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VOICE OF SURABI



## Dear Readers,

Greetings. We are indeed very happy to release this New year issue E-Newsletter. We were able to reach out to the most needy and vulnerable in the society through our different projects with our team. Our Team is comprised of dedicated persons who are able to achieve the set goals

consistently. We are very much aware of the expansion for TEAM – ‘Together Everyone Achieves More’. So, I appreciate all our staff members, collaborators, donors and all stakeholders for their committed services and enlightened strategies to develop the young people.

We celebrated Christmas, New Year and Pongal with great enthusiasm with the people and Children in our intervention areas. Every single step we make towards the improvement of the livelihood of the vulnerable community, is really backed up by our Province. I sincerely thank Fr. KM Jose, our former Provincial who gave his full support to SURABI and for its developmental programs and projects. We heartily welcome our New Provincial Fr. L. Don Bosco and wish him all the best to take all our SURABI interventions to greater heights with his Creative Vision for the province and especially the poor youth.

We look forward to your kind cooperation and support in all our endeavors and programs. Together We Can Create Sustainable and Safe Planet for the Youth of Tomorrow.

Thank You

Fr. Joseph Leo

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# MICRO-CREDIT

Loan Program for Entrepreneurs

On 7th December 2022, Loan Program for 20 SHG entrepreneurs at Basin Bridge DBSSS was held. These women were given INR 50,000/- for self-employment. It was graced by Fr. Joseph Leo - SURABI Director, Mr. Gokul - Rotary club President, Mr. Ravikumar - Secretary and Mr. Palani (Former President of Rotary Club) and DBSSS animators. Fr. Leo appreciated the willingness of Self-Help Group women to become income earning members of their families as are they are the financial managers of the family. On the occasion of Christmas, he encouraged them to be simple and benevolent. Rotary club members reiterated their constant support and cooperation to make the women financially independent.



**Ms. Meena** has been running a small hotel with her sister for 8 years. Their hotel offer only breakfast and lunch. We have helped her to own this business entity with 3 loans (Starting with Rs. 20,000, then Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 50,000). She is a good example of timely repayment and motivator of other slum women.

## Capacity Building Training for Staff

The capacity building program is the process by which individuals in the organization would improve their skill management and leadership quality. SURABI team had a chance to have the Capacity building program on 21-01-2022. Mr. Mark Antony was the resource person of the day, who led the session on the theme of



“TEAM - Together Everyone Achieve More”. This program aimed to build the capacity of staff to participate in the transition process, according to the role and responsibilities they hold, and to prepare staff to take on new roles in different types of services.

# Human Rights Awareness Program for Youth

Human Rights Awareness program was organized by the DBSARC team on the Human Rights Day 2022 with the theme “**Knowing Rights and Growing Human**” at SIHARAM. 160 youth from BRAVE project (Irular, Thurambar, and Gypsies) from 7 locations (Bagalur, Veeralur, Tirupattur, Visuvasampatti, Gingee, Kurumberi and Irular Vattam) participated. Fr. Christopher initiated an ice-breaking session with some fun activities, and he made the participants understand the fundamental principles of human rights, the importance of human rights, Fundamental, Social and Cultural Rights, Child Rights, women Rights, SC/ST Rights. He briefly explained the UDHR's 30 articles that disregard Untouchability and Discrimination. Participants gained information about their rights and responsibilities at the end of the session. Through action songs, Mr. Ramu made them realize their rights. The participants were given the orientation about the preamble of our Indian Constitution and all recited together. They are now aware of their basic rights to safeguard themselves from exploitation.



# Building Effective Solutions Together

Monitoring visit to three project locations

The 3<sup>rd</sup> year of BEST project monitoring visit was conducted by SURABI Team and Fr. Joseph Leo, SURABI Director. He visited the Evening study centres at Gedilam, Kotagiri and Kadambur between 11<sup>th</sup> January to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The objectives of the visit were to know the Awareness level of child protection and safeguarding policy among the tutors. Besides, the team verified the placement of Child Safeguarding posters at the project locations. After interacting with the tutors and the children, few guidelines and inputs were shared. No child safeguarding violations occurred in BEST project locations.



