

BOSCONET

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Child Friendly Cities

The background of the cover features a stylized, colorful illustration of a city. It includes green hills, white wind turbines, blue and white buildings, and a bright yellow sun. In the foreground, four children are shown. From left to right: a young boy in a red and white striped shirt, a boy in a red t-shirt holding a red and white soccer ball, a boy in a white t-shirt with his arm around the boy in red, and a girl in a green t-shirt holding a yellow and white soccer ball. The overall theme is child-friendly and sustainable urban development.

Bosc Net **DON BOSCO INDIA**
A Friend to Anyone in Need Resource Mobilisation Unit of South Asia



EMPOWER LIFE! LIVE THE JOY OF TRUE GIVING

Message from Director

Dear friends,

“We owe our children – the most vulnerable citizens in any society – a life free from fear and violence.” – Nelson Mandela

Abandoned, sufferers of violence, scared and left on streets, children are subjected to cruelty every day. Innocent and beautiful, children are deprived of their basic rights and become the most vulnerable part of the society. They equally deserve the right to live with dignity, protected from all kinds of violence and negligence in a healthy and secure environment.

There are different organizations and people all around the world who are working towards conservation of Child Rights in every possible way.

This edition of newsletter, highlights the three achievements of the Don Bosco Network in India. Bosconet partners with Don Bosco Young at Risk (DB YaR Forum), which is a network of organizations across India engaged to reach out to the children and youth in vulnerable situations, through diverse initiatives and programs. YaR Forum has launched the Child friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI), which involves all the stakeholders in a city, to ensure, the safety, education, and wholistic development of the children who are marginalized in the cities.

This edition also covers highlights from the last annual meeting of the Don Bosco Development Network in India.

Don Bosco Network in India was honored with the **Art4Peace award** for its impacting making mission in the country to promote Education and Social development of the youth in the peripheries of the society. This is a milestone in the history of Don Bosco India. The **Art4Peace award** is a powerful recognition of the contribution made by Don Bosco for more than a century.

This award is affirming, the impact of the contribution of our donors in favor of changing young people’s lives partnering with Don Bosco India. We gratefully dedicate this award to all of you, our donors who stood behind us, partnering in our initiatives. While counting on the generous contributions from our partners, we are optimistic and continuously striving to grow and empower the young ones at risk.

Thank you

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Director, Bosconet

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Child Friendly Cities



“Child-Friendly Cities Initiative” – Don Bosco YaR Forum

“Child-Friendly Cities initiative” (CFCI) coordinated by Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (DB YaR Forum) was launched on 18th April 2018 in the cities of Chandigarh, Rajahmundry, Salem, and Vadodara. The Child-Friendly Citi Initiative of DB YaR Forum fosters optimum growth and safety of every child by shaping them into responsible and productive citizens of our country. They are committed to empowering youth to be healthy, productive and engaged citizens to act as catalysts of change.

DB YaR Forum is a network of Don Bosco India, which comprises of over 90 institutions spread across 19 states and union territories of India working to assess the needs and aspirations of young people, the hurdles they face and the opportunities that can uplift them from their existing conditions. They are committed to providing care, protection, and maximum development of vulnerable, marginalized, “at-risk” young people.

The concept of Child-Friendly Cities certainly isn't new.

Many cities of the world, including some in India, have attempted it with various degrees of success. Our present initiative of ‘Child-Friendly Cities’ seeks to bring children, adult citizens and city administrations on a common platform where the best interests of children drive decision-making in planning, execution, and monitoring of the city’s projects and activities that impact their lives. We want to open up opportunities to collaborate, design and build dream cities to promote wellbeing and maximum development of every citizen

“It’s only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you will realise your true potential.” The mission of Child-Friendly Cities is to provide the next generations with the skills and tools necessary to create change within the community.

We strongly encourage our members to take energetic part in this initiative. Partners of DB YaR Forum will be contributing to the wellbeing of children by providing them a friendly ambient. The partners will get an opportunity to educate the world about the importance of safety, education, and protection of youth. The importance of creating an environment that encourages their talent, recognizes their effort’s and nurtures them.



We, at DB YaR share a common interest in benefitting children throughout the city. Partner with us to create an environment that cares for, protects and guides children. Contribute to help us sustain this initiative over the long run.

We envision a future, where young people can choose a path that opens with boundless opportunities into the wider world. We want to build prosperity through entrepreneurship. Let's be eager for progress that comes not from holding down people, but by lifting them to create equal opportunities for them.

