From the Director’s Desk.....

Warm Greetings of the Season!

This is the last year of Millennium Development Goals set by UN signed by more than 193 member states. Being the last year of MDG lot of question is being asked about the effectiveness of the MDG and the difference it made in the life of people around the globe. No one can deny the impact MDG made in the lives of millions of people around the globe. Yet we need to have a serious introspection about the effectiveness of MDG and the lessons that we can learn from the implementation of it.

Already civil societies around the world are talking about Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Lot of discussions and meeting are taking place to work towards SDG. This is mainly because the MDGs have not achieved the desired results.

We the Don Bosco Societies around the globe, working in 132 countries, are celebrating the Bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco, our founder. Don Bosco worked for the Development of youth and is fondly known as the Father of Youth. We the followers of Don Bosco are committed to the development of poor and abandoned youth and children.

We at Bosco Seva Kendra, following the footsteps of Don Bosco have taken decision to specialize ourselves on Sustainable Livelihood for the young in the coming years. We fell that it is the need of the hour and would make lot of difference in the rural landscape of our states. We are very sure of achieving this goal with the support and cooperation of all the stakeholders. Let this New Year bring lot of newness in our thoughts and actions.

Fr. Thomas Santiagu sdb
Executive Director

YaR Day @ Ekalavya Children's Home

The child’s right to speak and be heard’ was the theme of the Universal Children’s Day in 2014. At Ekalavya Children’s Home, 25 years of the UN convention for children rights was celebrated with over 200 young persons from across Telangana State and Andhra Pradesh.

A two-day residential training workshop was organised by PARA at its home for children-Ekalavya, in Balajipeta, Bosconagar, Rajahmundry. The workshop was attended by representatives of shelter homes run for children and youth at risk by various social and government agencies. During the two days, 6-7 December, 2014 participants were updated about their rights. The participants presented on stage the different ways in which their rights were violated in day to day life and how they can safeguard themselves against exploiters, through thought provoking skits, songs and plays.

Fr.T Koshy, National Coordinator, Young at Risk and President Awardee was felicitated at the Valedictory Ceremony held on 07 December, 2014. Speaking on the occasion he said, “Our children have the right to express their needs and desires and while we elders and government have the responsibility to listen and take appropriate steps.”

Other dignitaries at the event were Province Delegate - Fr.B Sudhakar, PARA Director - Fr. Thomas P., HRE State Coordinator - Mr. Jose Kunnel, RPF Comm. - Mr.M.Sambasiva Rao, Inspector Mr. Sarat Babu and Director of Social Welfare Board, Pune, Mr.V.Girish.

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A two days residential training was conducted on 12-13 December 2014 at "BIRDY" Bandlaguda, Hyderabad. 32 boys and 26 girls from classes III to VIII recently elected as Ministers of Children's Parliament in the neighborhood were the enthusiastic participants.

Children were from 9 tuition centers viz., 1) NTR Nagar Phase I, 2) NTR Nagar Phase II, 3) Banjara Colony, 4) Subhashnagar, 5) Errakunta, 6) Nacharam, 7) Lakshmipatigudem, 8) Vavilala and 9) Sanjaygandhinagar (Lalapet)

Fr. Thatireddy the Salesian Vice Provincial was the chief guest during the inaugural session. He showed the participants a clipping of Ms. Malala Yousufzai receiving Nobel Prize. He said that this was an example to show that - “Children can change the world”. Other noted guests were Mr. Saibabu a well known social worker belonging to the Lok Satta Party and Mr. Rambabu, another social worker from the BSP party.

Children felt energized by the fun activities that were interspersed with sessions dealing with topics like 'What is Parliament?', 'What are the responsibilities of a member of parliament?', ‘What is my role in the development of my community/area?', etc.

At the end of the session, the child ministers felt a sense of urgency to go back and share their knowledge and experience with their peers. Many of the children said they can’t wait to start implementing several of the ideas that they gathered from the training!

