



DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM

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www.donboscoanbuillam.org

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader

It is sometimes strange to see most of us converse with the intention to reply rather than listening. The biggest communication problem is that we don't listen to understand but to reply. People does not bother to listen to others but they are offended deeply if not listened to. Having said this, I want you to imagine how much this basic human right has been taken for granted in the case of Children.

Our society has naturally molded itself over centuries that Men are the supreme beings and then comes women and finally, the most vulnerable children. Obviously, we never listen to children and very often we insist them to shut their mouth. The Reasons are the same all over the globe:

1. Children lack competence, knowledge and judgment.
2. Involving children in decisions is to place a too heavy a burden on them.
3. Parents know what is best for their children.
4. Giving children a voice will lead to excessive demands, bad behavior and disrespect for elders.

On the contrary, experience shows that children who are given opportunity, demonstrates that they have different views, experiences, that they can also contribute positively to Child's rights and their well being.

We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced – Malal Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani education advocate who, at the age of 17 in 2014, became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize after surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban. Yousafzai became an advocate for girls' education when she herself was still a child, which resulted in the Taliban issuing a death threat against her. On October 9, 2012, a gunman shot Yousafzai when she was traveling home from school. She survived and has continued to speak out on the importance of education. In 2013, she gave a speech to the United Nations and published her first book, I Am Malaya.

Listening to Children is important because it helps them to participate in the mainstream activities. Participation contributes to personal development and leads to better decision-making.

Participation serves to protect children, contributes towards civil society development, tolerance and respect for others and strengthens the accountability.

As Parents and Educators, it's our prerogative and responsibility to create such participatory ambience at home, school, healthcare centers, play and leisure, the media, the courts and local communities. It should be made visible in the National Policy as well as at the International level.

At Don Bosco Anbu Illam, we have tried our best to establish participatory ambience and structures such as children parliament, child rights clubs, exposure visits, scout camps etc. Children have the right to be heard especially during this time of political campaigns. **Though they do not have the right to vote but they have the right to be heard** with regard to their education, health and safety. Hence, let us listen to the young minds so that they ignite the society.

Lovingly

Fr. Joseph Leo SDB



HEARTY WELCOME

2021 was born amidst of joy and lights. Children joyfully welcomed the New Year with hope of life, cheer and good tidings. Kids and caretakers of shelter homes devotedly participated in the Eucharistic celebration offered in view of New Year.



HIS PRESENCE IS A BLESSING



on 6th January 2021 Rev. Fr. K.M Jose, the Provincial, Salesian Province of Chennai paid a official visit to Bosco Illam (Boy's home) to meet the inmates and conferrers and thereafter at the Central Office and interacted with staff members . In the evening he was accompanied to Saranalayam (Girl's home). At the end of visitation, the provincial was very appreciative of the work done by Anbu Illam, especially the work offered during the time of COVID - 19.



CELEBRATING TRADITION

Children celebrated Pongal along with staff and well-wishers of Don Bosco Anbu Illam on 14th January 2021 at Saranalayam. Colorful rangoli and traditional games were conducted during the celebration. Rev. Fr. James Raj presided over and offered thanks giving prayers in view of the festivity.

CELEBRATING LIFE AND GRATITUDE

“Whatever you do, think of the Glory of God as your main goal”

- St. John Bosco



Commemoration service for the heavenly life of St. John Bosco was solemnly observed during the Con - celebrated High Mass offered by Rev. Fr. Francis Sebastian, SDB, member of Provincial Council in Chennai Salesian Province on the 31st January 2021 at Bosco Illam. Children and

well -wishers of Don Bosco Anbu Illam participated in the colorful ceremony. The event also included expression of gratitude for all collaborators of the past.



SPORTING SPIRIT

Volleyball match was held at Ayanavaram on 17th January conducted by HCL club. Our boys from Don Bosco Anbu Illam participated and won the second prize.

