 benefitted over 60,000 youngsters and 5,000 teachers

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A HOME FOR CHILD LABOURERS



Simple structures, great services!



Mallikarjun

Mallikarjun, pet named 'Malli', was born in the year 1994 in Chinchansoor village of Gulbarga District (Karnataka). His father, Kupendra, was a lorry driver. Mother Thejamma was a house wife. He has two brothers.

Kupendra, not educated himself, did not feel

the need to send his children to school. Instead, he took his eldest son Ramu as a cleaner on his lorry. When Mallikarjun was 8 his father died. His mother then started working as a cook in a hostel.

The sight of the students in the hostel opened the eyes of Thejamma to the value of education. When Mallikarjun was 11 his mother got two of her sons into Don Bosco PYaR. Ramu and Malli completed the one-year **Bridge Course**. The following year

Don Bosco got Malli admitted into the 4th standard in a regular school. The same year his mother passed away. From then on Don Bosco PYaR became his true home.

He studied up to 10th class, staying in Don Bosco. In 2011 he did a 3 month course in tailoring. Shae garments, Bangalore, recruited him and he earns six thousand rupees a month.



Home is where we feel wanted, loved and safe. DB-PYaR is our home

"I came to Don Bosco when I was 9 years old," **says Amar**, "now I am 18. I received a lot of help. I wish and pray that similar institutions be established all over the world to help poor and abandoned children like me."

What is this Bridge Course?

Many children are never enrolled in school. An even larger number drop out early. They start working. When Don Bosco rescues child labourers, they are too old for class I. If we put them into that class, they would feel shy, as well as bored with the syllabus that is too simple for their more mature brains.

Amarnath gets a second (and a third) chance in life!

Amarnath was born on 10th July 1994 in Shakapur village of Gulbarga District (Karnataka). His father is Chandrakanth and his mother Ramabhai. He has two brothers, Dharmaraj and Chaitan, and a sister, Mayadevi. None of his siblings went to school. Although he wanted to study, his father would not let him. He made him work in a restaurant.

His father had a heavy debt. When he failed to repay the money, they started harassing him. His father just ran away. Amar was then nine years old.

His mother met Fr. K.J. Jose sdb, the then director of Don Bosco Programme for the Young at Risk at Gulbarga. Amarnath began his studies at the centre.

Two years later his father came back, but was beaten up by his brother. His kidneys were damaged and he died. Amarnath discontinued his studies, and started working as a cleaner in a lorry. Fr. K.

Don Bosco offers such children a 12-month Residential Course. They study at the maximum speed they are capable of. By the next scholastic year they are able to join a class better suited to their age.

In 2010-2011, the programme at Gulbarga was registered under the government's SSA project. Of the 22 children who attended the residential bridge course, 20 have been re-enrolled into mainstream schools.



Amarnath

J. Jose found him again and invited him back to Don Bosco.

Amarnath passed class X in 2012 and went to Don Bosco, Hospet, for three months of computer training. By the end of that course he had not completed 18 years and hence he could not be employed.

So he did another 3-month course in electricity in the same

institution. He now works in Bangalore and earns Rs. 6000/- per month.

Amar is highly motivated and wants to achieve great things in life. His first priority is to have a house for his family.

Don Bosco Gulbarga does lots of other programmes.

Supplementary education:

Evening classes in two localities of Gulbarga town and 15 village centres.

Beneficiaries: 954 children.

Help for Street Children:

Of the 899 children from the 16 street centres, 27 have been re-enrolled into mainstream schools and 22 into bridge schools.

CREAM

DB PYaR implements Project CREAM – Child Rights Education and Action Movement in the district. 13 ChildRights Clubs with 1027 members are active in this.

Child Line

ChildLine is a 24x7 emergency helpline for children in need of care and protection. 13149 children and youth have benefitted from the stall programmes, puppet shows, open house programmes and school visits organised through ChildLine.

Missing Child Bureau

This is a web based intervention to help missing children to reunite with their families. Awareness programmes are conducted for school children, general public and the police personnel.

Don Bosco, Gulbarga, was started with one priority: The rehabilitation of child labourers in this taluk. Despite all government schemes, there are many of them, engaged in various sectors. The worst situation might be of the children working in brick kilns.

We have been able to rescue quite a number, and start their rehabilitation; but many among them need a home while they study.

A Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre is under construction at Bablad to house these child victims.

