Teenage girls around the world face enormous challenges. Many are considered by their communities or parents to be ready for marriage and motherhood. Many are forced from school, damaging their future prospects. Even among girls who stay in school, access to basic information about their health, human rights and reproductive rights can be hard to come by, leaving them vulnerable to illness, injury and exploitation. These challenges are exacerbated among marginalized girls, such as members of ethnic minorities or those living in poverty or remote areas.

Yet when teenage girls are empowered, when they know about their rights and are given the tools to succeed, they become agents of positive change in their communities.

Let us all together join our hands to invest in our teenage girls to unlock so much more potential to support national progress and very importantly, no one is left behind: we all play a role in our development, from individuals to national level.

Fr. P. Arul Das sdb
Executive Director

Trainees of different domains in DB Tech were taken for field visits during the month. They were given in-depth orientation by the respective HR Heads.

**Hospitality Domain:** DBHRDC Gagillapur were taken on a field visit to Hotel Taj Deccan in Banjara Hills on 6 June 2016.

DB Tech Sabbavaram went to Hotel Diamond Pearl, Vizag on 20 June.

**Retail Sales:** DBTech Bandlaguda trainees were taken to SVM Fun Centre at Sujana Forum Mall, Kukatpally on 8th June. They got to learn of the various employment opportunities available to them at the centre through interaction with the HR Manager of the Centre. They also visited SPAR Supermarket and observed the display of merchandise, service quality of the staff, etc.

**General Duty Assistant (GDA):** Trainees of DB Tech, Bodhan went to two different hospitals in Bodhan, Nizamabad - Sai Subha Multispeciality Hospital (02/06) and Sai Varad Multispeciality Hospital (21/06) where they got real-time exposure to various medical and diagnostic services provided in a hospital.
PRISCILLA learns to AIM HIGH

Koyyagura Priscilla lives with her husband Ravi and two children in Turakapalem village of Guntur District. Ravi drives an autorickshaw and Priscilla works as a casual labour in the fields. The household income was just enough as the children were both small. They also managed to send them to school and are studying in 3rd and 1st grades.

In 2011, Priscilla attended a meeting in her village conducted by staff of Nirmal MACS. They spoke to the women about thrift and credit and how MACS were changing lives across the state. Priscilla was keen to know more and interacted with the staff later. She had no second thoughts later. She formed a group called ‘Gandhiji’ along with 9 others. They started with a monthly saving of Rs.50/- each. In six months they got loans of Rs.5000/- each. Priscilla used the money for household expenses and repaid it in 10 equal instalments while continuing to deposit the monthly savings.

With a second loan of Rs.10,000/- Priscilla set up a petty shop. She stopped going for labour work. The shop did well with her dedication and she was able to pay back the loan, making it possible to take a third loan of Rs.15,000/-. With this she developed the shop further with shelves for more merchandise.

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Having thus tasted success and the positive impact her hardwork was having on the family, Priscilla decided that there is no looking back now and took a loan to expand her shop into a Fancy store. There is a steady flow of customers to her shop. All women in the neighborhood visit her for their daily needs.

“I am extremely grateful to Nirmal MACS and the Bosco Seva Kendra for giving me the confidence to think big and aim high. It is only through their support and guidance that I am the proprietor of a shop today and my family is living a better life. We are confident that we will be able to give our children a good education.” Says Priscilla.

MACS General Body Meetings

Annual General Body Meetings were held by Kranti MACS (6th June) and Nirmal MACS (11th June) at BIRD, Guntur. The new CEO, Fr.Y Kalyan was introduced to the members at these meetings. After reading out the annual narrative and financial reports, members clarified their doubts and showed keen interest in the way forward.

**Nirmal MACS, 11 June - Coordinator, Mr.Ratanraju** proposed that Resource Pooling should be done. He said, “MACS does not mean just monetary transactions - loans and repayment. Income generation activities should be taken up by all to realize the mission of women's empowerment.” He shared with members the earlier practice of pooling of essential commodities like rice and pulses at MACS for sale at subsidized rates for members. This serves as a platform for the members who are on the production side and a learning experience for the others in the business of trading.

Election of new Board of Directors took place.

**Kranthi MACS, 06 June - President, Ms.Uma Devi** spoke to the 235 members gathered saying, “BSK is doing a wonderful job of empowering women. The democratic process of electing the board of directors and allowing us the freedom to take part in the decision making process makes me feel proud. It has changed my whole outlook to life. In my experience, where there are so many persons, especially women, there is bound to be inter-personal conflicts. But not so in Kranthi MACS. We are proud to say that all our 600 members are in agreement to every decision taken. We are also regular in loan repayments. There is no overdraft in our MACS. I wish for more and more women to benefit from thrift and credit. Kranthi MACS will continue to develop and progress along with the progress of its members.”

CEO Fr.Y. Kalyan encouraged the women to take up income generating activities for self-sustainability. He said that women have the power to change their families the society as a whole. It is important that they should realize their potential and utilize the opportunity that MACS provides in the right manner.
Parents’ Meet was organized during the month at various DB Tech Centres during the month of June. On Monday 04 June meets were held at DB Tech Bodhan and DB Tech Bandlaguda which cater to day scholars.

