

FOCUS

VOICE OF
SURABI

BI-MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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JUNE-JULY 2023, VOLUME 1: ISSUE 6

Editorial

Dear Partners,

As we traverse the pages of the SURABI Chronicles, an inspiring narrative unfolds - a tapestry woven with dedication, compassion, and a relentless pursuit of positive change. The voyage embarked upon by SURABI, stands as a testament to the transformative potential of collective effort and unwavering commitment.

This E-newsletter focuses on the projects and programmes which are carried out during the months of June and July 2023. The journey with different stakeholders has given numerous learnings in the implementation of various projects. In a special way, we have carried out Training programmes for Evening Study Tutors of BEST and DREAM Projects. Through this

training, we have reached out to 163 Tutors. They have learned to be a creative and use their value-added teaching ability. SURABI also carried out the Training programmes through BRAVE and POWER projects by which nearly 160 women were empowered.

It's evident in every footstep taken during the Green Hands Projects, monitoring visit, as they assess the ripple effect of their eco-initiatives in educational institutions. The journey with SURABI is a symphony of diverse efforts orchestrated towards a harmonious future. Our gratitude extends to the donors, collaborators, and partners who have consistently stood by us, providing unwavering support.



Fr. Joseph Leo,
Director,
SURABI



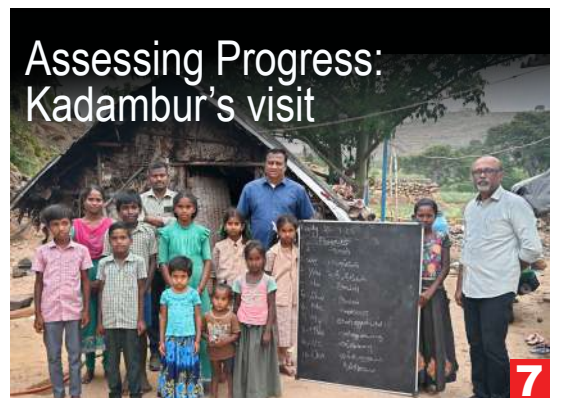
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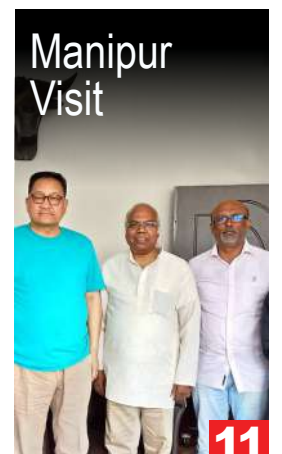
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SURABI Team’s Resolute Stand for a Cleaner, Greener Future

In a joyous celebration of World Environment Day, the SURABI team united to take a resolute stand against environmental issues. Through in-

formative sessions and discussions, they understood the detrimental impact of environmental problems on the planet and committed to minimizing their contribution to these challenges in

their workplace and community. With unwavering determination, they pledged to raise awareness, promote eco-friendly alternatives, and collaborate with others to address the pressing environ-

mental concerns. This momentous occasion marked the beginning of life-long commitment to creating a cleaner, greener, and sustainable world for present and future generations.



BEST Stakeholders Meeting

The BEST project stakeholders meeting held at the SURABI office on 15-06-2023 was a resounding success, commencing with a warm welcome and a soulful prayer song, fostering a positive and united atmosphere. 5 Salesians and 2 lay staff participated.



Training on Mushroom Cultivation

The An income generation training program recently took place at DBRITE in Cuddalore, as part of BRAVE Project, focusing on Mushroom Cultivation. About 15 women from Agraputhunagar village, along with 10 teachers and several students from DBRITE participated. The highlight was a comprehensive training led by experienced trainer Ms. Shanmuga Priya. Through hands-on sessions, participants learned vital aspects of mushroom cultivation and marketing linkages.

Training on Homecare products

Under the BRAVE project, a significant Income Generation training program at Tirukazhukundram focused on crafting Home Care Products for Vulnerable women.



