From the Director’s Desk...

Smile on the face of the POOR

Few years back I was in a Parish, where we had the practice of celebrating semi-Christmas with the poor people in the area. There would be a prayer service and distribution of new clothes to them, followed by a community meal with them. While interacting with one of the elderly women, she said, “Jesus is God of Poor people” with a bright smile on her face…Christmas is the feast of Joy, Peace, Love, Hope and all things good. This Christmas, let us strive to bring a smile on the face of a few poor persons through our actions. When you gaze at the infant Jesus in the crib at Christmas, will he say to you “come, you blessed of my Father. I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, naked and you clothed me, sick and you took care of me”? Are you ready to make a firm "Christmas resolution" for the Year of Mercy – to do something (little or much) for the homeless and Poor?

Happy Christmas! Mercy Christmas!!

Fr. P. Arul Das sdb
Executive Director

A Special day for CHILDREN

This year 14 November marks the 125th birth anniversary of independent India’s first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He is fondly known as “Chacha Nehru” as he laid a lot of emphasis on the significance of giving love and affection to children. The major objective of this day is to encourage the welfare of children all over the country. Children recognize it as the day of fun and frolic.

Gagillapuram: 110 children from four villages around Gagillapuram participated in the Children's Day program organized on Sunday, 15th November 2015 at DBHRDC. Apart from the children of BSK-run tuition centres around Gagillapuram, there were 20 children from Adorers Convent, 58 from Holy Trinity Church, Begumpet Parish and 68 NSS volunteers from St.Francis College, Begumpet.

There were several group activities and sports conducted by the DB Tech Students of Gagillapuram. The whole programme was successful due to the hard work of Fr. P Arul Das - Director of BSK, Mr. Anthony, Coordinator, DBHRDC, Mr.S Ambedkar – Coordinator of Children's Parliament, staff, teachers and sisters from Adorers Convent who collaborated and made it a memorable day for the children.

Visakhapatnam: The Children's day celebrations at Beach Blossoms Bridge School lead to the reunion of the staff and children. It was a well-planned celebration by the management and staff specially focusing the children. The children were engaged in the games on the previous day. The students of DB Tech and Livelihood Training also participated in the games and other cultural events. Everyone participated in games like Lemon and Spoon, Needle and Thread, Ball in the Basket and Musical chair. Cultural events programs included dance and singing performances and a Skit. The teachers showered their blessings on the greatest assets of nation wishing their future to be bright with all the colors. Finally, prizes were distributed to the winners. With the assistance and guidance of Fr. Thomas and Fr. Rathna Kumar, it turned out to be the most memorable event.

Fr. P. Arul Das sdb
Executive Director
“Being employable and supporting my family is only my ambition” says 19-yr old Tiramsetty Simhadri. “My family had undergone many difficulties to overcome livelihood after my SSC. Till SSC all my education went on very smoothly in the local Government School. I even used to study very well. But suddenly everything around me changed. We had to leave our hometown to earn our daily bread. But the new place showed us real life where I even started to go as daily labor along with my parents due to critical situations in my family to feed ourselves. Then I strongly decided to get a job with my qualification”, he adds.

“We came back to our home town and I started working as fisherman along with my father. Then I came to know about DB Tech through my friend Anil Kumar who had already joined. He only said one word ‘they give training and placement’, without any delay I visited DB Tech Ravulapalem center with my friend. Here the staff explained the process of training and how we would be employable. So I immediately came with my luggage the next day for the classes” he continues.

“I am excited about getting a job but at the same time I am afraid somewhere in the corner of my heart new place, new people. Even then my intention is to “earn and support my family” so I went to my first class but all my thoughts were reversed. Here my training is completely different they don’t tell me anything rather they make me to involve in things by myself make me practice and teach me the importance of being ordinary and extraordinary. It is not just a job training it is about knowing about myself the strengths of mine. They made me honest and responsible citizen.

“The Philosophy I like more in our center is “be great than Big in doing even the simple thing” these words changed my enter outlook in life. Now I am confident that I can be successful anywhere because I will do my best to become great.

“I specially thank each and every one behind this project for giving us the life to live.”

CSR CONCLAVE AT VIZAG

Bosco Seva Kendra in collaboration with Don Bosco Navajeevan Vizag, organized a CSR Conclave at Waltair Club, Vizag on Friday, 20th November 2015. Representatives from over 20 companies participated in the conclave to explore ways to collaborate and reach out to the young at risk.

The Conclave began at 4.30 PM with a screening of short film on Don Bosco - the founder of interventions for Street Children. Ms. Pascal Flynn, Manager - Corporate Fundraising at BSK, introduced and welcomed the gathering.

Fr. Aruldass, Director-BSK briefed about the various interventions undertaken for the welfare of children, youth and women by Don Bosco Institutions in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & South Odisha. He exhorted the gathering to be partners in reaching out to more and more youth and children from marginalized sections of society through different projects of BSK.

Fr. Ratna Neelam, Asst Director-DBNJ, Vizag presented the works and activities of Don Bosco institutions in Vizag in the form of a short documentary. He reiterated the need for like-minded people from civil society to join hands with the organization in its efforts to build a better future for the children at risk.

