From the Director’s Desk...

International Day of the Girl Child (Day of the Girl)

EmPOWER Girls: Before, during and after crises

International Day of the Girl Child (Day of the Girl) is celebrated annually on October 11 to highlight issues concerning the gender inequality facing young girls. In 2012, United Nations declared October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child. The objective behind this day is to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines child as “a human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”. Among the several needs and support the young girls require, one of the most important is education. UNICEF describes education as lifeline to development and has highlighted that education is one area where women suffer discrimination.

In India, the projected population of girls in the age group of 6-17 in 2016 was more than 130 million. According to the Education Statistics released by MHRD, the number of girls enrolled in classes 1 to 12, is approximately 120 million. The gap can be estimated at anywhere near 8 to 10 million. Education, as a basic necessity, gives girls an opportunity to make informed choices in life. An educated woman is not only a responsible citizen of the society but is also able to contribute toward the economic growth of a country.

Generally we all feel proud to be Indians but for what? To see girl child abortion and other violence against them? I think we have a right to say ‘proud to be an Indian’ only when we respect, educate and save girl child. We should realize our responsibilities of being Indian citizens and give our best to end this evil crime.

GEMS (GENDER EQUITY MOVEMENT SOLDIERS)

GEMS: Gender Equality and Equity seminars were conducted for high school students and college students on 16th and 20th Sept ‘17.

On 16th September, seminar was conducted for the student of 9th and 10th standard in Govt. High School, Rahmatnagar, Hyderabad. Beginning with an Introduction to Gender Equality, related topics Gender Importance, Gender and Family, Gender and Education were conducted during the course of the day. The module comprised of debates and role play to bring the right perspective among the participants. 83 students participated.

On 17th September, GE seminar was conducted for the trainees of DBHRDC, Gagillapur. Following a similar orientation to gender equality, the later half of the seminar dealt with Gender and Work and Gender and Violence. 75 students participated in the seminar.
**Career Guidance Seminar in Govt. Schools**

**DHISHA:** Career Guidance seminar was conducted on 15th Sept’17, at Govt. School, Malkajgiri, Secunderabad by Dhisha. Head Master of the school Mr. Suresh Babu, introducing Dhisha to the students urged them to pay attention and draw maximum benefit from the seminar as it would be full of useful guidance for their future.

Eighty seven students of the high school classes paid rapt attention to all the sessions taken by Mr. Solomon Vizmora, staff of Dhisha. He took interactive sessions on Goal Setting, Time Management and Self Esteem. Using multimedia presentations, the content of the seminar was customized to current needs of the children in terms of managing their studies and staying focused in the atmosphere of diverse messages from various social media platforms.

At the end of the day, the students gave a resounding applause and actively participated in reviewing the seminar. They came forward and thanked the organization – Bosco Seva Kendra for this important intervention that made them aware of the pros and cons they have to look into before taking any steps towards the future.

**Dasara Celebrations at Navajeevan Shelter, Warangal**

**DBNJ, Warangal:** During the Dasara vacation, special day-camp was held at the Navajeevan shelter at Warangal. All the children from the streets and slums participated in the dance, singing, games and other fun activities. All the fun was interspersed with sessions on communication skills, hygiene, discipline, etc.

Bathukamma – the state festival of Telangana was specially celebrated on 20th and 28th September with the traditional Bathukamma dance performed by the girls and ladies staff. The significance of the festival that extols the power and strength of women was highlighted.

**Volunteers’ Meet @ DBPH, Hyderabad on 8-9, October 2017**

**Janakirao does not give in to circumstances**

**DB TECH:** K. Paili Janakirao, from Kadiyapulanka (Vill), Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari (dist) of Andhra Pradesh State. He completed his schooling in his village and Intermediate from Govt. Jr. College East Godavari (Dist).

Janaki Rao then took up a course in Electrical House Wiring at a local ITI. He hoped to join a contractor as an apprentice to gain field experience. However, poor financial situation in the family forced him to take up odd jobs for daily wages. Over time he realized money earned in this manner was neither adequate for his family nor fulfilling for him.

He heard of the course at DBHRDC Gagillapuram and thought it was much more promising with an assurance of job placement. Janakirao decided to go for it. Joining the course turne d out to be a life-changing step forward for him. He got to learn hands on at the labs at DBHRDC. The sessions on life skills were an added bonus, something he had never heard or considered important.