On 20th February, there was a football tournament held at Siga for under 14 categories. There were around 45 teams participating in the tournament and ours was one among them. Though our boys lost the match, it turned out to be a great experience and exposure for them as they were taken out for the match for the first time.

TELEMEDICAL CAMP

Don Bosco Anbu Illam collaboration with Mamta institute Organized Telemedical camp at Gandhi Nagar Community dated between 3rd and 20th. To provide continuous health support to the community people with help of MAMTA – HIMC has been arranged a telemedicine health camp in the community with the help of skillful doctors. Totally 125 patients came with the traces of hypertension, Diabetes, Gastritis, orthopedics, ophthalmic etc., medicines were prescribed and the patients were referred to the government hospital with the support of technology.



NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATION

On 24th January 2021, National Girl Child Day was celebrated all over India. On behalf of this celebration DBAI-HCLF-MYC center at Gandhi Nagar organized drawing competitions for students. In which t students actively participated and show cased their talent. It enables them to find their hidden talent. Main motive of the day was to combat social discrimination and exploitation girls face every day .

GADGETS FOR FUTURE

On 25th January 2021 mobile phones were distributed to K.Johnson,,J.Karthika, and A.Anandhi of DBAI-HCLF-MYC center Sholinganallur. Due to pandemic and lockdown students were made to attend the online class via mobile phone. Though they could not have phones on their own, some students attended online classes with their parents' mobile phone. **Mr.Vijayakumar**. Inspector of Police, Chemmenchery consented to handover the mobile phones.



FRIENDLY FOOTBALL MATCH

On 28th January 2021 a Friendly Match was organized in DBAI-HCLF-MYC. It was organized for the sports children, to know their capacity and to test their competitive spirit. The match was held between DON BOSCO –PURASAWALKAM Children and DON BOSCO-MYC center Children. Children from PURASAWALKAM won the match. In spite of that both team members were very happy and welcomed the outcome. This friendly match helped lot to the students to know their strength and weakness.



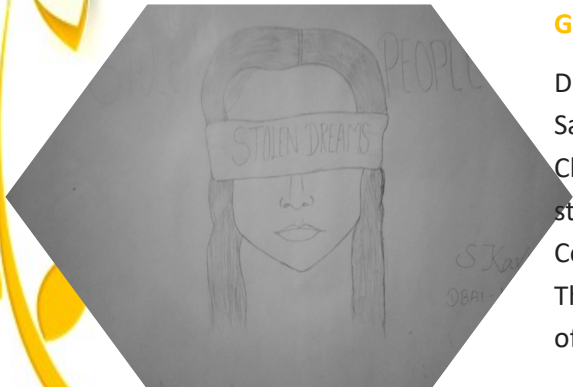
POLIO AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Don Bosco Anbu Illam - HCL Foundation Scout Team (Masters) conducted the Polio Awareness Campaign on 31/01/2021 at Urban Primary Health Centre. The Campaign Awareness on Polio at Semmencherry Community through was conducted through **Auto** and **Door to Door** Campaign. A total of **500 Children** received the Polio Vaccination.



GIRL CHILD SAFETY DAY

Don Bosco Anbu Illam – HCLFoundation organized the State Girl Child Safety Day program on 20.02.2021 at H8 & H5 Police Boys and Girls Club. Simultaneously Greater Chennai Corporation conducted the state-level drawing competition at H5 Police Children Club. In this Competition Ms.Nivetha got 1st prize in the Drawing competition. The prize distribution ceremony was held at the Commissioner's office on 24.02.2021.



ECOLOGIST BADGE CAMP

Don Bosco Anbu Illam - HCL Foundation Scouts Troop (Open) had the **Ecologist Badge Camp** from 23-02-2021 to 24-02-2021 at **Siruthuli Noyyal Centre, Coimbatore**. 20 Scouts and Guides troop attended this valuable camp. They gained knowledge about environment and conservation of water.