Trainees of DB Tech programs also participated as volunteers – and gained hands-on experience in hospitality & event management.

The Conclave ended with high tea where there was healthy interaction over how CSR relationships can be built and taken forward.

The head of a reputed shipping company who participated has expressed keen interest in partnering with Don Bosco Navajeevan. Others said they would discuss with their respective CSR departments and revert at the earliest.

155 more youth opt for skilling

DB Tech Centre was started in Ravulapalem with PARA as the implementing partner. Training in two domains – Hospitality and Retail Sales are being offered for the rural youth here.

Two other DB Tech Centres in the province – Kurnool and Sabbavaram inaugurated new batches in November, 2015. Kurnool DB Tech welcomed 30 young trainees for Hospitality (19th) and Electrical courses. Bosco Tech Sabbavaram opened its doors to a fresh batch of Retail sales for 30 students.
Kollapur children gravitate towards nature

On 28th November a get-together was organized for all children studying in BSK-supported tuition centers in Kollapur. Games and cultural events were conducted after which prizes were distributed to the winners. After lunch the children were taken for an outing to a small hillock near Kollapur to enjoy and appreciate beauty of nature. They were asked to draw pictures articulating their idea and imagination about the same.

The children had a good time together, and enjoyed the refreshments provided.

Women aid family income

Dangeeti Annapurna is a member of Swalambana MACS for the past 5 years. A mother of three school-going children, she understood the importance and value of savings when she joined the group.

So far she has availed four consecutive loans of ₹5,000, ₹10,000, ₹15,000 and ₹20,000/- and is very prompt in remitting the monthly re-payment instalments.

With this financial support, she started a business along with her husband. They set up a Hardware and Kitchen aids shop. Her husband makes these articles and she manages the store that they have set up in a portion of their house.

Annapurna is very happy with the way their house hold is developing into a self-reliant one. The children all go to school regularly and there is a happy and joyful atmosphere in their home.

Survey for Child Friendly City

A rapid assessment survey was conducted by the Dept of WD & CW, Warangal to assess its child-friendliness. CWC coordinated with DBNJ Warangal in week-long effort covering schools, colleges, universities, civil groups, etc. to collect opinions. Focus group discussions were organized with children (8-12), adolescents, parents groups individually.

BSK - DB Kollapur build self confidence

On 24th November 2015, a training cum seminar on small scale industry was organized at St.Mary’s School campus, Kollapur. The training was on making soaps, detergents, phenyl, pain balms and Vaseline etc. 40 women from neighboring villages attended with great interest and enthusiasm to learn new manufacturing skills. They also asked the trainer many questions on how to prepare quality items and maintain marketing. Mrs. Naga Laxmi, the trainer responded positively and taught them with lot of patience. Her explanations were clear and simple. She has been appreciated by all village women for her expertise.

The beneficiaries expressed that if the society could help them to start a small industry where they could work and do marketing, because they are poor and would find it difficult to get investment to start. They sincerely felt that this training made them confident, happy and self-sufficient to support their family. The program was a part of BSK-Niehoff initiative to empower marginalized women in the area with skills for sustainability.

MACS Leadership Training Program

Swashakti MACS conducted a Leadership Training Program in Vijayawada for all its SHG Group Leaders on 06 November, 2015. The meeting started with a prayer and message by the CEO Fr.Maria Das. All 57 group leaders, BOD members and co-ordinators participated in the program that was aimed at reviewing the work done so far in the background of the objectives that were set at the beginning.

The CEO reiterated to the members the importance of taking stock of progress made from time to time as being the sign of a good leader. This would help in better focus on the future, with correction of any wrong measures or decisions taken in the past.

Program co-ordinators Ratna Raju and Chandrasekhar exhorted the participants to expand their horizons constantly and get more and more women to opt for thrift and income generation for self-sustainability. Each of the women could lead by example.
Don Bosco Action, National Meet 2015 was held on 27th to 29th November 2015 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Chennai. There were 11 Province Development Office Executive Directors, Fr. Vincent Thamubraj, Executive Secretary DBAI, Fr. Noel, SPCSA Secretary, Fr. Albert Johnson sdb Provincial –SPCSA delegate, Mr. Roland Mr. Christian Osterhaus Resource Person BONN, Germany. Mr. Jochim VIA – Don Bosco, Belgium.

Fr. Deva Joe, Vice Provincial of Chennai Province welcomed the gathering. On the first day Dr. Savarimuthu animated the gathering on the theme 'Team Building' and Dr. Charles discussed on the theme 'Human Resources Development Process Intervention and Management by Objective'.

Fr. Noel celebrated the holy Eucharist. On the second day, Fr. Fr. Albert Johnson sdb Provincial –SPCSA delegate exhorted the members to work for the self sustenance of the communities, capacity building of the confreres and work for the God’s glory. Mr. Christian Osterhaus Resource Person BONN, Germany explained about the Vocational Training and Mr. Roland discussed about evaluation of the Vocational Training and Job Placements projects. Fr. Noel shared with PDO’s the expectations of SPCSA and recent developments in South Asia. Fr. Vincent Thamubraj, Executive Secretary DBAI, discussed various business matters of DBAI.