Training on Candle making

The BRAVE project remains dedicated to providing comprehensive Income Generation Training focusing on Mushroom Cultivation and Candle Making.



Green hands projects monitoring visit



SURABI director Fr. Joseph Leo, along with a team, conducted a comprehensive monitoring visit on 10-07-2028 to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the Green Hands Projects at Tirupattur (Domnic Savio School, Sacred Heart College, Don Bosco HR. Sec School, Auxilium ITI) and Jolarpettai (Don Bosco Primary School). The visit aimed to evaluate the impact of these institutions' eco-initiatives and their commitment to environmental conservation. Each educational institution showcased remarkable



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able eco-friendly practices, such as rainwater harvesting, waste segregation, and tree plantation.

In conclusion, the visit reaffirmed the significance of the Green Hands Projects and the inspiring

efforts made by these institutions in promoting a greener and more sustainable future. Their dedication serves as a model for others, fostering a collective commitment to safeguarding the planet for generations to come.



DREAM Project: TK Puram, Katpadi”

The DREAM project (Dedicating Resources to Educating and Mentoring) has been making significant strides in fighting child labour and providing educational opportunities to vulnerable children. Recently, Fr. Joseph Leo, the director of SURABI, and his team visited four Child Labour Combating Centers (CLCCs) in TK Puram, Katpadi, to assess the project’s impact. Witnessing the positive outcomes.

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs

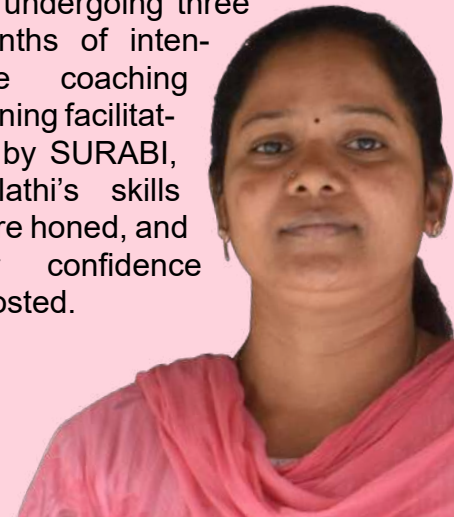
On 12th July 2023, the Loan Program for entrepreneurs was held at Basin Bridge DBSSS, where 30 Self Help Group women were granted INR 40,000 each for self-employment. The program, graced by SURABI Director Fr. Leo, DBSSS Director Fr. Sebastian, Rotary club president Mr. Ravi Kumar, and other dignitaries, commenced with a prayer song. Fr. Leo emphasized the importance of empowering women and expressed his joy in supporting women achievers through loan funds. He praised the successful 100% repayment rate at Basin Bridge and the impactful work.





Empowering Women Entrepreneurs

Malathi, a determined leader, has been heading the Para Shakti Group in Tirukovilur, Tiruvannamalai district, for the past five years. With 15 members under her guidance, she has successfully run a beautician and Aariwork business for seven years. Her journey began with a strong desire to empower women in her community. After undergoing three months of intensive coaching training facilitated by SURABI, Malathi's skills were honed, and her confidence boosted.



Assessing Progress: Kadambur's visit

On 22nd August 2023, Fr. Joseph Leo, SURABI Director had monitoring visit to Kadambur's Evening Study Center. The visit aimed to evaluate the progress and impact of the project at the study center. As the team interacted with the students and staff, they gained valuable insights into the effectiveness of the program in providing educational support and enhancing learning opportunities for the students. The visit allowed the team to witness first-hand the positive changes brought about by the BEST project in empowering young minds and fostering a conducive environment for academic development of these remote tribal villages.



Andaman's POWER

We are pleased to announce the successful completion of the POWER project training on the captivating shores of the Andaman Islands. A total of 70 women were beneficiaries of this transformative initiative.