Contributions, large and small, in cash or in kind, are urgently needed to complete this work. You may send them to:

Don Bosco – PyaR No.617, Dariyapur, G.D.A. Layout, Naganhalli Rd., Gulbarga, Karnataka - 585102

BOSCO, Bangalore



Donations Received by BoscoNet 2012-13		
Sl	State	Amount
1	Andhra Pradesh	2,34,338
2	Assam	3,66,123
3	Bihar	2,06,043
4	Delhi	1,54,168
5	Goa	5,000
6	Jharkhand	1,04,025
7	Karnataka	6,500
8	Kerala	6,60,869
9	Maharashtra	2,76,801
10	Manipur	53,480
11	Meghalaya	46,307
12	Nagaland	2,194
13	Punjab	4,640
14	Sikkim	81,029
15	Tamil Nadu	9,01,292
16	Uttar Pradesh	20,000
17	Paschim Banga	3,90,338
	Total	35,13,147

BOSCO (Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota) is the service of Don Bosco for the street children of Bangalore city.

Don Bosco does not run a single school in this city, but has SIX centres for street children. Over the years it has won numerous awards at various levels. Here is the latest of them – from the **GLOBAL ACHIEVERS FOUNDATION**.

Bosconet Financial Assistance given in 2012-13

Sl.No.	Place Name	State	Purpose	Amount
1	The Vizag Navajeevan Balabhavan, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	Scholarship	2,00,000
2	Youth Centre, Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	Scholarship	60,000
3	D.B. School, Sashipur	Assam	Drinking water Facility for school children	2,10,000
4	D.B. School, Tangla	Assam	Scholarship	90,000
5	Ms Naina Das & Rekha Das, Snehalaya	Assam	Marriage Assistance	75,000
6	D. B. School, Tinsukia	Assam	Scholarship	40,000
7	D.B. YaR Forum, New Delhi	Delhi	YaR Directory and information	31,500
8	Vocational trg Institute, Najafgarh	Delhi	Scholarship	4,92,372
9	D.B. Youth Animation, New Delhi	Delhi	Coordination meeting for Youth Workers	31,981
10	Students in schools in Delhi	Delhi	Scholarship	24,500
11	Jinu Jose, Kottayam	Kerala	Scholarship	16,135
12	Ms Sowmya Mathew. Kottayam	Kerala	Assistance for Nursing course	5,000
13	Disung Pamei, Imphal	Manipur	Assistance for Eye Operation	5,000
14	Paglam Circle, Dambuk, Lower Dibang Valley Dt	Arunachal Pradesh	Flood Relief, Arunachal Pradesh	25,000
15	Ms Raguangthai Pamei	Nagaland	Scholarship	9,250
16	D.B. Development Society, Kolkata	Paschim Banga	Scholarship	1,50,000
17	Gayaganga Navjeevan Rural & Health Devpt Society	Paschim Banga	Scholarship	1,00,000
18	St Alberts Home, Monsadah	Paschim Banga	Scholarship	3,00,000
19	SURABI, Chennai	Tamil Nadu	Scholarship	7,90,000
Total				26,55,738

DON BOSCO, KURLA (MUMBAI), WINS GERMAN AWARD



Representatives of the six award winning projects from six countries

After near total destruction during the Second World War, Germany rose like a Phoenix from the ashes, through rapid industrialization. Wishing to share its success with others, Germany has always supported efforts at skill training for young people in the weaker countries of the developing world.

To encourage the improvement of technical education, the Government of Germany held an international competition in “Innovation for technical and vocational training projects in developing countries”. Six projects from India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique and Sierra Leone were

declared winners. The project selected from India was Don Bosco –GroheJal Academy at Kurla, Mumbai.

Through its state of the art facilities, Don Bosco has trained 554 underprivileged young men with the most modern skills for sanitary hardware fitters (plumbers), providing them gainful employment.

The ‘Innovation Award’ comprised of a 10-day study tour to Germany. During the final two-day workshop, the winners exchanged experiences with their German project partners in order to learn from each other. Fr. Colbert de Silva sdb participated as the representative of the Don Bosco team.

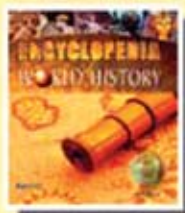
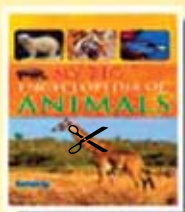
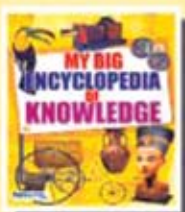


The fast growing economy of India is capable of providing gainful employment to all our young people, if only we could provide them with the skills they need.



A ten-day study tour in Germany followed by two days of sharing of experiences was an ideal award, enabling us to improve further.

BoscoNet :- October - December 2013



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