

FOCUS

VOICE OF
SURABI

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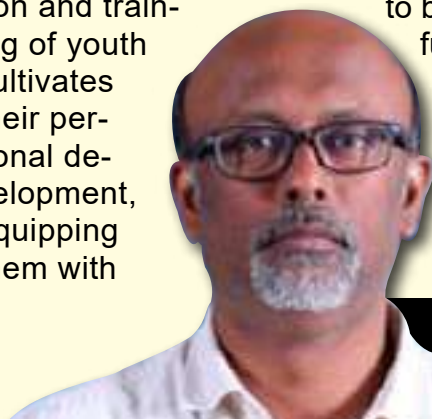
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EDITORIAL

Our mission

At SURABI, our mission is to empower vulnerable communities through education and training. We recognize the transformative power of these initiatives, particularly for women and youth. Through our training programs in 11 villages, we have seen firsthand how education equips individuals with knowledge and skills, breaking the cycle of poverty and enabling them to be agents of change. For women, education is a pathway to challenging gender roles, participating in leadership, entrepreneurship, and decision-making, and fostering inclusive communities. Similarly, investing in the education and training of youth cultivates their personal development, equipping them with

essential skills for success in a rapidly changing world, and nurturing values of social responsibility and justice. In conclusion, SURABI is dedicated to empowering marginalized communities by providing education and training opportunities. We believe that by investing in the education of women and youth, we create a positive ripple effect that not only uplifts individuals but also fosters inclusive communities. Through our training programs, we have witnessed the transformative impact of education in breaking the cycle of poverty and empowering individuals to become leaders and change-makers. We remain committed to building a brighter future for all through the power of education and training.



**Fr. Joseph Leo,
DIRECTOR**

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Unleashing creativity, igniting aspirations

The “Learn Arts & Cultivate Dreams” Summer Leadership Camp for Vulnerable Children, sponsored by Missioni Don Bosco, Torino, Italy, was a five-day residential camp held from May 12th to May 16th, 2023, at Don Bosco, Ennore. The camp, organized by the Youth Ministry Sector of the Chennai province, aimed to provide a platform for 196 vulnerable children from marginalized commu-



nities, including tribes, slums, deprived villages, and suburbs of Tamil Nadu. The focus was on develop-

ing their productive and creative skills while emphasizing socio-cultural values. Led by Rev. Fr. John Christy SDB and the Salesians of Ennore

Community, the camp featured 10 art forms, including theatre, paraiyattam, arts and crafts, puppetry, mime, martial arts.





Nurturing leaders, inspiring communities

As part of the BRAVE (Building Resilient and Vibrant Communities) - Community Leaders Programme, SURABI organized a training session for community leaders from selected villages on Leadership Quality and the Importance of Children's Education. The event saw the participation of 20 community leaders from Sagayathottam, Thirukazhukundram, Gedilam, Kadamathur and Cuddalore regions. The session began with an interactive discussion led by resource persons



Ms. Harriet from Stella Maris College, Chennai, and Ms. Dhanalakshmi from Soka Ikeda College, Chennai,

effective leadership. The training also highlighted the crucial role of community leaders in promoting and improving children's education. Fr. Joseph Leo spoke passionately about the transformative power of education and the importance of community leaders in supporting educational initiatives within their communities. The training equipped these participants with valuable insights, motivation, and knowledge to become effective leaders, fostering positive change and empowering their vulnerable future generations through education.

Empowering minds & embracing rights

The BRAVE project, recognizing the importance of human rights knowledge among marginalized youth, conducted a comprehensive Human Rights Training program in Sagayathottam and Kadamathur regions. With 50 enthusiastic participants, the training featured esteemed speakers, Mr. Raj, Sub-inspector of Police from the Special Branch CID, Chennai, and Mr. Isacc, Vice Principal of St. Joseph School, Gandhipet. The training covered fundamental aspects of human rights, including the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work, the right to education, and the rights against untouchability. Through interactive sessions, Mr. Raj engaged the participants in memorizing the Fundamental Rights, empowering them with a deeper



The training covered fundamental aspects of human rights, including the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture

understanding of their rights and responsibilities. Meanwhile, Mr. Isacc motivated the youth to voice their concerns when their rights get violated, fostering a sense of advocacy and empowerment within

the group. The Human Rights Training program served as a transformative clarion call, equipping marginalized youth with the necessary knowledge and confidence to assert their rights and actively contribute to a more just society.