Year-end review of Tuition Centre teachers of Hyderabad area was held at BIRDY, at Provincial House Bandlaguda. Thirty teachers participated in the meeting held on 18 December, 2014.

The meeting started with a 2-minute silence observed for the children brutally killed in Pakistan. The main agenda for the meeting, sharing of monthly reports was carried out first. Those who failed to do so were given the task of singing songs, telling stories to entertain the others.

Teachers shared about the different ways they celebrated children’s day at their respective centres and the enthusiasm shown by their students. They felt encouraged to adopt participative approach in all their activities.

Importance of involving parents in activities at the tuition centres was reiterated and participants came up with different ways of getting the uninterested parents also to contribute to the healthy growth and development of their children and the local community.

Innovative and joyful methods of teaching were explained. Play-acting, story-board and other creative methods to bring out the talents of children were discussed.

The larger goal of conducting evening tuition centres is to encourage formation of Children’s Parliament and increase local ownership and participation among the elders through the demonstration of the children.

Fifty Seven members of MACS participated in a two-day training & capacity building program on use of computers for reporting and documentation. Held at BIRD, Guntur on 11-12, December 2014, the key resource persons for the training were Fr. Thomas Santiago, Executive Director, BSK and Mr. Rajesh, Tutor, Don Bosco School, PT Parru. The main aim of the training was to empower the women with skills to document, report and communicate the progress in their respective MACS with their counterparts and the Head Office.

Each participant got the opportunity to practically try out the learnings at the computer lab. For many it was the first time they were using a computer.

The second day, Fr. Santiago, spoke on the best practices for MACS to succeed.

At the close of the training on the evening of 12th Christmas celebration started with Fr. Santiago’s Christmas message to participants: “Jesus says, ‘Love all’ and he ‘does all’”. Fr. Aruldas, Asst Director also give a meaningful message on LIFE.

A crib was arranged and decorations set in a festive mood. All the participants participated joyfully and shared good wishes for Christmas, greeting each other with gifts.
DB Tech Kurnool - Alumni Interaction

Mr. Satish, alumni of DB Tech Hospitality Training (Accenture Project Batch 03 Roll no. 077) was invited to speak to the current batch of trainees at DB Tech Kurnool. Satish is now employed with Pizza Hut Delivery in Hyderabad.

On 10th December 2014 he interacted with the trainees with great passion. He reinforced in the trainees the importance of good communication skills in Hotel Industry. He shared several anecdotes from his personal experience at the work place.

He felt proud to be back at the institute that prepared him well and urged the trainees to make good use of this wonderful opportunity they were getting to learn and groom themselves into successful young professionals.

Thirty-five trainees are undergoing the Hospitality course at DB Tech Kurnool. They felt encouraged and happy to see and hear practical advice from one of their own seniors.

Gaining confidence through experience

“I am Bhagyalaxmi D/o Balachandraiah and Shankaramma from a remote village Karvanga, Mahabubnagar, Telangana State. We are 6 in family. I have one younger sister and two younger brothers. My parents are working hard to give us perfect education. My mother used to tell me many times that without education a person is nil, so with great difficulty my parents made me to study up to intermediate. They want to give correct foundation for my sister and brother also.”

Bhagyalaxmi’s father, who worked close to the DBHRDC, Gagillapur learnt about the job-oriented short-term courses and suggested that she join one. She was initially apprehensive but the team at the centre made her feel at ease, giving her full details of the various skills taught, including Spoken English. Bhagya then joined the Hotel Management course and completed it successfully.

“In the beginning I found very difficult to catch English and also in Hotel Management subject. But with the help of my trainers, it took no time for me to understand. In the three months course we have had a lot of Skill development programs, life skills, Interview skills, Money management, Health and hygiene programs, which gave me lot of encouragement. Along with course I have learned to type which is helping me a lot.