## Training Workshop on Negotiation Skills (CSOs)

15 TOT CSO's each in 2 batches and 20 Key Staff CSOs in 9 Batches



The Negotiation skills training of 2 days each was conducted for 30 TOT members and 180 Key Staff (28 November to 19th December 2022). The training included Negotiation techniques, its types, skills, ethics and characteristics. Various methods of negotiation were taught with practical sessions. It encouraged these 120 CSOs to undertake negotiation services.

# Building Resilience and Vocational Excellence

The BRAVE project has begun to implement the activities. The project team visited all the targeted communities and completed the identification of villages, formed Women and Youth Groups, and have organized Orientation training programs. It is very challenging to motivate these vulnerable communities.



## FORMATION OF WOMEN & YOUTH GROUPS

### ZONE 1

Katpadi, Tirupattur MHC, SHC, Bagalur

#### Identified Villages

Katpadi, Irularvattam, Idayanagar, Visvasampatti, Bagalur

### ZONE 2

Polur VIA, Veeralur, SIHARAM, Gingee

#### Identified Villages

Polur, Veeralur, Chengam, Kannalam, Gingee

### ZONE 3

Pavunjur, Thirukazhukundram, Sagaythottam, Kadambathur

#### Identified Villages

Thondamanallur, Parasanallur, MGR Nagar, Vaiyalur, Aalathur, Oragadam, Anthoniyar Nagar, Irulencherry, Abdulkalam Nagar, Vidiyalur, Kanniammanagar

### ZONE 4

Gedilam, Maranodai, Cuddalore

#### Identified Villages

Fathimapalayam, Maranodai, Athivaraga Nallur

## Number of Groups Formed

### IRULAR

10

08

### THURUMBAR

09

06

### GYPSY

11

06

### TOTAL

30

20



# Women Empowerment Program

One-day Orientation program on Socio-Economic and Political Empowerment for the women groups in the identified villages

- Ms. Bharathy, Director of Good Will organization addressed the Women group and highlighted their capability in Financial power, Social power and Political power in view of the current scenario. It made them re-view the struggles of that these women face in their community over the years. Each participant have resolved to convince their families to see women as co-breadwinners of their families and they need to be recognized.



- Mr. Prakash, director of "Nammal Mudium" NGO specifically explained the situation of Irular women over the years. He also insisted the need and the importance to make their younger generation to tap their potentiality for community development.



# Stimulating Motivating Imaginative Learning Environment

The SMILE project focuses on Evening study centre at DBRITE Cuddalore. An awareness program on Nation Building and Child Rights building was conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> January for 700 children. The training program used Human rights approach keeping in mind UNCRC and SDGs, legal provisions assigned by the Government. Besides, children celebrated traditional art festival and expressed their child rights through street theatre, dance, singing and mime. The children participated on the traditional and modern day sports activities such as Kabaddi, Football, Marbles, volley ball. As a result of this intervention, 700 children participated and showcased their skills. It may result in these children becoming professionals in future.



## Environmental Training for Green Army Members

The Green Army Members training was conducted in 21 Don Bosco schools across Northern Tamil Nadu Districts of Tamil Nadu. It was facilitated by SURABI and Don Bosco Youth Empowerment Services. All these training programmes were conducted in December and January 2023. This intervention reached out to 630 children and all these children were sensitized on Environment issues and importance of Green initiative to create Green Don Bosco Schools across the INM province.







