From the Director’s Desk...

Pascual Chavez Award 2017 conferred to Bosco Seva Kendra on 1st March 2018

Fr Androth Jose SDB (Economer), Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar SDB (Provincial)
Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga SDB (Regional Councillor South Asia), Fr Albert Johnson SDB (Secretary-SPCSA)

Fr Thattil Chacko, Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar, Fr P. Arul Das (BSK Director), Fr Noel Maddichetty
**Pascual Chavez Award 2017 conferred to Bosco Seva Kendra**

**Mumbai, 3rd March 2018:** Bosco Seva Kendra (BSK) was conferred the Pascual Chavez Award for Innovative Salesian Ministry in South Asia Region by the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia for comprehensive awareness and sensitization campaign on Gender Equity in the regions of Telangana and Andra Pradesh and South Odisha, India.

The citation and the cheque of Rupees One Lakh was presented by Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga, The Regional Superior for the South Asian Region to Fr. Vijaya Bhaskar Thathireddy, Provincial of the Salesian Province of Hyderabad during the Salesian Provincials Conference of South Asia Assembly held at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kolkata on 1st March, 2018. Fr Pitchaimuthu Aruldas is the present Director of the Bosco Seva Kendra.

BSK’s interventions as GEMS (Gender Equity Movement Soldiers) is proactive in sensitizing a target of four thousand young people every year on gender equality. The majority of the participants of this programme personally experienced a change of mindset and they have turned into being protagonist of social transformation.

Fr. Thathireddy, Salesian Provincial of the Hyderabad Province "It was a proud moment to receive the award. This is a great encouragement to the Province especially to Father Pitchaimuthu Aruldas and to all the staff at the Don Bosco Development Office working to uplift the poor and the marginalised and to try innovative means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals given by the UN on Gender Equity” said he.

The motto of BSK is aimed at working with professional competence and collaboration with public and private donor agencies, trusts and foundations, to provide logistic and professional support to various development initiatives of Don Bosco Institutions and offices in its region.

For the past 23 years BSK has implemented several developmental programmes for the benefit of the most disadvantaged children and youth through different Salesian communities. BSK also organizes women into collectives empowering them to build a better life for themselves and for their families. BSK thus hopes to contribute towards sustainable change in society - one step at a time.
Dhisha prepares students at academic crossroads

DHISHA: Dhisha conducted Career Guidance Seminar for students of Classes 9 and 10 in the Govt. High Schools for Boys, Bansilalpet (19 January 2018) and Govt. High School for Girls, Rani gunj (25 January 2018), Secunderabad. The programs were organized in collaboration with the Association for Promoting Social Action.

Specially designed content of the seminars targeted the students' mental state. The anxiety and stress of the 9th class students reaching the last year of schooling and the excitement of the 10th class students leaving school and friends behind to embark on a more focused journey towards career goals were addressed in separate sessions. The first session was for 9th class students where Goal Setting, Time Management, Career Building and Capacity Building were the key topics. The second session, post-lunch, focused on Higher education and its importance, Goal setting, Importance of Goal in life, Steps to achieve a goal, How to face hindrances in achieving a goal, Time management, Career building and Capacity building.

Various gaming techniques were used by the resource person Mr. Solomon Vizmora to make the sessions interesting for the participants. Each of them was fully engaged and the Principals and teachers alike were highly impressed by the eager involvement of their students in the learning process. A total of 147 boys and 153 girls benefitted from these seminars.

A Fruitful visit from Manos Unidas

Ms. Mercedes Pineiro and Mr Eduardo Bet-Benjamen, officials from funding partner Manos Unidas, Spain visited the Hyderabad Province between 02-05 February, 2018. They visited all the projects supported by the agency and also showed keen interest in potential areas they would like to participate in.

On 02 February, accompanied by Fr. P. Arul Das, BSK Director, the officials visited Don Bosco Telugu Medium School, Mangalagiri. Fr. Marianna, Rector of the Institution briefed about the works rendered by Don Bosco, Mangalagiri. They interacted with the students at the school while touring the campus.

Fr. Balashowry, Director of Don Bosco Navajeevan, Vijayawada invited the visitors and briefed about the different welfare activities carried on for boys in the different homes run by the community. They were taken on a guided tour of Navajeevan Shelter home, Yuva Bhavan and Vimukthi, De-addiction centre for street children. At each of the centres, an interaction was held with the children resident there. The day ended with a visit to the children’s village, Chiguru.

On 04 February, Ms. Mercedes Pineiro and Mr Eduardo Bet-Benjamen along with Fr. P. Arul Das visited Don Bosco School, Ravulapalem where they interacted with the staff regarding running project. The children enthralled the visitors with a grand welcome and dance performance.

