

# FOCUS

VOICE OF  
SURABI

BI MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

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**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2023, VOLUME 1: ISSUE 7**



18 October, 2023



# Editorial

## Dear Readers

I am delighted to present the Focus Issue 7 bi-monthly E-Newsletter for the month of October 2023. This issue mainly focuses on the CSR Conference, livelihood Support to the vulnerable, empowering the educators through capacity building trainings and various visits of the Donor to the project locations. The CSR Conference is a highly significant event that sets a benchmark for its scale, participation, and knowledge sharing. Our overall objective is to promote wealthy, resilient and responsible communities through inclusive livelihood opportunities. To enhance the economic livelihoods and technical

capacity of the vulnerable communities by scaling up support through livestock and admission of youth into technical and non-technical courses to build resilience and ensure greater self-reliance and social empowerment. Also I would like to thank the funding partners from Mission Don Bosco Torino and Mission Aid Ireland for their consistent support and the visitation to the project locations. We have worked diligently in our endeavour to make this visit a successful one. I am thankful to all those collaborating in different stages of the project implementation.



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**Fr. Joseph Leo,**  
**DIRECTOR**



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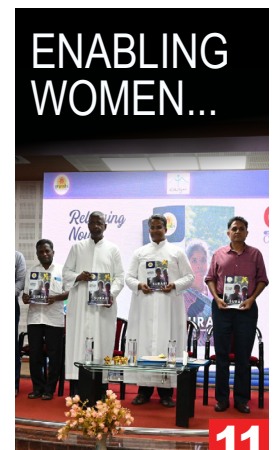
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# SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS

**T**hrough the United Way of Chennai, 15 students from Don Bosco Arts and Science College in Kilpauk were awarded individual scholarships amounting to Rs. 10,000 each, courtesy of the generous Udhavum Ullangal Public Charitable Trust. This significant financial support, in totality Rs. 1,50,000, was gratefully received by Mrs. Jacqueline, a ded-

icated staff member of Don Bosco Arts and Science College, on the 3rd of September 2023, at the prestigious TAG Auditorium located in T. Nagar, Chennai – 600 017.

In addition to this financial assistance, the students also had the invaluable opportunity to participate in a skill training program titled

“Success is a Journey,” expertly delivered by Mr. Sivaraman Ambalam, the Founder & CEO of Ikigai Growth Consulting LLP. These empowering sessions were designed to equip the students with the knowledge and skills they need to embark on their own paths to success.

Further enhancing the students’ educational journey, they have been invited to take part in an online knowledge program every second and fourth Sunday of the month, with sessions running from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This initiative aims to provide them with continuous learning opportunities and support as they pursue their academic and personal growth.



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# Empowering Educators:

**“Transformative Capacity Building for BEST and DREAM Tutors”**

For the past 25 years, SURABI, has been focused on 135 CLCs, serving as crucial educational hubs in underserved regions. The BEST Project operates with 86 CLCs, while the DREAM project operates with 20 CLCs, both proving to be highly impactful. Through these Evening Study centers, SURABI has touched the lives of 3595 tribal and rural children residing in seven key locations: Thalavadi, Kadambur, Kotagiri, Gedilam, Tiruvannamalai, Thiruka-



zhukundram, and Katpadi. On 06-08-2023, Capacity Building programme was conducted at Don Bosco, SIHARAM, specifically for tutors associated with the BEST and DREAM projects. The session, led by Fr. Anto Sagayaraj, Rector Don Bosco, SIHARAM,

focused on effective teaching through storytelling. Fr. John Christopher, Director DB-SARC, tutors learned innovative teaching methods. Fr. Joseph Leo, Director SURABI, covered creative approaches to teaching letters and sounds. A total of 43 tutors bene-

fitted from this intervention, gaining invaluable knowledge in effective learning methodologies and constitutional rights awareness. This investment in capacity building for educators promises to have a positive impact on students and the community.

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# Aspirations, Dreams, Perceptions of the Future Youth

**T**hrough VIA Don Bosco Belgium, an Article featuring a student of Don Bosco Art and Science College Kilpauk was published in Nederlands Dagblad on the 3rd of August 2023. This insightful article dealt with profound questions, exploring the essence of the youth of tomorrow. It delved into their aspirations, dreams, perceptions of the future, and their intricate relationship with the ever-evolving world that surrounds them.



## Visit of Fr. Daniel & Ms. Ester, Torino

**F**r Daniel and Ms Ester of Missioni Don Bosco, Turin visited INM Province 23-24, september. This visit assessed the progress, impact, and financial management of the project, and to ensure alignment with the objectives outlined in the contract. They visited a) the DREAM project evening study centres,



Thirukazhkundram and Katpadi; b) Don Bosco Matriculation School, Gedilam, and interacted with 30 Higher Study scholarship recipients; c) Inaugurated a music

school at St. Josephs ITI, Katpadi; d) Took part in a SHG Loan distribution at Polur. e) The BRIGHT Project for Dalit Children, Youth, and Women was inaugurated by

Fr Daniel and Ms. Ester at Polur as part of the event. f) They visited Saranalaya Pope John's Garden and met the confidence personified girls



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## Training of Trainers - “Sowing the Seeds of Sustainability”

**T**he Training of Trainers program, held on August 19, 2023, at two locations namely Don Bosco Kalvisolai in Pondicherry and at SIGA in Chennai. It was replicated on September 2nd 2023 at Don Bosco Orphanage in Katpadi. The program aimed to equip educators from Don Bosco Institutes with the necessary expertise and tools to promote sustainability and environmental awareness in their respective institutions. The main objective



of this training is to empower educators with knowledge about sustainability practices, to develop their skills as trainers who can impart this knowledge effectively and to create a network of educators committed to sustainability.