INAUGURATION FOR A SKILLED GENERATION

On 27th January 2021, DBAI – HCL Foundation Skill Development Project inaugurated Tailoring cum Face mask production unit at H5 New Washermenpet. Mr. Saravanan, Inspector of Police inaugurated the unit in the presence of Mr. Marshal, Associate Manager – HCL Foundation. On the same day Shri. R. Krishnaraj, IPS Deputy Commissioner launched the quick com-



puter training course for the Police Officials stationed at Arumbakkam Skill Development Center. Mr. Anand Babu, Inspector of Police F5 de-

THIRUVALLUR SPORTS MEET

Don Bosco Anbu Illam – HCL Foundation conducted a sports meet at Thiruvallur District. In this competition, we conducted various levels of competition for Police Children Club students. In this Sports Meet Mr. Aravindhan, IPS motivated the students.





GIRL IS PEARL

The National Girl Child day was observed on 24th January. In order to celebrate that day 23rd January the team organized a community programme at Ondikuppam and 30 members participated in the awareness program



OUTREACH PROGRAM

Childline awareness was planned and conducted for Anganwadi teachers at Triplicane. Totally 90 Anganwadi teachers

were benefited through this awareness programme.

STATE SALUTES GIRL CHILD

On 24th February State Girl Child Day was celebrated. As a part of observation the Childline staff organized a programme at Don Bosco School, Vysarpadi. And on the same day another programme was organized by W17 AWPS Peravallur Police station and MCCSS home at Peravallur.



FAMILY, WHERE LIFE BEGINS AND LOVE NEVER ENDS



DBAI Child line rescued a 12 year old, North East boy on 18th August 2020 at a government Quarters in Tondiarpet, Chennai who was set to be domestic worker. We interacted with him to know the fact. He revealed that his father expired and his mother is a road worker. His mother married another man so she did not consider the other children who were born out of first husband. His mother could not look after him and sent her son with another woman, in order to continue his studies but she misused the child for taking care of her infant, and so he ran away from home to Chennai. The child welfare committee placed him in DBAI itself for further investigation. Rev. Fr. Joseph Leo, SDB the Director of child line (DBAI) traced his parents



an hour, in collaboration with the Dhimapur Don Bosco Organization. After receiving the Transfer Order from CWC and PO report, the child was taken to his hometown by Mr. Vignesh Kumar J. staff of DBAI on 19th of January 2021. Don Bosco Anbu Illam has arranged education facility for the child in Don Bosco Khonsa, Arunachal Pradesh. The Family also gave Assurance to educate him .



DROPOUT STUDY MATERIAL DISTRIBUTIONS

Three siblings were identified by DBAI-HCLF-MYC students Two boys (**Mr. Rajiv Kumar and Mr. Ajith Kumar**) discontinued their studies due to grandfather health issues who were from state of Bihar. Ms. Renuga (Sister) discontinued from 9th std due to family issues. They were re enrolled in school again and the essential materials like school bag, notes, pencils, etc were provided by the team. This study materials were given by **Mr. Vijayakumar**, the Inspector of Police, Chemmenchery. He also asked their parents the reason for their dropout, and advised them to continue their studies and he also gave a statement that education is the only weapon which made me to stand here.





**THE ONLY THING SWEETER THAN
UNION IS REUNION.” -KATHLEEN
MCGOWAN**

On 15th January 2021 home visit done for boys **S. Aravind &** his Brother S. Arjun. It was a poor and tiny rural village in the district of Dindukal. The boys were filled with joy and happiness in seeing their only hope in the person of their Grandmother (Nagammal) and their younger Brother Master Moorthi. They spent whole day in their village finding out family details and sharing their happy life in Don Bosco Anbu Illam. It was a moment of reunion and strengthening their family bond for our Boys.

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY CELEBRATION

Annual celebration of Girl Child Day was held on 24th January 2021 at Boja Raja Nagar. Speech competition was conducted prior to the occasion and winners were honored during the celebration. Mr. Girija, Psychologist from Jain Col-



lege delivered National Girl Child Day address, Ms. Sarulatha, Child Rights Educator gave awareness talk 'My body, My privacy, My pride'.

