



## Director's Message



I am really very happy to pen few lines in this Second Issue of DBAI Newsletter. As a child right organization, we were inspired to initiate a rally for the cause of "Yes to Education" and "No to Child Labour". I am grateful to all the collaborators, sponsors and staff members for their dedicated support and services in the holistic formation of our shelter home children by conducting Medical Camp, Group Sessions on Teenage problems and solution, Personal Hygiene and Token Economy.

I also like to express my sincere gratitude to all who gave their comments and feedback. So, it gives us encouragement to continue our newsletter. May God bless you!



## ANTI CHILD LABOUR RALLY

### "Let's raise voices for the right of our education"

The programme took place at "Thiruvottiyur Boys and Girls Club" on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The programme was inaugurated in the presence of Mr. Bosco Albert, the Project Manager in Aide-et-Action, Fr. Joseph Leo, the Director of Don Bosco Anbu Ilam, Sr. Margaret, the Principal and Sr. Jancy from Our Lady School, Mrs. Asha DBAI Volunteer. The rally was supported by HCL Technology, Aide-et-Action and Our Lady School, Thiruvottiyur.

250 members participated and the target group focused on children, youth and women. The rally was flagged off by Mr. Bosco from Elliamman Poonga Nagar to Register Office. It was followed by a pledge "YES to Education". An appeal was made to utilize Child Help line Number 1098 in order to prevent themselves from exploitation. The children held out placards and banners with catchy and creative slogans. After retuning back, participants gathered at Thiruvottiyur Boys and Girls club centre. Prizes were distributed to the 20 children who had 100% attendance at the tuition centre in order to encourage them. Fr. Bosco also motivated the children to speak for themselves and other children in difficulties through Childline 1098. The highlight of the programme was hand impression campaign on "High 5 for Education", and followed by cultural events.



**"Education is not preparation for life; Education is life itself" - John Dewey**



## MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO – Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body

A medical camp was organized on July 16, 2016 in the premises of Don Bosco Beatitudes, Vyasarpadi. DBAI in collaboration with GESM Environmental Services, Human Right Protection Mission conducted the camp in which Rajan Eye Care Hospital Pvt. Ltd. and Charlie Dental Care provided medical care for our children. Around 300 children benefitted from this free medical camp. The number includes our shelter home children and the boys and inmates of Beatitudes campus. General



dental problems like decayed tooth and unclean tooth were addressed and similarly those with short sight problems and long sight problems were examined in the eye care unit. A team of doctors were available for general health issues too. Those needed special medical care and better follow up were encouraged to visit their hospitals for a best medical care free of cost.

### SEMINAR-“Teenage problems and solutions”

“The way we see the Problem is the Problem”

– Stephen R. Covey

On July 19, 2016 a seminar on “Teenage problems & Solutions” was offered to 23 girls in our shelter home in Saranalaya. The session was facilitated by Ms. Preethi, our DBAI Staff. In the beginning though it looked like identifying their problems were very much challenging but an orientation session by the resource person helped them identify issues they see in themselves which need to be changed. After having carefully prioritized the outcome of the floor discussion, the animator offered them



appropriate solutions in a convincing manner sighting them best examples from day to day experiences. This helped them gain confidence to do away with little obstacles or changes they see in themselves either

by themselves or with the help of the counselor and shelter home in-charge.

### ONE DAY WORKSHOP AT AGARSEN COLLEGE

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Agarsen College in collaboration with Chennai Child Line organized a day workshop at Agarsen College, Madhavaram. Students from Criminology Department of the College, 30 Police officers from Various Intervention Zone and Chennai Childline participated in the workshop. Sessions were taken by the resource persons on various topics related to the Prevention of Child Victimization, and Laws on Child Protection.



### VISIT FROM BELGIUM

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016, 15 Volunteers who are teachers in Don Bosco Schools in Belgium visited our shelter home in Bosco Illam. They spent an evening playing and interacting with the children. In a short informal family circle that followed, our children staged few items and the guests in turn sang a song of blessing for the children.





