



Don Bosco Anbu Illam

No.25 Kulandai Street, Park Town, Chennai-03



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EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,



I would like to begin this month's editorial with a short story. It's the story of **John Stephen Akhwari** and his marathon run. Akhwari's famous run happened when he was competing in the Olympic Marathon in Mexico City. Approximately 19 km into the 42 km race, there was jostling between some runners and he fell badly. In fact, his leg was bleeding and his knee was apparently dislocated. The medical staff urged him to withdraw.

However Akhwari continued running. He finished last among the 57 competitors who completed the race. There was a loud cheer among the crowds. When interviewed later and asked why he ignored the advice to pull out and continued running, Akhwari said,

"My country did not send me 10,000 miles just to start the race; they sent me to finish the race."

And today, no one even remembers the name of the gold medal winner that year. (In case you were wondering, it was Mamo Wolde of Ethiopia). But we remember and honour Akhwari because he finished the race in the most difficult circumstances.

*To end what we began, needs determination, conviction and commitment.
To begin anew where we ended, needs courage, vision and will to change.*

Sunsets are proofs that ending can be beautiful. So as we are winding up this academic year, let us put all our efforts in FINISHING STRONG what we began and finish it BEAUTIFULLY too.

Before we begin anew, we have a wonderful change of atmosphere called HOLIDAYS. DBAI has planned summer camps in different places to prepare the children for better and new start for the forthcoming academic year.

Yours

Fr. Joseph Leo—Director



PAR ANNUAL SEMINAR



The third PAR Annual Seminar was held at Institute of Rural Studies and Administration (IRSA), Guntur from 5-7 March, 2018. On the 5th & 6th, PAR researchers from different YaR centers presented their papers which were later reviewed by the directors. On the third day of the programme YaR center directors presented the implementation of PAR in their respective YaR centers during the year. It was followed by the general meeting with the directors in which the future plans of PAR and its further implementation in the local centres were discussed.

-Ms. Sheela Janet

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION IN COMMUNITY CENTRE



Women's Day was commemorated in Thiruvottiyur Police boys and girls club on 8 March, 2018. The event was organized by Ms. Leena, the center in charge, in collaboration with Seva Priya Porupallar Mr. Durai and supportive partners Akshayan Charitable Trust and SIGA. Around 125 women participated in the programme. Awareness Song by our women group and colorful dance by our club children were some highlights of the day.

-Ms. Margaret Malini

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

World Vision India in view of International Women's Day organized a conference at World Vision India Office, Kodambakkam, Chennai on 09 March, 2018. Mrs. Kannagai I.A.S (Retd.) was the chief guest of the day. She delivered her address on women's development and education in the current decade. It was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mr. A. V. George on 'Sexual violation on Women and Children.' Protection of Women on Domestic Violence Act of 2005, Legal provisions for women and children, Protection of children from sexual offence Act 2012, Eradication of Pornography from India, and online Links to blocked from India, and Transgender protection were the other areas discussed. Fifteen organizations' participated in the conference.



-Mr. Jaya Babu

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

'*Pudhu Yugam Padaikum Puratchi Pengal*' was the theme of the International Women's day celebrated with fervor on 10 March, 2018 at Don Bosco Social Service Society Campus, Basin Bridge. Mrs. K. Kanimozhi, M.P (Rajya Sabha) from Tamil Nadu was the chief guest of the celebration who in her well prepared and delivered address, highlighted the need to safeguard the rights and freedom of women in the society. More than 800 women were present for the celebration.

-Mr. Jayaprakesh



SEMINAR ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

DBAI- Childline unit organized a one day training program on 'Substance abuse – Generation at risk' on 13 March, 2018 at DBAI Office, Park Town. Ms. Metilda and Ms. Liba, Counselors from TTK Rehabilitation center, Chennai were the resource person of the day. Types of substance abuse, short and long term effects of drug abuse; Rehabilitation programme and anti-addiction treatment options were covered by the experts in their sessions. Participants from around 40 different organizations in the city gained knowledge and awareness on the subject.



-Mr. Prabakaran



STAFF RETREAT AND TEAM BUILDING SESSION FOR DABI STAFF



The Staff members of DBAI went through a day of spiritual experience on 15 March, 2018 at Don Bosco Youth Animation Centre, Ennore, Chennai. Rev. Fr. Joe Andrew SDB, animated the day on the theme '**Called to Live a Joyful life**' and substantiated it with inspirational videos and motivational real life experiences and anecdotes. The soul searching experience has helped our staff to start living a purpose driven. In the afternoon he conducted team building session for the staff.

Through activities and demonstrations he highlighted the kinds of communications, types of participation, democratic decision making, styles of leadership and the need to belong and the capacity to work in a group to be productive.