On the same day, Mr. Eronimus, Director – Uttrukkan Children Resources and Research Center delivered a lecture on the importance of Girl Child Education and conducted workshop on creative learning program for girls residing at hostel. He highlighted the need of educating girl child in society.

LEARNING TOGETHER

A two day workshop was conducted on “Counselling Skills” dated on 5th and 6th Feb’2021 at Don Bosco Anbu Illam, MKB Nagar. The workshop was inaugurated by Rev Fr. Joseph Leo sdb and Rev Fr. Joe Prabhu sdb. The facilitators were Rev Fr. Joseph Jeyaraj sdb, Rev Fr. Paulraj sdb and Dr. Thaddeus Alfonso from Niraivagam – Don Bosco institute of Psychological services.

A total of 27 participants attended the session that included topics such as Understanding the need of the beneficiaries, Person Centered Therapy, Unconditional Positive Regard, Congruence, Solution Focused Brief Therapy & Anger management, SFT for addiction, SFT for antisocial behavior. The session had role play and one to one counseling session among the participants, group discussion and presentation by the group. The day ended with feedback collection from the participants and certificate distribution.



SPECIAL ARTICLE

GIVING THE PREY TO ITS PREDATOR

The *Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012* (POCSO) was celebrated to a large extent and remains a welcoming step. It attempts to curb child sexual abuse but least did we realize its bareness and its defectiveness. It is imperative to identify and either replace or amend its shortcomings with a more effective law or an amendment[s] as statistics stands as witness.

The National Crime Record Bureau's "*Crime in India*" reports reveal that new cases registered under POCSO has significantly increase by 4.5% in crimes against children resulting in 1,48,185 crimes against children in India. The highest numbers of child rapes were recorded in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of crimes against girl children under the POCSO with 7,444 cases, followed by Maharashtra with 6,402 cases and Madhya Pradesh with 6,053 cases. Shockingly, 61% of 'investigations' of crimes against children remain pending and in Mumbai and overall 92% of crimes against children remain pending in India.

With a long-drawn legal process, children remain vulnerable to pressure - even with the setting up of fast-track courts; which rather remains insufficient. Despondently, only 20% of cases were finished within a span of 1 year, leading to a sharp increase in pendency of cases from 77,000, to 1,66,882 and currently 2,44,001. It is fair to say that there is a momentous increase in cases and significant shortage of police personnel. However, statistics indicates for a better enforcement and/or amendments in POCSO so as to effectuate the law in its true sense. A large number of children suffer violence and neglect, yet only handfuls are reported as multitudes remain unreported due to the stigma.

Underlying India's rampant sexual violence entrenched patriarchy that discriminates girls and often encourages toxic masculinity, "even in a most recent POCSO case wherein a government employee, charged with raping a minor (multiple times) the world witnessed the Supreme Law of the Land in India posing an elucidation '*asking the rape accused if he was willing to marry the minor he raped.*' Assuming this evolved to be a settled judgment, **the crime of rape will still remain an offence *in rem*...** Or will rape be absolved when the rapist agrees to marry the victim? If reducing the reprimands in POCSO case (most recently) resulted in 'setting a dangerous precedent,' asking the accused to adhere to a ludicrous promise by offering the prey (who lacks immaturity) to its predator shows the amateurish, abysmal and lamentable laws... trivializing child sexual abuse at the court of last resort.

In light of this grim reality, children constitute more than 40% of the population and there are a sheer number of children who are in need of care and protection particularly the girls. Victims face incessant inconvenience since the time a case is registered and also during the trial and some even after the trial. There is no support rendered to victims either during or after such brutal incident with which they will have to live with eternally. Violence against children is widespread but our outrage is only sporadic and catatonic.

CONT.....

GIVING THE PREY TO ITS PREDATOR

Media ought to generate social solutions to social problems which thereby puts pressure on policy makers who may elicit new perspectives and collectively activate community members. Media can have a greater influence on the discourse and subsequent policy than actual evidence (upholding the anonymity of minor victims). Episodic coverage of violence contributes public fear and greater support for strict policy. Individual cases and certainly high profile cases often promote public attention and advocacy which leads to public reforms.