## SESSIONS ON PERSONAL HYGIENE IN BOSCO ILLAM AND IN SARANALAYA

On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month of July, special sessions were held with the boys and girls of our shelter homes on the theme "Personal Hygiene". The sessions were facilitated by Mr. Reegan and Mrs. Saraswathy respectively. To both the groups the animators dealt in down to earth style the need to keep themselves clean. Creative methods were employed to make them understand and begin practicing basic good manners, eating habits, taking a good shower at least once a day, brushing methods, regular paring of nails, changing to dry and clean clothes, keeping the hands and feet dry and germ free and the necessary precautions they need to take care for a healthy living. The girls group was introduced to what menstrual cycle is and what maturation means and the hygiene related to it. An animated and self explanatory video on menstrual cycle and hygiene was shown and later discussed in the group session. They were also given awareness on RTI (Reproductive Transmitted Infections). Oral hygiene was insisted with them and they were helped to understand and not to get panic about the change they see in themselves. Pamphlets were issued concerning the above mentioned themes. Both the sessions began bearing fruits in the days that followed these sessions.



## LITTLE BIG SHOW – A HUNT FOR CHENNAI'S SMARTEST ALL ROUNDER.

"Be Natural Little Big Show" is a talent contest powered by Yamfills with Docomo and 92.7 big FM as collaborating partners to identify and appreciate Chennai's smartest all rounder in the age category between 7 – 12 years, to bring to light their talent of nature and of grace. 4 boys from Bosco Illam and 6 girls from Saranalaya were encouraged to participate in this talent contest. Confidence level, Talent, General Knowledge, Smile, Walk and Photogenic were the criteria for judging. Our children made the maximum out of this big platform to showcase their talents.



While our children received certificates of participation, we are happy to note that Miss. Sonia from Saranalaya reached up to semi-finals. Unfortunately she lost in the semi-finals. We appreciate her efforts and better success in the future.

## ORIENTATION ABOUT YaR

On 13-15th of July 2016, Don Bosco National YaR Forum conducted orientation programme about YaR (Young at Risk) ministry for the new directors from the different provinces. Fr. Joseph Leo, YaR Coordinator of Chennai Province participated in the programme.





## SUCCESS STORY

*"So many people watched me toil every day, nobody said anything"*

Child Labour is so widespread in India that many don't see anything wrong with employing children.

Kumar (name is changed) was only 12 when he took to streets to make a living by collecting steels, bottles and bricks. Dressed in soiled clothes, he was untidy and was comfortably loitering in the streets. Rs. 300 he had earned was his only possession when he was spotted by Ms. Udhayarani, Community Organizer. The simplest thing she did which made a world of difference in the lad was that big smile at him.

The boy was exposed to our care centre and very soon he began playing with other kids. Since his inception, he has been regularly participating in the non formal classes and other activities conducted by DBAI. The child is now mainstreamed and studying in 8<sup>th</sup> std. He is very much interested in academics and he is doing exceptionally well. The real contribution of DBAI goes beyond tangible targets and helps in transformation of many lives in the target community.

### SESSION ON TOKEN ECONOMY



A session on token economy was facilitated by Mrs. Saraswathy for 20 children studying in class 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> STD on 11<sup>th</sup> July at Bosco Ilam. Short inputs on discipline and its importance were made clear to them. They were divided into 4 groups of 5 each for activities on the theme. Various behaviour patterns, like, tantrum, introvert, extrovert, cognitive and mixed behaviour were explained to them. Since behaviour of an individual has a bearing on himself and on others, they were asked to keep a check on their behaviour. The purpose of token economy is to award stars for their good behaviour. The one to collect maximum number of stars will be awarded.



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### CHILD INTAKE

July 2016

| Male | Female | Total |
|------|--------|-------|
| 23   | 03     | 26    |

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