“In DB Tech course at DBHRDC Gagillapuram I gained practical knowledge not only of electrical wiring and circuits, but also about personality development, interpersonal relationships, team work and self-discipline. All these gave me the confidence required to face interview and I got a job at Schneider Electric. I am placed at MCB and push button slot presently.”

“I am very happy that I am able to support my father in all situations and I am learning about electrical trade while I am working. Thank you team DB Tech, I am proud to be a member of the Don Bosco family!”
BoscoNet: BoscoNet conducted a programme on Individual Social Responsibility on 12 and 16 October 2017 at Shadan Degree College, Hyderabad. This is part of Fund raising on the theme of Girl Child. CSR coordinator for Hyderabad Province Mr.Lawrence animated the session for the students highlighting the importance of sharing our goodness with the poor and less privileged. All the activities and services that the Salesians render to the poor and needy children and Youth were highlighted to the students.

MACS: A two day training program was organized for the executive committee members of MACS with the objective of strengthening the capacities of executive members. The training program was held on 22-23 Sept 2017 at BIRD, Guntur. It was inaugurated by the Director, Fr.P Arul Das who gave a brief introduction to the purpose of the training. This was followed by words of motivation by Fr.Louis.

The members were taken through the process and procedures of the MAC Society – its legal status, the norms in our by-laws with regard to financial and non-financial issues, the operational procedures/ best practices to get optimum results / best performance? How it can spread the society’s services to more people, how to conduct staff performance review meeting at Board of Directors meeting. All the participants gained extensive knowledge about latest developments in cooperative sector. They understand the importance of book keeping and computerization of accounting system in our societies, how best practices can help the societies in mobilization of funds internally and externally.

The participants formed into groups and collectively worked to understand their roles and responsibilities well. They understood how societies can get viability through our best practices. They listed out the strategies that could be followed to reduce delinquency in the societies. After class room interaction, they went to Sangam Dairy- Guntur for exposure visit to understand how they procure the milk from villages, how they test the milk quality, packaging and distribution of milk packets, and how they manufacture different milk products.

The training included an open interaction by Provincial Fr.Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar and the council members with the participants. The provincial appreciated the work of the participants in successfully reaching a point where they can take off independently. The training program ended on the second day with a fun outing for all at the Suryapalem beach.

Seminar on UN Sustainable Development Goals on 17th Sept 2017 at DBHRDC, Gagillapur

Inauguration of New DB Tech Batch On 27th Sept 2017 at DBHRDC, Gagillapur
MACS: My name is Parvathi Patharapalli and I am residing in David Street, Pezzonipeta – Krishna District. My husband died and I have two school going children. I work as a maid in a few households. My work starts in the early hours of the day and ends by afternoon. The amount earned through my occupation is insufficient to meet my family expenses. I used to be idle in the home after completion of the day work. I was very anxious to do some income generating work to meet my family expenses. I used to think about a few alternate livelihood plans but felt discouraged due to lack of needed capital amount. My monthly earnings are small. One day a few women came from RCM Church and explained about the thrift policies and credit management which could be carried out through a Self-help group of women. They said to deposit a small amount in the bank every month for 6 to 7 months. After that some amount will be given to us to start a business. The women in my street said that they could reply after 3-4 days. Later we have given a phone call and formed Varunya Self Help Group with 10 women as members. Every month we deposited a set amount in the bank. In the 7th month Swashakthi MACS has sanctioned some loan amount. My group members have started small businesses. I was under confusion because I am unable to come to some conclusion to start a business. However I decided to start Gorintaku / Mehandi designs. I purchased Gorintaku / Mehandi cones and started my business. I advertised about my work in the homes where I am working and told the same to neighboring houses especially whenever some special occasions takes place or in celebration or in functions. I started my business in my residence. Whenever function takes place in my area I will be called to decorate the hands and feet of women with Mehandi designs. I get Rs. 600/- per day. In marriages and celebrations I get good amounts. At present I am able to meet my household expenses effectively. I am happy with my new earnings. I am able to utilize my afternoon time effectively. I put a small stall in exhibitions and run my business effectively. Thus my business is flourishing slowly. I am grateful for the financial assistance, guidance and enterprise tactics provided by Swashakthi MACS. The authorities of Swashakthi MACS have told many things about the business. At present I am repaying the loan amount and able to get term loans regularly. In fact I don't know much about the business but I am able to run the business effectively because of Swashakthi MACS. My story reveals that a woman could do business from the home and develop herself. Swashakthi MACS is providing best services and helping several groups to develop economically. I once again give special thanks to Swashakthi MACS.