

# FEB/MAR - 2023

## VOL 1: ISSUE 4



# FOCUS



## VOICE OF SURABHI



**Fr. Joseph Leo**  
**Director - SURABI**

## Dear Readers,

Greetings,

Climate change is a pressing issue that we must address today. It is crucial to raise awareness about the devastating effects of climate change and to take measures to protect our planet. Various surveys have shown that climate change can lead to severe consequences such as rising sea levels, frequent natural disasters, and loss of biodiversity.

One of the actions that is directly affecting our environment through our carbon footprint is use of air conditioners. Air conditioners not only affect the fabric of our atmosphere but also prolonged exposure to air conditioning can have adverse effects on our health. To mitigate the harmful effects of air conditioning, we can focus on natural air conditioners such as planting trees. Trees not only provide shade but also act as natural air filters, nourishing the environment with fresh oxygen.

It is fascinating to note that trees have many other benefits besides being natural air conditioners. For instance, a single tree can absorb as much as 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and can provide a home for countless species of animals. Trees also play a vital role in reducing noise pollution as they absorb sound waves and help in creating a serene environment.

Therefore, planting trees is a crucial step towards addressing climate change and protecting our planet. As Herman Hesse once said, "Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth." We must take action to raise awareness and encourage the planting of trees as a way to protect our planet.

SURABI took initiative along with other Salesian institutions to conduct Nature camp at Kotagiri. We imparted an idea of protecting the environment through plantation of trees and avoiding plastics. We obtained good response from students, teachers, the heads of Institutes and exchanged positive feedback. We are indeed grateful to all of them. We also thank students and volunteers of VIA Don Bosco for having visited our schools in Urban and Rural Areas to discuss various issues especially on climate change. We are grateful for all these volunteers who engaged in various activities to exchange cultural and social knowledge, skills and attitudes.

As William Blake said, "The tree, which moves some to tears of joy, is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way. Some see nature all ridicule and deformity while others see it all beauty and delight. But if a human being awakens to a profound sense of kinship with the world, around him, then he or she will see that suffering and destruction of the earth are also suffering and destruction of themselves." We must strive to understand this profound sense of kinship and take steps to protect our living space. Together, we create resilient communities who protect environment and thrive our mother nature.

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## “YOUTH FOR CHANGE”

2 Coordinators from VIA Don Bosco Belgium, came with 9 Students and 3 Teachers of Sint Calasanz Instituut, Nonnenstraat 21, 2560 Nijlen, Belgium to visited Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School - Pannur for joint activity for Youth for Change. They visited Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Pannur and Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary school, Pondicherry.



# SCHOOL 2 SCHOOL PROGRAM

Three Coordinators Ms. Kaat Maria K Torfs, Ms. Daniëlle Wopereis, Ms. Nora Boukan from VIA Don Bosco Belgium visited SURABI to evaluate the existing schools (Pondicherry, Katpadi, Redhills, Ayanavaram and Pannur) and to look for new schools (Egmore, Santhome (3), Broadway, talavady, Tirupattur) to extend our school to school project reachability.



# DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIP FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



The 3<sup>rd</sup> segment of CSR collaboration with United Way was Orphans and semi orphans' College scholarship. For this, we coordinated with Udhavum Ullangal, CIT Nagar, Nandanam, Chennai 600 035. With Mr. Subramani – Coordinator of Udhavum Ullangal, they gave Rs. 10,000/- for 29 students. Mr. R. Santhanam the Trustee from Udhavum Ullangal Public Charitable Trust, came to Don Bosco Arts and Science College, Kilpauk to handover the cheque for Rs. 2,00,000/- to Fr. Praveen Peter, the Principal of the College. And he also came to SIGA to handover the cheque for Rs. 90,000/- to Fr. Nallayan Pancras the Rector of the Community. These 29 students will be supported by them until the completion of the course.