Our lives begin to end the day when we become silent about things that matter
- Martin Luther King Jr

Child sexual assault is a scourge of Indian society and statistics reveal that POCSO is neither implemented effectively nor efficiently. As the late Legend Justice V.R.Krishna Iyer who immortalised himself by his macro-scale contributions to human progress, there is a pressing need for a multidimensional approach and the onus lies with the government, the police department, judicial system and the media ie., the Pillars of the Constitutions to dedicate and coordinate in its entirety to curtail this adversary that slaughters our sons and daughters...

Courtesy:

(The author is **Ms.Maffi**, Advocate, she holds a degree in law from London, a Legum Magister in Legal Practice from the City University, UK and a Legum Magister from United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, Italy)

CLC MONTHLY TRAINING AND ON FIELD PROGRAM

Monthly training for the staff on creative learning program was held on 8th and 9th January 2021 at Royapuram, this session included teaching techniques for Science and Mathematics. Critical writing and review writing were added with the subject during the training program. On 23rd January 2021, Workshop on creative learning program was held at Otteri community center. Children were involved in word play, essay writing etc. Mr. Erominus moderated both events.



CAREER ADVANCEMENT TRAINING – BATCH 1

As a symbol of acknowledgement of the selfless service rendered by Don Bosco Anbu Illam, we received an assignment to work among tribal children in Mylam near Villupuram district. The invitation to conduct career advancement training was conducted from the Sub – collector of Thindivanam. In this regards, on 8th January 2021, Mr. Ashok and Mr. Prem attended pre – planning meeting at the Thindivanam Sub – Collector’s office in which the offer was finalized and further arrangements were flagged off.

On 11th January 2021, selected No. of camp trainees were given orientation and knowledge sharing was held in the presence of Fr. Josph Leo. Syllabus, training aid and schedule were finalized. On 18th January 2021 our trainers reached Mylam for final preparation and the camp was inaugurated on 19th January 2021 by Ms. Anu, Sub –

Collector, Thindivanam. Ms. Rubina, (training Collector) chaired the inaugural in which Fr. Andrew Stephenraj, Director – Don Bosco Vazhikaatti and Fr. Joseph Leo, Director – Don Bosco Anbu Illam participated. The three days camp included training on life skills, LSRW skills, child rights and safety, personality development, self grooming session, awareness on health and hygiene and touch sensitivity. A total No. of



25 girl children from the local residence participated in the camp. Children were trained in right based education,

personal hygiene, safety and security, proper food habit, self discipline; they were also grouped according to various themes representing the four basic child rights. The camp had a colorful valedictory in which Mr. Annadurai, District Collector, Villupuram graced by his motivating presence.



VISION IS OUR VISION

On 23rd January 2021 eye camp was organized at Appar Nagar with the support of MCDS Foundation and India Vision Institute, Chennai. A total number of 65 people got benefited through the camp. Free consultation and counseling on ophtho care was given to the patients.



AWARENESS ON TERMINAL ILLNESS

Don Bosco Coastal project conducted awareness program on Terminal illness with the support of REACH Foundation on 23rd January 2021 for the people in Ondikuppam and Appar Nagar. The session highlighted the importance of hale and healthy living, causes of terminal illness, prevention methodology and home remedies. Mr. Joseph, Community Health Educator delivered awareness talk for the beneficiaries.



ORIENTATION ON SELF HELP GROUP MANAGEMENT

On 16th February 2021 One day orientation on self help group management was conducted for the newly formed women group. A total of 35 members from 5 slum centers participated in this program which was held at Don Bosco Youth Animation Center, Ennore. Mr. V.R Kumar, Assistant Project Officer – NULM and Dr. Moses, Community Health Educator – REACH Foundation were the consented resource people for the program. Orientation focused on the aspects of internal saving policy, loan disbursement procedure, merits of self help groups, schemes available for members of self help groups, current political trends with regards to SHGs etc. Dr. Moses highlighted the importance of women in building up hale and healthy community and also awareness on terminal illness.