Empowering Education of Tribal Children in Tamil Nadu

SURABI, the Project Development Office of INM province, has been making significant strides in the lives of rural and tribal districts of Northern Tamil Nadu with 135 Community Learning Centres for the past 25 years. BEST Project (Building Effective Solutions Together) Evening Study centers have left a profound impact on 2940 tribal children. It is Functioning in 5 locations - Thalavadi, Kadambur, Kotagiri, Gedilam, and Tiruvannamalai. The program focuses on arithmetic, reading, and language comprehension, while also offering training in Human rights, Gender Sensitivity, and Environmental awareness. On July 23, 2023, the SURABI has organized a Capacity-building program for the 50 volunteers teaching in remote areas at Don Bosco Mission Office, Thalavadi. The goal was to enhance creative learning and teaching methods among these tutors. Esteemed guests Fr. L. Don Bosco (INM Provincial) and his council graced the occasion, commending the volunteers' relentless efforts in curbing school dropouts within tribal communities.



EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITORIAL

Fr. Joseph Leo, SDB
Director SURABI, Editor
director@surabiinm.org

Ms. Francis
Mr. Xavier
Ms. Priyanka

Ms. Lenni
Mr. Fino
Ms. Rani

DESIGN

Meril Anand KJ
Art Director
write2wedesign@gmail.com



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SURABI Staff Capacity Building Program at Tirukazhukundram

The recent staff capacity building program held on 29-07-23 at Tirukazhukundram marked a stride in SURABI's journey towards nurturing professional growth and excellence. With its strategic design to empower dedicated staff members through enhanced skills and enriched knowledge, the program emphasized the value of continuous learning. As the program concluded, the newfound knowl-



edge, honed skills, and strengthened connections promise heightened performance and innovation

across the organization. In harmony with SURABI's mission, this program underscores our dedication

of our invaluable staff, setting the course for continued growth and transformative impact and integrity.



Village Integrated Development: A recent CSR initiative

In a dedicated pursuit of comprehensive grassroots development, SURABI, the Province Development Office, and collaboration with BoscoNet embarked on a transformative journey in Tiruvallur district. The mission, aimed at uplifting Kattavur and Elaimbedu villages near Ponneri, addressed challenges encompassing infrastructure, education, healthcare, and livelihood. The journey commenced with a rapid



“Special thanks to DBTC, Kavaraipettai, for their invaluable support in facilitating the data collection process from the Kattavur village in Ponneri. Their dedication and collaboration greatly contributed to the success of this endeavor.

survey on March 24th, 2023, unearthing pressing issues like limited infrastructure access, education deficiencies, healthcare gaps, and

unemployment. This led to focused interventions and a call for Government involvement in Kattavur and Elaimbedu villages. The formu-

lation of a meticulous Terms of Reference were followed, setting the project’s course, and a pilot study on July 3rd, 2023, laid the groundwork for strategic interventions. The selection of committed researchers and a productive pilot visit further aligned tools and approaches with research goals. This journey of collaboration and commitment stands as a beacon of progress, heralding a tangible transformation for Tiruvallur district’s communities.

Manipur Visit

The Manipur State, known as the Jewel of North-eastern India, is currently facing one of the most challenging periods in its history due to ethnic conflicts and militancy. The violence and unrest have deeply affected both the Meitei and Kuki communities, resulting in attacks on churches, schools, and vulnerable sections like women and children.



The INM Province has extended a relief fund of 10 lakhs to provide emergency aid, and efforts through the Migrant Ministry have fa-

cilitated dry ration packs for affected families. To assess the possibilities of rehabilitation, a Salesian team consist Fr. Joseph Leo,

SURABI Director, Fr. Simolin, Migrant Ministry Director, Fr. Bosco Periyannayagam (IND) visited the devastated areas in Manipur between 12th to 16th July 2023, meeting with various authorities and relief camps. The situation is heart-wrenching, leaving uncertainties about the future of the displaced individuals, particularly the children. Plans for systematic emergency relief.





15 August, 2023



SURABI - Strategic Urban Rural Advancement Backing Institute

No. 45, Landons Road, Kilpauk, Chennai – 600 010

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