# ONLINE MEET by

## United Way



On 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March : The topics covered were Self-Management, Social skills and Vision would contribute for the success in the journey and the topics are divided into modules like

- Emotional Intelligence
- Professionalism
- Personal effectiveness
- Communication skills
- Problem solving
- Customer Service

## SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY

"Success is a Journey" program for scholarship students conducted by Uthavum Ullangal on Sunday, 26th March 2023. 29 students have participated in the program.



# STRENGTHENING THE DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Accountants Training program was held at Yellagiri from 23.03.2023 to 25.03.2023 and focused on strengthening the document management systems and SSP Software for the Schools and Institutions in the province. In this training program, 57 accountants participated and gained the knowledge on especially EPF, TDS, Handing over documents, DMS updates, FCRA updates, and Society renewal updates. Fr. Edwin Vasanthan, Provincial Economer shared his thoughts on the current events of the province initiatives on the upgradation of AcMe ERP accounts software, SSP software for the school fees collections and its integrated approach towards smooth functioning of accounting works. Therefore, this program has helped us to integrate our works with recent developments in the province.



# WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION & LOAN DISTRIBUTION



Don Bosco Social Service Society partnered with Rotary club Chennai and SURABI, organized the loan distribution programme & Women's Day at Basin Bridge on **23.03.2023**. Around 4.30 pm the function started with devotional song with about 150 Self Help Group Women participated in this program.

The loan distribution was held in the presence of Fr. Joseph Leo, Director SURABI, Fr Job Administrator JoeTech ITI, Mr. Gokul Rotary Club president, Mr. Ravi Rotary Club Secretary, Mr. Karthik Rotary Club member. MS. Parvathi Nagarajan (Women Entrepreneurship Trainer) & MS. Shoba Advocate (Madras High Court) were invited as special guest for the program.

Later on, Fr. Joseph Leo, interacted with the women and motivated them with his words that women are the power house of our families. He also mentioned that women should be more focused to solve their problems in a more systematic way.

Followed by Mr. Gokul President spoke about women empowerment and its impact that creates in the society. He also pointed out that women should start new business and grow their business in more viable manner. Consequently, it improves the standard of their living.

45 individuals SHG women received an amount of INR 40,000 each for their income generation activities.





Loan Distribution



Awareness on Women Rights



Women's Day Celebration



Dance Performance by women

To ensure the spiritual growth of the staff, the SURABI team has come together on 25.03.2023 at St. Thomas Little Mount Church for Retreat which was a perfect opportunity to start or reboot our relationship with God. It involved the ongoing conversion of heart and mind and committing ourselves to the almighty. The retreat included the theme of 'Our relationship to God and our social duties and responsibilities' which was very helpful to deepen our relationship with Jesus and society. The retreat, which focused on Easter, was intended to prepare the staff to greet the upcoming celebrations with joyful and repentant hearts. The retreat was very simple but the effects are lasting.

## SPIRITUAL ANIMATION FOR SURABI STAFF



## CAREER GUIDANCE PROGRAM

A career guidance one-day training program was conducted for the adolescents who studied 11th std & 12th std at Don Bosco Higher Secondary school, Sagayathottam as a part of one of the BRAVE activities. Fr. James, Director of the Don Bosco Vazhikaatti organization gave a felicitation and insisted the students should be "Change Makers" since they are the future of their own life as well as of society. Mr. Mohan Prem, Career Guidance & Training, Project Coordinator cum Facilitator, gave the keynote address on the whole structure of the career related to various fields with fun and thoughtful activities. Mr. Leo, Project Coordinator, Don Bosco Vazhikaatti provided the tips and techniques for preparing and attending the Exams. Fr. Arokiasamy, Rector wished all the students to make use of the Career Guidance training throughout their life. Totally, 162 students benefitted from the one-day Career Guidance training programme.



# BRAVE - WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

To honor Womanhood, SURABI has celebrated International Women's Day based on the topic Women's Rights in the Family Network. BRAVE Project women group and the girls from the Villages Anthonyar Nagar, Oragadam, Aalathur, Paiyanur, Kodungalur and MGR Nagar of Tirukazhukundram attended the one-day Training program.