WORKSHOP ON FOLK ART

On 27th and 28th February 2021 we conducted workshop on Folk Art and Street theater at Don Bosco Youth Animation Center, Ennore. A total of 25 youngsters from 5 community centers took part in this workshop. Dr. Kaleeshwaran, Founder and renowned Author in Alternative Media Center, Loyola College with his team gave training on folk art, street play and classic tradition. Rev. Fr. John Christi – Rector, Rev. Fr. Jegadeesh, Administrator, Don Bosco Youth Animation Center presided over the workshop.



DENTAL CAMP

On 13th of February Dental Camp was organized for our Bosco Illam Children with a great help of Dr. Shiny. She examined our Children and reported in detail about wellness of their teeth to the children.



INAUGURATION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING UNIT

Don Bosco Anbu Illam Coastal Slum Intervention Project and YMCA Madras have come together for providing vocational training for women community at Tondiarpet. In view of this joint venture we have extended a fully equipped tailoring unit at Vinayagapuram on 10th February 2021. Rev.Fr. James Raj, Administrator DBAI, Mr. Ravi Kumar David, Vice President and Mr. Chelladurai, Chairman, YMCA jointly inaugurated the program. This center is serving for social and economical welfare of women in the region.



LITTLE GIRLS WITH DREAMS BECOMES WOMEN WITH WISDOM

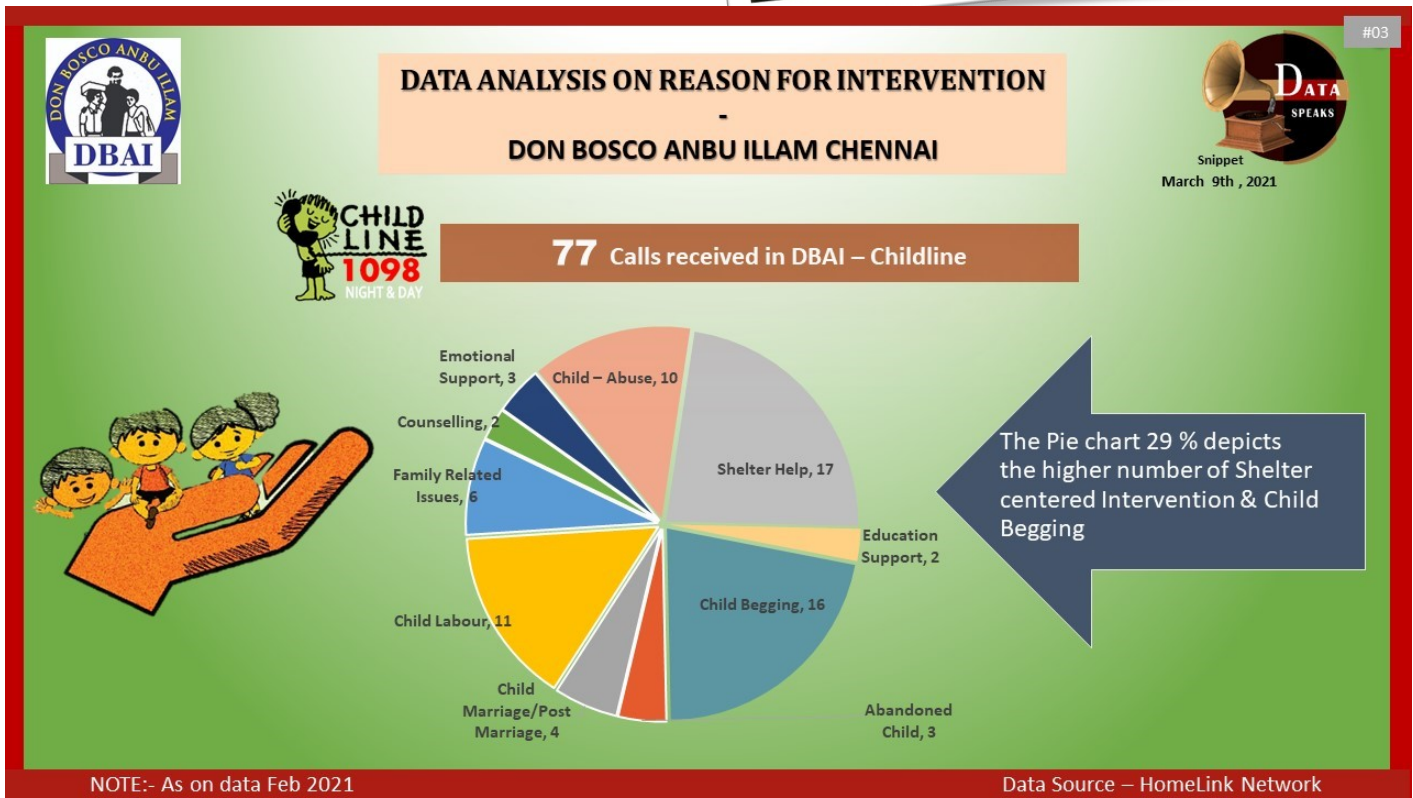
National Girl Child Day was celebrated by inmates of Saranalayam on 24th January 2021. Prof. Dr. Josephine Lucy spoke on the importance of girl child safety, higher education and behavioral pattern. A total of 31 children participated in this event