Let's be pioneers of a new world that is powerful and not disruptive. Through active participation and community development led by children, we are planting the seed for future action. Contribute to building a nation that is fair for children, thus fair for all. We welcome all those who would like to extend their support to this movement. Bosconet would be glad to facilitate your engagement and contribution with the movement of CFCI.

Art4Peace Award for Don Bosco India

Don Bosco services from 1906 across in India was appreciated for its exemplary contribution in the field of educational and social development by Dame Dr. Munni Irone, Global Peace leader, Philanthropist and the founder of Art 4 Peace Award. On the 2nd February 2019, Father Noel Maddhichetty, Director BOSCONET – Don Bosco India, along with the Bosconet Team in New Delhi, were honored with Art4Peace Award at Teen Murti Bhawan Auditorium in New Delhi.

Big Thank You to our Partners

We are all children of God and emancipation from poverty and illiteracy is one opportunity that all underprivileged people deserve. There is nothing that equals the joy of bringing hope and smile to even one needy youth. Don Bosco has been able to bring smiles and hope to thousands of underprivileged, young and people in the periphery of the society. This could not have been possible without our valuable partners who have generously contributed resources to realize the vision of Don Bosco in India.

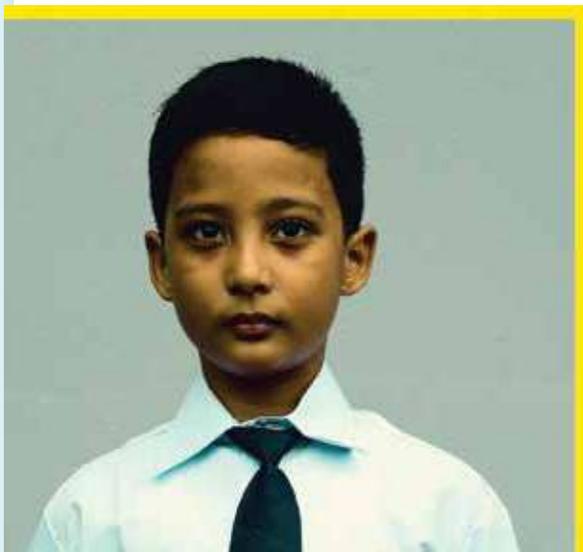


We are honored to receive this award on behalf of all our donors and the people who collaborate with us directly and indirectly, as one Don Bosco family. Change is the coming together of like-minded people who steadfastly believe and work towards the fulfillment of a greater goal. In this regard, Don Bosco feels blessed to have been associated with like-minded and generous well-wishers who have time and again ensured that Don Bosco's vision remains uncompromised. Through their contributions, they have strengthened our vision for providing equal opportunity for the numerous underprivileged children, youth and women across the country.

In the forthcoming years, Bosconet-Don Bosco India plans to converge its pan India initiatives through the four flagship programs namely, Empowering Young at Risk, Skilling for Sustainable Living, Empowerment of Women and the Don Bosco Green Alliance.

We also take this opportunity to appreciate and thank, Dame Dr. Munni Irone, the founder and CEO of Art4Peace, for the recognition given to Don Bosco, and its missions. We join hands as partners and protagonists of the peace to unite the world.

Donors Speak



“ Once I watched a short documentary film based on child education. I was shocked to know there were millions of children who were brilliant yet couldn't procure further education because of poverty and unavailability of enough schools. I really wanted to do something for these children who were not as privileged as I am. So, when BOSCONET presented me with an opportunity, I grabbed it and tried to collect as much money as possible. I know it is not enough, but I hope it will help a child to study a little further. ”

Abhyudai Sharma
Class: V-A, Auxilium Convent School, Siliguri

“ I collected money so that children who cannot go to school can go and study like me. I want to help children in achieving their dreams. I have collected support from my parents, Uncle-Aunt and neighbours. There are many needy children in our county. I want all the children of my country to go to school. Everybody should help each other. ”

Snahzeen Shahid
Class: II, Our Lady of Providence Girls High School, Kolkata



Ms Chetna Harlalka fo Cl. VI and Ms Nayanika Harlalka of Cl. IV were two sisters from Don Bosco School Bordumsa Arunachal Pradesh.

Ms. Chetna Harlalka contributed Rs. 2600 and Ms Nayanika Harlalka contributed Rs. 2400. They made a contribution for a cause because they wanted all those children who could not go to school like them, also go to school like them.