The programme was conducted in Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Tirukazhukundram and the Chief guest Mr Pichai Muthu, Panchayat leader and Rector Fr. Varghese Choorackal, Principal of Don Bosco College felicitated the program. The Keynote speaker P. Dasaradhan, Advocate of Madras High Court spoke about Women's Rights in the Family Network. It was more an interactive session than a speech the members of the programme asked the resource person lot of questions based on their experience. The Keynote Speaker dealt with many issues namely, a) The basic rights of women such as Domestic violence, Dowry, Discrimination, Equal remuneration act; b) Gender discrimination and how a woman in a house should be treated; c) Importance of Girls education; d) Gender roles and stereotypes. He encouraged us to utilize the Helpline number cards namely childline 1098, Women Helpline 181, Domestic Violence Helpline 1090. The women participants have taken a vow to utilize these numbers effectively as and when required. 144 Women and Girls from Irular, Thurumbar, and Gypsy communities jointly participated in the Training program. This training program made the three communities people know each other also they get the chance to know their problems and they could relate their own problems commonly.



Most of the participants shared about the problems they face on a daily basis and they were very enthusiastic to know what their rights were. The program ended with the Vote of thanks.

# NATURE CAMP



SURABI, Province development office has taken an initiative to strengthen environmental activities in the Don Bosco Institutions through Green Hands Project. Nature Camp was the major component of the project. It was conducted for Green Army members on 11th and 12th March 2023 at Mount Don Bosco, Kotagiri. The objective of the camp was to provide knowledge on Ecology, Environment, Biodiversity and trekking experience towards a greener future. Mr. Kalidasan - OSAI, Ms. Habeeba Fathima – Key Stone, Fr. Dolphie SDB and Bro. Antonyraj were resource persons for Nature Camp. Totally 102 students and 22 teachers from Don Bosco Institutions have benefitted through this intervention. Nature Camp 2023 enhanced an out door experience and memories that last a lifetime for children.



# SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAM



One day Training programme was conducted on 'Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights'. In the beginning, a small orientation about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights was given by Ms. Leni on behalf of the SURABI Trust. The participants of the training programme belong to the Irular, Gypsy, and Thurumbar communities. In all, 148 women and young girls benefitted through this training programme.

The programme was conducted in Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Tirukazhukundram. The Chief guest Fr. John Joseph, Secretary of Don Bosco College felicitated the program. The speaker, Ms. Kanchana, Project coordinator Cum SRHR trainer, Thozhamai spoke about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and menstruation and how women should take care of their health during this time. She also spoke about the prevailing myths and stereotypes on this topic. She gave inputs for pregnancy concern and healthy practices. The resource person spoke about vaginal health during the time of menstruation, hygienic practices. She highlighted the need of nutrition specifically for a girl child at all stages of development.

# DISTRIBUTION OF (Solar Emergency Lights, Bedsheets, Tarpaulin and Cloth Bags) THROUGH RESPONSE PROJECT

Cuddalore  
**75** Families

Vellore  
**65** Families

Tiruvallur  
**118** Families

Gedilam  
**47** Families

Thiruvannamalai  
**15** Families





**Ms. Manju**

2<sup>nd</sup> Year BSW  
Stella Maris College

SURABI gave me many opportunities for personal and professional growth which cannot be found everywhere. This organisation has made me realise about self and also how important it is to acknowledge our privilege and help everyone in need. This Internship has made me more responsible, observant and creative in many ways.



**Mr. Staines**

1<sup>st</sup> Year MSW  
Mar Gregorious College

SURABI has been supportive of my initiative and encouraged me to strive for excellence. They represent and support people who are marginalized, oppressed and underprivileged. Their unwavering support has been instrumental in my growth and development. The organisation have been very helpful in identifying and enhancing the values and skills of every individual.

**INTERNS SPEAK**

**We Thank Our Donors for their consistent support**



**DON BOSCO MISSION BONN**



**Don Bosco**



**DON BOSCO Jugendhilfe Weltweit**



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