INM YAR COMMISSION MEETING

On 12th of Jan 2021, INM YaR Commission meeting was held at Don Bosco Beatitudes. Discussed about present situations of INM YaR centers and Way forward of 2021.



DATA SPEAKS

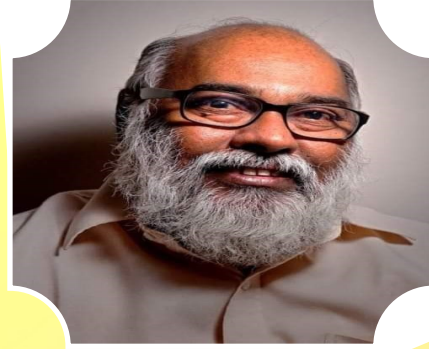
The data depicts that the highest number of calls for the month of February 2021 is for **Shelter Help & Child Begging** and that too because of various family issues. Below are the questions to reflect:

- A. If this is the situation then what would be your solution to take control?
- B. Secondly, What do you think as the primary family issues that disturbs and urges a child to seek Shelter Help ?
- C. Thirdly, Why Child Begging has become a dominant anti social fact element in the society ?

PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS DEATH OF HIS SAINTS

Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society deeply mourns for the sudden passing away of Mr. Thomas Jeyaraj, Founder & Director of Centre for Child Rights and Development (CCRD) on the 10th February 2021.

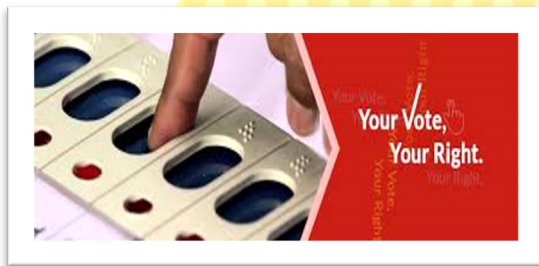
Don Bosco Child Care Institutions in India had a very close association with Mr. Thomas in the field of Child Rights.



WHEREVER THE ART OF MEDICINE IS LOVED, THERE IS ALSO A LOVE OF HUMANITY

Don Bosco Anbu Illam expresses its sincere condolence towards death of Padma Bhushan Dr. V. Shantha on 19th January 2021. Her service towards ailing society was highly appreciable.

She is the Founder - Chairperson of Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai.



Your duty is to **VOTE**
on 6th April 2021



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THANK YOU
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