**Our Sincere Thanks To**  
**SIGA, Don Bosco College, Stella Maris College,**  
**Interns from Academic Institutions - Chennai**

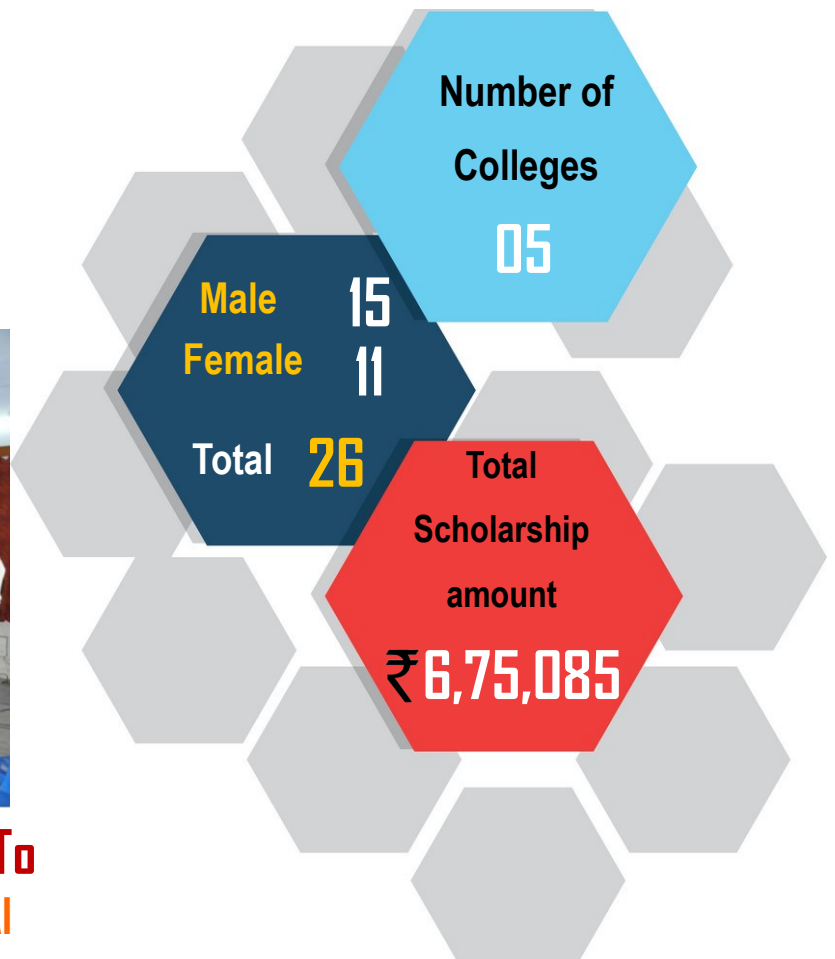


Abdulkalam Nagar, Nayanpakkam village and Vidaiyur are locations covered for this activity. We reached out to 65 families on the occasion of Christmas & New Year. These people are bonded laborers in the rice mills. The children do not study beyond 5th or 6th class. They get incorporated in bonded labour for meanal pay. The girl children are married about 12 years of age. The family (both husband and wife) are paid Rs. 100/- per day. They neither have land asset nor saving possibility. Though the Govt. has allotted Survey Number, Patta is still elusive. The majority community is against the these labourers' upheaval. We collected and distributed Dress Materials, Grocery, Personal Hygienic items, Educational materials, Toys, Eatables & Snacks.

## United Way COVID 19 Scholarship



**Our Sincere Thanks To**  
**UNITED WAY OF CHENNAI**



# Certification Ceremony of CSO's

SIHARAM Rector of the House has expressed his happiness about his interaction with the rural and remote CSO members about the impact of these trainings.

BoscoNet National Coordinator Mr. Louis Manohar has insisted the sorry state of the non-utilization of the Government Welfare Schemes promoted by the Central and the State Governments. He further highlighted the motive of the CSO Project i.e. To remove the lack of awareness to have access to the Welfare schemes and make the CSOs reach out to the people in a realistic manner this project has been envisaged. SURABI Director Fr. Joseph Leo SDB highlighted the importance of Networking that consists of Interest, Involvement and Inspiration to reach out to the marginalized and the unreached. Mr. Bharathi, Deputy Chairman of the Minority Commission of Tiruvannamalai District who represented Mr. K. Kumaran, Deputy Collector & Tiruvannamalai District Backward Welfare Officer urged the CSOs to optimally utilize the Citizen Chart website <tn.gov.in.citizenchart> to benefit the vulnerable and the most neglected community.