Convergence for Impact Development in Don Bosco Network

The world is in greater need of social transformation urged by the changing economic situations, forced exclusion, denial of fundamental human rights, and extreme poverty. Social transformation is a sensitive topic, which needs support from individuals from all walks of life. Bosconet networks all the Don Bosco India social development eleven nodal organisations and 360 NGOs. The annual meeting of Don Bosco social development offices was held on 11th Feb 2019 in Goa at the Pilar Mission Seminary wherein 16 members represented.

Fr. Noel Maddhichetty, Director Bosconet and Aneesa Avrachan initiated the discussion among the development network about the need for “Convergence for Impact Development”. The discussion was followed by Focus Group Discussion (FGD) among the network heads. The need to achieve convergence among social development initiatives and to work closely with the deliberating bodies at various levels, along with developing Pan India Flagship programs were the key orientations which came out as the result of the FGDs. The meeting focused on the need to marshal all the Don Bosco programme of social development in India under four flagship programmes for empowering young at risks, skills for sustainable livelihood young people, empowering the rural women and caring for planet earth. The discussion also highlighted the need for social inclusion of the vulnerable and disadvantaged with the support of the privileged section of society.

Second thrust of the meeting was on the resource

development initiatives of Bosconet. Mr. Samrat Ganguly, a Fundraising expert shared insight on accessing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) money. The role of CSR in social changes is as an indispensable tool in our collective efforts to solve daunting social problems and challenges. The need to reinforce the capacities of the network was emphasised, by training the staff of the development offices, in diverse competencies such as, human rights-based development, project management, designing of surveys, data analysis, financial accountability, advocacy, disaster preparedness and other relevant capacities. It is the need of the hour to enhance the efforts to bring about systematic changes in all those who want to be agents of social change.

The meeting highlighted that collaboration from civil societies, individuals, and communities would keep the wheels moving ahead and drive a positive change in this regard. The participants acknowledged various international partners and individual donors for their committed support over the years for the betterment of disadvantaged people through Don Bosco Network, India. One of the fastest ways to achieve social transformation is to reach out to committed partners who want to give new opportunities to the people in the peripheries of the society.

Bosconet acknowledges the role of every donor who continues to support its mission to shape the lives of the deserving young people in India. The mission of Don Bosco for young people is progressing for more than a century by the contribution and collaboration of thousands of socially committed people. We are duty bound to acknowledge and thank them for their sense of solidarity.

Hope Beyond Poverty



Abhijit Sarkar, a young man of 26 years of age completed his three months training in the hospitality sector with Don Bosco Tech Monsada in 2012 and took up job as a fresher with Manipal County, Bangalore. He is a story of having faith and hope in one's dreams, he now stands as a role model in his village. Abhijit comes from Ranihati village, located 95 km north of Kolkata. His father was a meagre earner who could offer only basic schooling to his two sons. While in 2nd year of graduation Abhijit decided to join Don Bosco Tech, to get trained in Hospitality sector. "The decision to get a job through DB Tech placement department was the best thing that could have happened to me," says Abhijit while visiting his alma mater, DB Tech in Monsada.

Giving reason for taking up hospitality sector he said, "I knew I have no future in my village. I will not be able to get into a government job paying a huge amount. If I stay in the village, I would become just like my batch-mates – searching for a job and loafing around. This made me quit my village and look for a career elsewhere and I do not regret that decision."

"More than the skill I learnt at Don Bosco, it was the disciplined way of life I received there that kept me back in my job despite the mental battle to return home" shared Abhijit as he spoke about the struggle he had to stay on the job.

Mrs. Sheela Sarkar, Abhijit's step-mother (his mother died of kidney failure when he was in 8 class) contributes her mite by helping her husband to prepare puchka at home. "We spent about Rs.250/- a day to prepare what is needed to sell in the market. With our son working our living has improved but that is not the important thing. The education he got at Don Bosco and his hard work has slowly matured him into an honest man. While many of his friends are jobless in the village we are proud of our son who earned certain respectability in the village. He is the role model for my younger son", shared Mrs. Sheela, trying to hide her tears of joy.

"I had a dream ... get a job, buy a bike, build a home. I never thought I would reach this state. I plan to invest Rs. 6 lakhs on the house I am building now and later complete it" shared Abhijit as he spoke of his next plan to take up as a fresher in a Cruise ship for which he has already taken the needed certification.

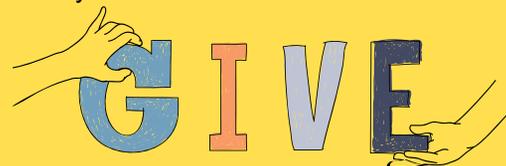
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acknowledge our top donors**

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