From the Director’s Desk...

ONE RUPEE SPIRITUALITY

God sends his messengers in innumerable ways and forms. He teaches the vital lessons of life through seemingly insignificant peoples and events, which we may not learn from the thousands of sermons we hear. I witnessed this transformation at close quarters when a close relative of mine did a 360 degree turn from his old ways, after just one encounter with an old lady seeking alms at a shrine. Her rebuke to his non-chalant attitude was – “you young men don’t mind spending on all bad habits but will not spare a single rupee to feed a poor woman.” A direct jolt to his ‘carefree’ attitude to smoking and chewing tobacco, he gave up both the vices at the feet of Almighty. He later found the same old lady sharing a meal with another needy young girl. Today, this cousin of mine does all he can to serve the poor and needy.

God knocks at our doors in different ways and asks for just one rupee, one moment of presence, one help, one smile, one act of selfless service, we are promised the experience of eternity in return. In my opinion this is One Rupee Spirituality.

We at BSK deeply appreciate all our supporters and benefactors that make our work with the young at risk possible. Your kind gesture of sharing with the underprivileged will go a long way in changing lives for a better future.

Fr. P. Arul Das sdb
Executive Director

Anti Child Labor Day observed in Warangal

June 12th is observed as Anti Child Labour Day. On this occasion, DBNJ Warangal organized an Awareness Campaign targeting shops and establishments near the railway and bus stations. These are the first point of contact for children who run away from home looking for food. The shops hire them making the children work for food. They were made aware of the laws against child labour and that it is a punishable offense. Students of the summer camp computer course joined the DBNJ team in the campaign, urging shopkeepers to avoid hiring minors to work in their shops and instead to encourage and support them for education.

Handbook on Human Rights Club released

A handbook for teacher on forming Human Rights Clubs with detailed guidelines on how to conduct the clubs, elections and meetings was published by partner agency, PARA. The hand book was formally released on 30 June, 2015 by Dy.CM Kadiyam Srihari 2015 in his chamber in the Telangana Secretariat.

Participants in this landmark event were – students from various schools where Human Rights Clubs are operationing successfully: Rajita & Shilpa from Badangpet ZPH School, Mamata & Sarita from Nadargul ZPH School and Nirmala &Madhavi from Mushirabad Govt. Municipal High School. The children were accompanied by PARA Director Fr.T. Pallithanam; Telangana Regional Co-ordinator, Mr.S.Ambedkar; District Coordinators of Ranga Reddy (K. Ashok), Hyderabad (S. Sumathi) and Warangal (Parasuram).

Telangana Dy. CM was all praises for the girls who were articulate and responded brilliantly to all queries that he put before them. Appreciating the initiative of publishing a book that will standardize all Human Rights Clubs, he said PARA & BSK are doing an excellent job of building leaders of the future and wished them all the very best.
17 students undergoing a course on Retail Sales at DB Tech, Bandlaguda were taken on an exposure visit to Big Bazar, Tolichowki.

Instructor Sai Raghavendra organised the trip on Monday, 08 June, 2015. The excited students were eager to see the retail concepts they were learning in class being practised at one of the top retail chain store in India. Big Bazar is gaining popularity as the ‘Indian Walmart’.

Students were allowed time for interaction with the store personnel like Executives and System Operators, Store Managers, Section In charge and Marketing Manager. Trainees were expected to take down notes of their observations and findings for discussion in the classroom. The trip turned out to highly effective in exposing the students to retailing concepts. They figured that as against the kirana stores for grocery, supermarkets offer a family shopping experience, where entire family can visit together and buy a wide range of products under one roof. It presented an opportunity to manufacturers to display and sell their products to the end users, allowing them to experience, touch and feel the actual product.

They also observed that Low Price meant Low Quality but was well displayed at the store. It catered to all sections of customers – a) the consuming class which includes Upper Middle and Lower Middle class; b) The serving class which includes people like Drivers, Household helps, Office goers, washer men; c) The struggling class.

The concept of Wednesday Bazaar was promoted as cheapest day of the week. On these days and during seasonal offer periods, the store was overcrowded with long queues for billing.

Big Bazar is a popular place to find inexpensive house hold items, clothes and food all under one roof. However, there are a few things to be aware of when shopping.

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**Fr. Stefan Stoehr visits BSK and field operations**

Economer, Salesian Province of Germany, Fr. Stefan Stoehr sdb visited Hyderabad between 20-24 June, 2015. He was accompanied by five other volunteers Claudia Mayer, Rainer Mossinger, Brigitte Mossinger, Anneliese Mossinger and Heidi Kneibi all from Germany.

They started with a meeting with Director of BSK, Fr.P.Arul Das who explained about our work and outreach.

On Monday, 22nd June 2015. Fr. Y. Joji Reddy, Vice Provincial escorted them to DB Tech Bandlaguda where they interacted with the instructors and students of Retail Sales.

On 21st June they visited DBHRDC Gagillapuram along with Fr. P. Arul Das and Fr. Y. Joji. The students here presented a cultural program to entertain the guests from abroad and shared a meal with them. The visitors got to learn about the different courses that were offered at the Centre and how it helped shape careers of the marginalised youth.