Mr. Rozario, Founder of POPE CSO and who have received Best Social activist by the French Government in 2021 has insisted on the unity to eradicate the poverty among the marginalized communities. Fr. Selva SJ, Loyola College, Vettavalam reiterated the need for Scientific Approach in Networking ability of the CSOs. Insisted on the importance of Survey in the service area of the CSOs; Documenting the emotional impact systematically. Guided the CSO representatives the nuances of collecting information, Documentation, Reporting and Networking.



# Christmas Sharing 2022

As commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, we the SURABI staff joined together for the Christmas celebration at the SURABI office on 20-12-2022 at 10 am. We started the celebration with a short prayer and ended with a delicious meal. Christmas message given by Fr Leo, Director of SURABI was on the "Second Coming of Jesus Christ". Gift sharing by the staff also had been part of the event. Along with staff, two volunteers Ms. Leena and Ms. Lea from Austria also joined with their families and shared in this festivity.



## Pongal Celebration

It is a celebration to thank the Sun, Mother Nature, and the various farm animals that help to contribute to a bountiful harvest. As a sign of thanksgiving to mother nature, we joined hands with the SIGA community and ARUMBU publication,



to celebrate Pongal at SURABI on 13-01-2022. Pongal also marks the beginning of the Tamil month called Thai, which we considered the month of happiness. This eco-friendly Pongal celebration emphasized the contribution of SURABI towards the sustainable environment.

# New Building for Veeralur School

The New Building for Don Bosco School, Veeralur was inaugurated by Fr. K. M. Jose, the outgoing Provincial on 28th January 2023. The block comprises of 6 classrooms for the upper primary school children. INM province and SURABI grateful for this noble initiative by Jugendhilfe Weltweit, Switzerland. Efforts are on to facilitate the needy infrastructural developments.



# Installation of New Provincial

# 20<sup>23</sup> 29

The official letter from the Rector Major, Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, designating Fr. Biju Michael as his representative at the installation ceremony, was read by Fr. Dominic Matthews, the Province Secretary. At the beginning of the mass, Fr. Jose Kochamkunnel, the outgoing Provincial, welcomed the priests and the faithful. During the homily, Fr. Biju Michael spoke about servant leadership and how to be fruitful in serving God faithfully. Following the homily, Fr. Biju Michael read the official letter of the Rector Major appointing Fr. Don Bosco Lourdusamy as the Provincial of the Salesian Province of Chennai from 2023-2029. Fr. Don Bosco made the profession of faith, took the oath of fidelity and signed the document with the witnesses, Frs. Bellarmine and Tharsius. Fr. K.M. Jose, in his thanksgiving message, thanked the Provincial Council members, Rectors, heads of various commissions, the Province Secretary and the Provincial Secretary for their constant support during his term of leadership. Fr. Rajkumar, Rector of Don Bosco Provincial House, Chennai, felicitated the new Provincial and recalled the leadership qualities he had exhibited during the formation days. Bishop of Chengalpattu and the Administrator of Vellore Diocese, Several Provincials and representatives from other Salesian Provinces of India were also present for the event. Fr. New Provincial has charted out road map for his tenure by saying 'authority is always related to service and the power of the cross'. He insisted on the essential qualities of preparation, participation and communion for being faithful to God's call. Best Wishes to him and his chairmanship of SURABI Trust.





# Upcoming EVENTS

## YOUTH 4 CHANGE

Students & Teachers from  
Belgium

Cultural Exchange  
Trip to Chennai  
Region, India

# Thank You

Fr. Jose Kochamkunnel

For the yeoman service rendered  
to the Province and SURABI for  
the past six years



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