Students explained what they have learned so far in their respective domains.

On Sunday, 19/06/2016 the Meet was organised at DBHRDC, Gagillapuram. Centre Head Fr. Arul Das addressed the gathering & welcomed the guest Ms. Pascal Flynn, Sr. Corporate Coordinator & all the parents of the trainees who are resident at the centre.

The parents meet ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Sunitha, Trainer for CE & ITES at 1.15 PM followed by a sharing of meal.

Parents were also given a guided tour of the DBHRDC Campus - where their children live - the hostel dormitories etc.

Labour work to Self Employment

My name is Madhasu Ankarao s/o Yesu Rathnam aged 30 years. I am a native of Medicherla, Guntur District. As I was doing my 8th standard, my father passed away and it was very difficult to go on with the education. But my mother forced me towards my education and thus I completed my X grade. Then I joined my Intermediate, but could not continue due to financial crisis.

For the sake of my sister who was in 10th class and, brother in intermediate and aging mother with illness, I discontinued my education and the family responsibility forced me to take up work as agricultural cooli, but I couldn’t get sufficient income through this.

Reflecting on my future responsibilities like sister’s marriage, brother’s education, I decided to move to the city for better income earning job opportunities.

I reached Warangal one month ago and worked as a mason in the Battala Bazar area. I could not get regular, continuous job and was engaged only two to three days a week. On such days I slept at the work place but on others it was the railway platform nearby adda (labour gathering point). It was not easy to sleep there but for hygienic needs I felt a real street life.

One evening, at railway station road the volunteers of Homeless Shelter were talking to the people on the platform about people. I approached them and expressed my problem and situation. They agreed to give shelter on a temporary basis. I am so glad and deeply thankful to the Shelter for Urban Homeless committee and those who manage the shelter for this great support during the worst stage of my life.

Recently I started a Bread Omlet Centre near the Railway station with idea and moral support of shelter staff. As of now Kandarthi Srinivas is assisting me in my business for a payment of Rs. 150/- per day. I am now able to help my family financially and am regularly in contact with family.

I am planning to extend it as Tiffin centre and planning to get room outside very soon. Looking forward to join more inmates if possible and be a role model to SHU.
Childrens Parliament Review

Animators of the Childrens Parliaments in Hyderabad were called for a capacity building and review meeting. The animators who are also teachers of Evening Tuition Centres operated by BSK in collaboration with various field partners gathered at the Conference Hall of Don Bosco Provincial House on Thursday, 16 June 2016.

Fr. Lingampally Ashok, Youth Coordinator took intensive sessions on Child Psychology to help the teachers who play a guiding and mentoring role for the children living under difficult situations. The sessions were interactive, with the teachers sharing several cases of children who they found to be difficult to connect with.

Later, Fr. P Arul Das reviewed the plan for the new academic year with the teachers.

Based on the plan, rallies were carried out by tuition teachers on the theme of education of children in their respective localities. This is part of a series of rallies that will be taken out by children in order to create awareness to pertinent social issues in their neighborhood.

37 youngsters experience positive change

Dhisha organised a One day Career Guidance Seminar at Fatima Sisters Convent, Gnanapuram, Warangal on 24th June for 37 youngsters from different interior villages.

Resource persons for the seminar were Mr. JAR Paul from DBHRDC and Mr. Solomon Vaz, Dhisha Coordinator.

The team had ice breaking sessions to bring all the participants from different backgrounds on the same plane. Team-based activities, Mock Interviews and Group Discussions kept the participants in the grip of the seminar. One of the activities where each group was given 4 matchboxes and asked to do something creative, was a favorite.

Mock Interviews were conducted to help the participants understand the interview techniques applied by recruiters and accordingly work on any gaps they found in their style of communication and presentation. The participants found this session highly interesting.

All the 20 girls and 17 boys who participated in the program found it useful and said they had a lot of fun but also learnt many new things. They were getting new ideas for the future.

Summer Camp Report 2016

A summer camp was organized for students of the evening tuition centres in the Bowenpally cluster. 40 children from NTR Nagar Phases I & II, Mutyalamma Temple Area & Banjara Colony tuition centres, and some members with special needs from SKY Special school participated. The camp was organized from 1-31 May 2016 by LIGHT, field partner organisation.

Resource persons were professionals from different fields – Mr. Johnson (BFA) taught Music and Drawing, Ms. Deepika (Dip. In Art & Craft), Ms. Vanaja (Dance & Yoga Teacher) taught Kuchipudi classical dance, Ms. P. Syamala Devi – President of LIGHT took special sessions on Meditation and Tai-chi. Keen on learning these skills, the teachers of the tuition centres, Aruna, Swapna and Jyothi also joined in as students.

The camp closed on 31 May at the Haripuri Colony Mahila Mandal Bhavan with the local leaders and authorities gracing the occasion. Parents of the participating children were also invited. The special children who participated presented a cultural performance on stage. All the tuition centre students enrolled themselves as members of the 'Little Buddha Children’s Club' established by LIGHT.

All the participants received certificates of participation and prizes. The children found a new mentor in Ms. Bharani – the person in-charge of the summer camp. They all said in unison that it was the 'bestest' camp they have ever attended. There was excitement and new enlightened feeling among them.

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