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VOICE OF SURABI

# SDB For Change Congress



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DIRECTOR - SURABI

## Dear Readers

We are glad to publish 2<sup>nd</sup> E-Newsletter of SURABI, the Project Development Office of Salesian Province of Chennai. First, this E Newsletter focuses on change, especially on unparalleled moment which affects us deeply. The world is on the verge of global change and the results will imply the whole world for a long time. In fact, the SDB Change Congress was organized from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September by the Salesian Congregation in Italy with the aim of providing solutions and guidelines to better deal with current change.

We highlighted the key activities, programs, and accomplishments in these interventions on change. SURABI is grateful to all those collaborating at different stages of the project planning, project implementing, project monitoring, the donor agencies, contributors, SURABI staff, volunteers and Interns. I am happy to collect your feedback and comments after you have gone through this E-Newsletter.

The four days' Seminar on SDB Change Congress titled "Our Chance Our Challenge" was organized for the Economers and PDOs was held between 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Rome. The seminar insisted on the innovative ways of intervention in the lives of young people. It highlighted the needy Change in our Attitude and Action. It also focused on Chances and Challenges as we pursue in the field of women empowerment, environment protection and climate change. The Congress of the Salesians of Don Bosco strives to enhance the ability to network in the economic field by promoting the connection and exchange between Economers, through regional meetings and international seminars. It is a highly opportune time for a constructive global change where the decisions are bound to influence the whole world for a long time. The Salesian Congregation will follow Change Congress Seminars' outcomes and vigorously extend its role to the fullest. Let the words of wisdom from Pope Benedict XVI "Educating young people in justice and peace", motivate and guide us in the conviction that they, with their enthusiasm and well-guided drive, can offer new hope to the world for sustainable change



# On the road to financial independence

When we speak about empowered women, we visualize women occupying the positions of power; women in politics, in law, in corporate sector, in health, media or academics. To empower the women and enable them to become financially independent. SURABI initiated the Micro -credit program since 2016. The program benefitted 1200 slum women and transformed them to as breadwinners of their families. Their children are being academically empowered for their better future.



A loan distribution event was held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Joe Tech Campus, Basin Bridge. 50 individual SHG women received Rs .40 ,000 each for their income generation activities . Mr . Azhagesan , Assistant Commissioner of Pulianthope exhorted the importance of women leadership and economic independence . So far , 100 women continue to be entrepreneurs through this intervention



## Our impact on urban slum women



I'm Hemavathi , 20 years old from Imaigal SHG . I'm studying B.com 3<sup>rd</sup> year. My father is a bus conductor and my mother is Tailor. I have applied for this loan for my education (Semester fees). This loan will be repaid by my parents but I do support my parents to repay the loan (I will go for part-time job).

I'm Poonguzhali from Nightingale SHG. I'm 30 years old. My mother-in-law had been selling vegetables.



Unfortunately, she passed away due to old age. Now I'm interested in doing the same job. For that, I'm getting this loan. I just planned to sell the vegetables in a push cart near my house.

Along with them Fr Joseph Leo, SURABI director and Fr Alphonse Arulanandam, DBSSS director were also present in the program. Mr. Azhagesan addressed the gathering by sharing his experience to the women. He motivated the women for their financial independence and to be the harbingers for change in their locality.

# Life without identity

## Breaking the barriers

**BRAVE** (Building Resilience and Vocational Excellence) project is one of the new initiatives of SURABI which primarily focuses on social transformation and upliftment of Irular, Thurambar and Gypsy communities

Through Sustainable Livelihood and creating awareness of Human Rights for around 4460 male, 4900 female among Youth, Women, and Disabled either directly or indirectly proposed to be benefitted.

On 31.08.2022 the project, BRAVE was launched by Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj SJ, Provincial of Jesuit Chennai Province, and Fr. K.M. Jose Kochamkunnel SDB, Provincial of Salesian Chennai Province. Fr. Joseph Leo, Director SURABI and representing the Gypsy, Thurambar and Irular Communities.

At this juncture, study on the Socio-Economic status of the marginalized communities in Northern Tamil Nadu was presented by Fr. Selvaraj Arulnathan S.J, Director of Loyola College, Vettavalam.

This project has been initiated with collaboration of rectors in reaching out to the target group in various locations of the province.

Accordingly, started the beginning process of meeting the Rectors from the targeted locations to collect the data of the Irular, Thurambar and Gypsy who survived there and to execute the BRAVE project effectively.



# Up-Skilling of Teachers

As per the UNICEF, one in seven adolescents aged 10 to 19 is estimated to live with a diagnosed mental disorder globally, and approximately 46,000 dies from suicide every year; it is among the top five causes of death in this age group. This indicates that the role of a teacher in contemporary situations is beyond academics. They need the training to fit as a tutor, coach, mentor, counsellor, instructor, and friends to establish a well-ordered classroom with proper techniques to ensure the mental well-being of students.