-Mr. Julius

EDUCATIONAL TRIP

DBAI – HCL Gurukul Club children went on a three days educational trip to the Nilgiri Hills between



16-18 March, 2018. Eighty children accompanied by scout masters and teachers visited places like Doddabetta, Tea factory, Boat house, Children's park, Botanical garden, Mount Don Bosco and VOC Park – Kovai. Children enjoyed to the core, the cool climate, fresh breeze of air, much expected rain fall, eye capturing and mist covered view points, surprising landscapes, fresh fruits and vegetables, first ever closer look at the gigantic bison, mighty tea plantations, sumptuous food, music filled journey, fun filled surprises, camp fire, etc. The

pleasant plains of Kovai and Mettupalayam and the hill top of Kotagari and Ooty had much to offer.

The whole trip was informative, educative and entertaining.

-Bro. Jerome Cyril



AWARENESS ON 'WORLD WATER DAY'

DBAI organized a collage making competition on the theme "Save Scarcity" in 12 of its slum community centres to create awareness about International World Water Day commemorated on 22 March, 2018. Ms. Sheela Janet, DBAI-ICPS Coordinator selected the best three collages and awarded them with educational kit. More than 100 children who participated in the competition were also given complimentary prizes.

-Ms. Margaret Malini



AWARENESS ON CHILD MARRIAGE



Mr. Anbu, our DBAI staff, working in Katpadi Childline unit in collaboration with *Amma Thittam* gave awareness about child Marriage on 23rd March 2018 at Brammapuram, Katpadi. He addressed about the evils of Child marriage that affects the physical and mental health of the minors who are forced into child marriage and explained the need and importance of Education. More than 150 general public participated in the programme.

-Mr. Anbu

GENERAL MEDICAL CAMP



GENERAL MEDICAL CAMP

DBAI in association with [Chennai National Hospital](#) conducted medical camp in Ondikuppam community centre on 24 March, 2018. More than 200 people benefitted from this camp. In another camp conducted by the same team on 27 March, 2018 in Pallavan Nagar Community Centre nearly 150 people made best use of the created opportunity.

-Mr. Jayaprakash

A DAY OF SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE FOR SHELTER HOME CHILDREN



Bosco illam shelter home children made their one day spiritual retreat on 24 March, 2018 at St. Antony's Church, SM Nagar, Vyasarpadi. Fr. Anto Sagayaraj, SDB, a vibrant young priest, animated our children and led them through an inward spiritual journey. The boys participated with utmost seriousness and

made best use of the counseling opportunity to reconcile with themselves and others. This also helped them prepare themselves better to take on the public exams with sharpened focus and hope.

-Bro. Cruz Robert

WORKSHOP ON 'PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE'

[Childline India Foundation \(CIF\)](#) organized a three days workshop on 'Preventing Child Sexual Abuse and Keeping Children Safe Online' for the south India Childline coordinators on 26-28 March, 2018 at Hotel Benzz Park, Chennai. Mr. Prabakaran, DBAI – Childline coordinator participated in the workshop. Understanding Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), the role and function of stakeholders and the legal aspects related to online safety were some of the major areas focused in the workshop.

-Mr. Prabakaran



MEDICAL CAMPS CONDUCTED IN DB-HCL GURUKUL CLUBS

DBAI in association with Shri Sathya Sai Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai organized special medical camps for senior citizens in Chemmencherry and Thuraipakkam HCL Gurukul Clubs. Age related ailments were given special attention in the camp and medicines were distributed. More than 300 community members were able to attend to their health through this health initiative.

-Mr. Jaya Babu



CHILDLINE AWARENESS IN CORPORATION SCHOOLS

The CHILDLINE unit of DBAI in agreement with Greater Chennai Corporation conducted Childline awareness in Alwarpet, Teynampet, Mount Road, Jafferkhanpet, Adyar, Walltax Road, Vysarpadi and Otteri corporation schools. More than 800 children and their teachers benefitted from this reach out programme.

-Mr. Prabakaran



OUR WOMEN'S GROUP GALLERY



REACH OUT PROGRAMMES IN COMMUNITY CENTRE



Thiruvottiyur boys and girls club children benefitted from three useful programmes that were conducted to them in the month of March. Mr. Gopi from Ethiraj College, Chennai conducted career guidance seminar for the students and the need to study and score well to be able to choose a group of their choice when it

comes to higher studies. The social work trainees from Loyola Collage educated the children on the need to stay healthy and fit. Ms. Meena from S. M. Chetty school handled a session on parenting skills to the women group. Around 70 children and 30 women got benefitted from these programmes.

-Ms. Margaret Malini

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CORE PRINCIPLE :

*"Let children be at
the heart of
everything we do"*



APRIL MONTH PROGRAMME

07-World Health Day-DB HCL Gurukul
14-Tamil New Year Celebration
22-DB HCL- Earth Day @ Clubs
29-Staff Tour



**DON'T WISH FOR IT
WORK FOR IT**

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