**Director's Diary**

**JUNE - 2015**

01 Guided visit for Yamaha Company to DBHRDC, Gagillapuram
03–04 Province Leaders’ Meeting (DBPH) Hyderabad
05-06 DB Tech Governing Body Meeting – New Delhi
13 Field visits to MACS, DB Tech and Drinking Water Projects (Chandur and Nalgonda)
20 Visitors from Germany to BSK
21 Guided trip for German Visitors to DBHRDC, Gagillapuram
29 Jun to 01 Jul – Training on Accounts Package at BIRD, Guntur for Staff of MACS
Smt. M. Nagamani is a resident of Nara Koduru village in Chebrolu Mandal of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh. She works along with her husband as casual labour. With their meagre earnings, they manage their household including two school-going children.

One day, while visiting one of her relatives, she observed her cousin was handing over some money to another neighbour. Curious to know what this was about, Nagamani learnt that this was a monthly collection of savings they deposited with Dharani MACS. This was the beginning of Nagamani's new chapter of life.

Soon Nagamani gathered nine other women in her neighbourhood, convincing them about the advantages of thrift and saving with Dharani MACS. 10 of them then enrolled with a membership of ₹100/- each and continued to remit monthly deposits. In November 2014, when Nagamani got a loan of ₹5,000/-, she had already planned what to do with the money. She had consulted with senior members of Dharani MACS on how best to utilise the credit and decided to start a business that would supplement her household income.

“With the loan of ₹5,000/- I bought some rolled gold fancy jewellery like bangles, chains and ear-rings. I started selling them from my house at a marked up price in the evenings. Women like the quality and variety of the products I sell and are asking for more stuff. I now make an average monthly income of around ₹2,500/-. During festivals and marriage season, sales are good” says Nagamani with a sense of happiness. She is regular with the repayment of loan through monthly instalments and is hopeful of getting a second loan soon.

Nagamani has plans to expand her business with more products to cater to the demands of her customers.

DB Tech Vizag & Sabbavaram

Union Minister Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy was scheduled to visit the Skill Training Centre of Navajeevan Bala Bhavan- DB Tech in Devipuram, Sabbavaram Mandal of Vizag during his trip to the city on 05 June, 2015. However, due to unavoidable circumstances he had to return to New Delhi and could not make the visit.

Students in the meanwhile had prepared grandly to make the visit a success. Though disappointed, at the last minute change of plan, they made the most of the opportunity where they had all gathered together. Supported by Fr. Ratna Neelam, there was fun and animated discussion and sharing between trainees of the different programs – Hospitality, BPO, Retail Marketing, etc.

Animation and Career Guidance by DHISHA

DHISHA conducted Career Guidance programs for students of all ages in Mangalagiri of Guntur District and Makkuva of Vizianagaram District during June 2015.

In Mangalagiri, the seminar was organised at KVS High School for girls by the officials of the school. Sessions were conducted by Mr. Mohan and Mr. Solomon over two days 08-09 June, 2015. Students of classes 6-8 participated on 8th and those of classes 9 &10 on 9th June. Interactive sessions on focus, goal setting, self-discipline, etc. were taken. A total of 113 girls attended this seminar.

29 bridge school students mainstreamed

Children resident with DBNJ Warangal who had completed their bridge schooling were admitted into various mainstream schools for the academic year 2015-16. 29 of them joined Arya Girls High School. The children went to school full of excitement and cheer in their new uniforms and school bags. We thank all the supporters who have made this possible and wish the children all the very best with their studies.
Teachers of the BSK operated Children's Parliament program of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy district gathered for a meeting at the Don Bosco Provincial House, Bandlaguda. The meeting was co-ordinated by Mr. S. Ambedkar and convened by Fr. P. Arul Das.

Teachers working in problem areas shared about the challenges they are facing viz., inadequate space to conduct tuitions for increasing numbers of children, girl students being withheld by parents because boys are attending, parents refusing to mainstream their children after anganwadi, erratic power supply, etc.

Teachers were appreciated for their dedication to serve the disadvantaged children and in turn, communities. They were given a refresher on how to resolve the different difficult situations at their centres. They were also explained about maintenance of attendance, performance records and also accounts.

Proceeding a step further from participation in a seminar at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, BSK has bid for conducting skill trainings for youth.

On 29th June, 2015 a national level meeting was called for to deliberate on capacities of NGOs from across the country to conduct a series of training programs for youth. Senior Program Manager, Mr. K. Satyanand represented BSK at the meeting and presenting the strengths we possess in working with youth, especially in the area of skill training. We have a definite edge in experience, human resources and infrastructure. Fr. Cyriac who was representing Don Bosco Institute, Dimapur further reiterated this aspect. He emphasized on the holistic approach to training that Don Bosco believed in soft skills program, personality development and counselling along with technical skills.

Mr. Stanzin Dhawa, Regional Director for North Region conducted group discussions to understand the challenges involved, expectations and solving methods. BSK played a vital role in designing a MoU format including issues and concerns that could be encountered while implementing projects, financial expectations and solving methods. BSK is part of the core committee of RGNiYD which includes 5 select NGOs.

Number of trainings to be allotted would be decided after due diligence that would comprise of official visits to the institutions concerned.

Five of the MACS namely, Nirmal, Kranti, SADA, Mother Teresa and Bosco MACS, conducted their annual General Body Meetings during June 2015.

A common agenda in these meetings was to share the audited report for the financial year 2014-15 and to chalk out plans for the current year. Respective MACS coordinators updated the members about rules and regulations governing the society for the benefit for any new joinees. Presidents explained about the importance of being regular with savings and constantly developing ideas to build their own enterprises. The secret of success of MACS is a sense of ownership each member feels. “We must not let this feeling of ‘one-ness’ go away anytime” Ms. Mariamma, President of the youngest MACS—SADA in Tallada Mandal urged the women.