Human Rights & Gender Equality (HRGE) Training

SURABI organized a Human Rights and Gender Equality (HRGE) Training program for the youth group from the Gedilam region, as part of the BRAVE project, with the aim of creating awareness and empowering individuals. The training session

commenced with Mr. Francis Xavier, Monitoring Officer at SURABI, Chennai, providing participants with an understanding of fundamental human right principles. He covered

topics such as the importance of human rights, Fundamental, Social, and Cultural Rights, Child Rights, Women's Rights, and SC/ST Rights. He also explained the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), with a specific focus on untouchability and discrimination.



Summer camp for tribal children



The BEST (Building Effective Solutions Together) project's summer camp was conducted in Thalavadi and Koatgiri, Gedilam, Kadambur, and SIHARAM. This initiative has proven to be incredibly beneficial for children in these

areas. The summer camp provided a platform for young participants to engage in various activities and workshops that fostered their personal growth and development. Through interactive sessions and skill-building exercises, the camp aimed to empower children,

equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary to thrive in the future. The BEST project's summer camp has undoubtedly made a positive impact on the lives of the children, enhancing their learning experience to broaden their horizons.



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English for Empowerment

From April 11th to May 20th, 2023, D B S A - RC and SURABI jointly organized the EEE (English for Empowerment and Employment) Course, a Spoken English program targeting community students at SIHARAM. A total of 60 students actively participated in the course, which aimed to enhance their communication, writing, soft skills, and employability. The comprehensive curriculum covered various aspects, including conjugations, tenses, passive voice, grammar terms, beginner phrases, English speaking basics, parts of speech, interviewing skills, personality development, and body language. The EEE Course provided students with hope and knowledge to tackle challenges in their lives, and they greatly appreciated the program, actively engaging throughout its duration. This learning should become handy in obtaining the sustained livelihood. The dedicated efforts of the fathers, staff, and all involved in the BRAVE project mission were highly valued and acknowledged by the students.

MOTIVATION: IGNITING THE SPARK WITHIN”

Udhavum Ullangal, a renowned organization for greatness. Attention focused on philanthropy and empowerment, hosted an impactful online meeting titled “Motivation: Igniting the Spark Within” on June 10, 2023. With esteemed speakers and interactive sessions, the event aimed to inspire and empower individuals from diverse backgrounds. The keynote speaker shared powerful strategies and success stories, reminding participants of their inherent potential for greatness. Attendees left the meeting with renewed energy, armed with practical tools and a sense of purpose to embark on transformative journeys. Udhavum Ullangal’s commitment to positive change was evident, and scholarship recipients from Don Bosco College Kilpauk and SIGA also benefited from this motivating event.

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BUILDING SPACES, INSPIRING CONNECTIONS

For the past two decades, there has been a pertinent request for a Multipurpose Open Hall at Don Bosco College of Arts and Science in

Karaikal. The students have longed for a safe and secure space to gather for their regular assemblies and other significant functions within the college. Furthermore, there was a lack of

covered space to conduct seminars and symposiums for the various departments of the institution. Recognizing this pressing need, Salesian Missions, New Rochelle, USA,

through SURABI, took action and provided the necessary infrastructure for 600 students by constructing the Multipurpose Open Hall. The construction has now been com-

pleted, and the hall serves multiple ventures such as Student's Assembly Hall, Study Hall, Examination Hall, as well as a venue for sports and cultural events within the college.



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Fostering Collaboration driving progress

The Annual Stakeholders Consultation meeting was held on June 3, 2023, at Don Bosco College of Agriculture in Sagayathottam with a resounding success. The event, organized under the Climate Smart Agriculture Program, brought together over 110 farmers along with village leaders and members of farmers' groups from 60 differ-

ent villages from Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, and Ranipet districts. The meeting commenced with a warm welcome address by Fr. Jayaraj, followed by Fr. Alphonse, who emphasized the meeting's importance and provided insights into the project's activities. The project coordinator, Mr. M. Periyasamy, shared the shareholding status and sector-wise achievements.

Climate Smart Agriculture Program, brought together over 110 farmers along with village leaders and members of farmers'

The interactive session allowed the farmers to raise questions and concerns, which were addressed by Agricultural Committee members. Mr. C. Venkatesan, Assistant Director of Agriculture from Thiruvallur district, shed light on Government

Agriculture Welfare Schemes and shared his field-level experiences. The event concluded with Mrs. Tanya Verony, Managing Director of Origination NGO, Chennai, who provided an overview of women's entrepreneurship activities in rep-

resentative villages. Fr. Arun Sagayaraj, Chief Analyst of the BMZ project, delivered the vote of thanks, signifying the successful conclusion of the meeting. The knowledge shared is expected to empower farmer club members in effectively managing their agricultural operations and fostering future expansion to other communities.



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