The capacity building program was conducted for the BEST project tutors on 28-08-22 at Mount Don Bosco, Kotagiri. A one-day participatory workshop improved capacity of tutors through activity training program. The methodology of the workshop included participatory exercises to engage all the tutors through Power Point presentations and experience sharing and clarifications of doubts. As a result, 75 tutors were trained on child centred methods and child rights approaches. Children will be guided to reach their personal goals with self-confidence.



## Visit of Rector Major to the Province



“The pastoral visit is an apostolic endeavor, an event of grace”. On September 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 was the grace-filled moment in the history of SURABI, as Rector Major blessed the staff at The Citadel.

The Rector Major reached Chennai on the 2nd Sept. He officiated Centenary Celebrations at Auxilium College Katpadi, and visited Don Bosco Katpadi and Don Bosco Beatitudes Centre. On his way back home, he blessed SURABI staff. His visit filled with untiring spirit and simplicity motivates us the staff to be committed to our work. Long live Rector Major.

S2S

# School to School

S2S is a bridge between Belgian schools & Indian schools and making children learn from each other. This sustainability and the partnership between school is the focus on educational goals ie, share knowledge and experiences about each owns society , culture , values , dreams and worries. For children it is an opportunity to widen their view on their world and acquire new skills , inter-cultural skills , linguistic skills . On the other for the teachers, it is an opportunity to exchange good practices that can improve the quality of teaching and learning. The predominate goal of S2S is building solidarity between people. In short , this project is an educational tool for global formation and world citizenship with exchange of experiences , through capacity building , inter-cultural exchange and expression of solidarity . So far, we have linked 5 INM Don Bosco Schools with Boys and Girls and 14 Teachers with 5 Belgian Schools.



## Pope John's Garden Ayudha Pooja Celebration

Pope John's Garden (PJG) provide Medical care and Social rehabilitation for people with leprosy and the educational and training needs of HIV children. PJG provides shelter to all irrespective of religion, caste and creed. On October 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, the inmates and the children of PJG happily celebrated Ayudha

Pooja, a day for thank giving of machineries sense of belonging and responsibility was seen among the children and elders. Elders happily distributed sweets among themselves . It made them that they are still cared and useful to the world



## Green Issues need to be actively taught in schools



Green Hands Project is a journey towards a greener future. The project is aimed to reach out to teachers and students of Don Bosco institutions of Chennai Salesian province. This project has various environmental activities which are carried out in these institutions. Formation and training of the Core teacher's forum is the first activity which was held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of September. It was held in two regions covering 24 teachers. The topics included a) Criteria for Green audit in the campus, b) Global warming and the environmental issues. c) Practical session on planting a sapling. Fr. Jeyaraj, Dr. Vajra Vijayan, Fr. Anto Sagayaraj and Mr. Nathan were the resource persons for the training program. We thank the institutional heads for collaborating to combat climate change by forming Green Army and promoting environmental safeguarding initiatives in their institutions.



# JUWE TEAM VISIT TO INM PROVINCE

POPE JOHN'S GARDEN



VEERALUR



POLUR VIA



POLUR ITI



SIHARAM



CUDDALORE





VYASARPADI

BASINBRIDGE



SURABI



OFFICE

Jugendhilfe Weltweit ( JuWe) team, Switzerland consist of Mr. Desiree Schopfer, Project Manager Mr. Patrick Muller, Financial Director Ms. Katharina Kocherhans, communication manager visited INM province between 05th November to 09th November 2022. They visited the below locations for the various projects in the INM province.

Places Visited

- 1.Pope John's Garden
- 2.Veeralur
- 3.Polur VIA
- 4.Polur ITI
- 5.SIHARAM
- 6.Cuddalore
- 7.Vyasarpadi
- 8.Basin Bridge



Thank you for Your Support to INM Province

# Children's Day Celebration



On 13th November 2022, Evening study center children at Thalavadi celebrated children day on the theme of Eradication of drugs among Tribal communities. 350 Children exhibited their talents through art forms namely Dance, Mime, Street play and awareness songs. Thus, 350 children participated and demonstrated their skills.



Women groups of BRAVE Project organized the children's day on 16th November 2022 at Arugilpadi Village. The Government Primary School Teachers and the community participated. Mr. Fino from SURABI addressed the **Importance of Education**. Besides, Stella Maris College interns facilitated fun activities to the children.



Providing a safe and secured residence is the only way to improve their quality of life of Thurambar families, their children are able to pursue education. SURABI in collaboration with the local Salesian communities and financial assistance from funding agency built 5 concrete houses to fulfill the basic needs of the most marginalized communities in the INM province.

Your kindness and generosity reached the hearts of many individuals this year.

Thank you for your continued support to the organization through your initiatives.

We will forever be grateful for everything you have done and given.



**SURABI - Strategic Urban Rural Advancement Backing Institute**

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