On 05 Feb, the visitors visited PARA (People’s Action for Rural Awakening) development organization in Ravulapalem. The visitors interacted with the PARA staff and had a discussion with Fr. V. Ignatius, Director of PARA regarding his proposal. Thereafter, they were taken to different project area villages, where they interacted with the women and others. The day ended with a visit to Ekalavya, a home for Children on the street.
Don Bosco Navajeevan, Warangal
A Home for the street Children and Child labourers

Medical Camp
On 5th January, a group of members from the Lions Club, as part of their anniversary celebrations, organized a medical camp for children at Navajeevan. They came to the centre along with doctors. Basic health check-up was done for 38 children and prescribed medicines were provided. Later, they interacted with ANM regarding the children health conditions.

Children Committee Meeting
On 26 February children had their children committee meeting and elected their new members and formed into a committee. During the committee they have discussed the problems and few action plans for the next month. Children prepared themselves for the Home committee meeting in the next month.

Operation Smile Phase-IV
On 8th and 9th January there were 2 meetings at the offices of the Police Commissioner and District Collector with regard to rescue of children in major cities of Warangal. Collector, Asst. Commissioner, CWC chairperson and all the Line departments and NGOs participated in the meeting. Some serious issues were discussed and safety measures to be taken during the Medaram Jathara in Warangal were chalked out.

Medical Support
Ashok from Srikakulam lives on the streets of Warangal with his migrated family and regularly attends Day Bridge School at our shelter. After the classes in the evening, while playing on streets near railway station, an auto hit him and sped away. The locals identified him as boy from DBNJ and brought him to the shelter. He was bleeding heavily.

We rushed him to MGM (government) Hospital where after a thorough check-up and scanning, it was declared that there were no internal injuries. He had lost blood due to severe cuts on both his legs and on the face. He was kept in hospital for three days and is now recuperating at the Navajeevan Infirmary.

69th Republic Day Celebrations
26th January is known for the establishment of the constitution of India. On this day we had flag hoisting by the local benefactors who always support our work by sponsoring in kind for the children. We remembered the leaders in our prayers who fought for the constitutional rights of every citizen in India.

Don Bosco Feast Celebrations
202nd yearly celebrations of St. John Bosco was celebrated at Don Bosco Mission Complex, Mariapuram. Holy mass was celebrated, felicitation of guests and followed by lunch. Villagers, teaching and non-teaching staff of both Don Bosco School and DBNJ participated in the feast.

Foreign Volunteer Visit
Ms. Bettina a foreign volunteer from Vijayawada came to our Navajeevan and spent 2 days in Warangal. One day she spent her time in Mariapuram with hostel students and Don Bosco school children on the following day and the other day she was with the Navajeevan children and entertained with her trumpet and party songs. Children were so happy and welcomed her into the Warangal Navajeevan family. Later in the evening we gave a warm farewell as she was leaving India and moving back to her home country.
GEMS: Gender equity is one of the important issues in society. It cannot be achieved without an inclusive participation of young girls and boys. Therefore, Bosco Seva Kendra has decided to organize a workshop for the school going children along with People's Action for Rural Awakening (PARA), Ravulapalem, East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh state. It was felt that it is high time that young boys change their outlook towards girls and women. The best way to implement a change is at school level is considered effectively. Therefore, Bosco Seva Kendra has invited students from across the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh to participate in the workshop. A couple of social activists were invited to deliver lectures focusing on gender equity.

Workshop Objectives

- Strengthen skills and awareness of basic concepts of gender equity and gender violence and why it is important for school going children.
- Exploring how differences and similarities impact Society with respect to Gender Equity.
- Learning new skills and making personal and collective commitments to function differently to promote gender equity and Gender respect.
- To identify approaches to strategically integrate gender perspectives in the school going children within the context of the Gender Equity and Gender Violence.

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Ms. Susanne Artz from DB Mondo visits Hyderabad Province

BSK: Ms. Susanne Artz from Don Bosco Mondo, Germany visited our Province. She arrived at the Don Bosco Provincial House on 24 February evening to review the status of existing projects and discuss about new proposals. Fr. Provincial along with Fr. P. Arul Das BSK, Director met with her and shared with her about progress of the projects. New opportunities for the developmental activities in the province were also explored.

On 25th February, a meeting was organized with PARA (Peoples Action for Rural Awakening) Director Fr. V. Ignatius about the proposal to expand the Human Rights Clubs. The day was filled with lot of discussion and knowledge sharing.

Fr Marius Kaisar from Switzerland visit to INH Province

Children get-together at Ongole

National Girl Child Day at Charminar 24th Jan 2018

Distributed Free Bicycles to DBNJ, Kurnool Students Honourable Kurnool MP Sri T.G. Venkatesh

Blessing and Inaguration of DHISHA Office @ Sanathnagar on 26th February 2018