“After training we were taken to different hotels for interviews. In the beginning I was not selected because I could not face the interview properly. Then I have shifted to Sales and Marketing side and have got a job in Rathnadeep Super Market with a salary of ₹6,500/- p.m + incentives. Now I am able to help my parents in our daily expenses. I thank Don Bosco Human Resource Development center for giving me a wonderful opportunity to get trained in this center and putting me on a right path.”

Sushma’s Mobile Enterprise

Ganti Sushma, resident of K V Lanka, Ambajipeta Mandal is a member of ‘Grace’ SHG since 2011.

With the loan of ₹10,000/- she started a ‘Mobile Fancy’ business along with her husband. Together they sell household items and ladies fancy items from door-to-door. With merchandise loaded on their bicycle they travel through the surrounding villages and are making a decent livelihood.

Most importantly, for Sushma, “I am able to manage my household expenses, educate my two children and also save ₹100/- every month after paying the principal and interest. I hope Bosco Swalambana MACS will continue to support us in future too.”
Making a difference through Field Research and Consultancy

In early December, BSK team member Mr. K Satyanand was assigned with a field study exercise for an international organisation, Good Shepherd Sisters in Mangalagiri. The study was an extensive baseline research in the remote areas of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The report and recommendations have enabled GSS to formulate the right strategies and interventions for the target population.

GSS has expressed deep appreciation for the quality of work and thoroughness of research undertaken and has requested BSK to continue its support by way of research and consultancy in future. BSK has also been assigned with ‘Capacity Building and Training of Project Stakeholders’ for GSS.

Christmas Revelry @ Provincial House

Christmas was celebrated with fun and frolic at the Provincial House by the community and staff on 23rd December, 2014. The right tone and spirit of the Lord’s birth was set in with carols and decoration of the house with balloons and dumplings. The provincial house wore a cheerful and festive look.

Program started at 3 pm with families of the staff being special invitees. Fun team games were organised for the staff. There was joy and laughter everywhere. Provincial Fr. R. Balaraju inaugurated the crib that was set up with great planning by Administrator Fr. Showrilu. It was assembled with objects left unused like a guitar with broken string, a worn-out car tyre, etc giving great meaning to the idea of Jesus being the savior of the whole world regardless of social or economic status.

There was further fun in store for the staff and their families. Funny gifts for the community and staff brought laughter and good cheer among all. Christmas message was given by the Provincial, Vice-provincial followed by distribution of presents to all.

Provincial then cut and cake followed by sharing of refreshments among the invitees.

A Special Meet for Foster Families

Navajeevan Shelter, Poornanandapat, Vijayawada held a meet for all foster families on 18 December 2014. About ten families along with the respective child participated in the meeting that was presided by Mrs. Ch. Vani, in-charge Alternative Care Desk. Special guests for the meeting were Mr. Vijay Kumar, DCPO, ICPS, Krishna, Fr. S. Balashowry, Member CWC, Krishna and Mr. Krishna Prasad Das, Member JJB, Krishna Dist.

Mr. Krishna Prasad briefed about the importance of family to a child and the care and protection to be given to a child coming from outside the biological family.

Mr. Vijay Kumar, DCPO explained about the process of foster care and adoption as per the norms of Women & Child Welfare Department. The families providing foster care can go for legal adoption, but it will take time as the guidelines from central Govt. be received. Now any potential family can apply for foster care at ICPS office and they will take up the enquiries and process. Their social workers will make a home visit twice before handing over the child and periodical visits will be made by the DCPU staff after foster care placement or adoption.

Fr. S. Balashowry invited the families to be promoters of this scheme and be a part of a group to give an orphan / neglected child a caring family. To promote the programme the department and the CWC wish to prepare a documentary on opinions of foster parents sharing their experience and show it in a bigger platform to advocate the importance of Foster Care.

Mr. Malleshwara Rao, Asst. Programme Manager congratulated the families for providing care & support to children in his vote of thanks Meeting came to an end after Mrs. Ch. Prasanna concluded by thanking the families who have taken time to attend the session and the guests for their sharing. Lunch followed.