The program comprised a range of

activities such as expert-led workshops on sustainability principles and practices, Hands-on training in eco-friendly teaching methodologies, Group discussions and knowledge sharing sessions, Field trips to observe sustainable practices in action, Development

of training modules and materials. 46 teachers participated in the training program. Participants formed valuable connections with like-minded educators, facilitating future collaboration. Each participant developed an action plan to implement sustainability initiatives at their respective institutes. By equipping educators with knowledge and skills related to sustainability, it laid the foundation for positive change within the Don Bosco Institutes and the broader community.



# Livelihood Support for the Women Groups

**S**upporting women from vulnerable communities like the Irular, Thurumbar, and Gypsy communities is a commendable effort. These communities often face significant economic and social challenges, and initiatives like the BRAVE project can make a meaningful impact on their livelihoods and overall well-being.



It's heartening to hear that the BRAVE project has been able to support 100 women from various locations, including Tiruvannamalai,

Gingee, Tirupattur, Bagalur, Veeralur, Gedilam, Thirukazhukundram, Pavunjur, Sagayathotam, and Kadambathur. By providing support and interventions, such as skill development,

access to resources, and economic opportunities, these women can have a better chance at improving their livelihoods and breaking the cycle of vulnerability.

Efforts like these contribute to the empowerment and upliftment of marginalized communities and demonstrate the positive impact of community-focused projects.

## Launch of IBM

**I**BM SKILLSBUILD was launched in September in Tamil Nadu. IBM SKILLSBUILD is all about giving free courses to the students for that IBM has started the website regarding SKILLSBUID with the help of REACHA & SURABI. REACHA is a non-government organization located in Del-

hi. SURABI launched the IBM SKILLSBUILD all over Tamilnadu with the effective start we launched over 7 Colleges we oriented about the IBM SKILLSBUILD and courses and we guided them into the IBM SKILLSBUILD portal and we conducted the free demo courses and demo certificate for the students. The beneficiaries 1810



students started their online portal for free courses. The list of Colleges is Sacred Heart College Tirupattur, Don Bosco College Yelagiri, Don Bosco College Dharmapuri, Don Bo-

sco Arts and Science College Chennai, SIGA Polytechnic College Chennai, Don Bosco Polytechnic College Basin Bridge, Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Thirukazhukundram.



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# Technical and Non-technical support

The 63 youth were supported through the BRAVE (Building Resilience And Vocational Excellence) Project for their technical and non-technical studies at Thirukazhukundram, Basin Bridge, Tirupattur, Thiruvannamalai, Gingee, and Thiruvallur. The fact that some of these students hail from the SC (Scheduled Caste) and ST (Scheduled Tribe) categories highlights the importance of providing equal educational opportunities to all sections of society including gender sensitivity. This kind of support makes a significant difference in the lives of



these young individuals and contribute to their personal and professional growth. Education is a powerful tool for empowerment and social progress, and BRAVE Project plays a crucial role in leading them towards self-sustainability with Rights Awareness, Health and Environmental safety.



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# School-to-school visit to Belgium

**I**n an enriching educational endeavour, two educators, Mrs. Renitha Vijayakumar and Mrs. Annie Anitha, from Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Gandhinagar, Katpadi, embarked on a school-to-school visit to Belgium. Accompanied by SURABI Coordinator, Mrs. Shoba Antony, this international exploration was made possible through the gracious and blessings of the SURABI Director, as well as the esteemed Rector and Principal of Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Katpadi. This inspiring initiative was graciously facilitated, both financially and organizationally, by the benevolent contributions and involvement of VIA Don Bosco Belgium. The visit took place from 23rd September 2023, to 3rd October 2023, encompassing a diverse array of enriching experiences and cultural demonstrations, including workshops, engaging activities, and captivating sightseeing opportunities.





# Enabling Women & Girls to reach their full potential

**S**he challenge menstruating girls and women face is often less tangible than simply the availability of infrastructure, and is rooted in social norms and beliefs. In many cultures, menstruating women are considered impure and are systematically excluded from participating in every-day activities, such as education, employment, and cultural and religious practices. Moreover, the taboos and stigmas attached to menstruation lead to an overall culture of silence around the topic, resulting in limited information on menstruation



## On 7th of August menstrual hygiene training was organised for women of Gypsy community

and menstrual hygiene. Such misinformation do have ramifications on the health and dignity of girls and women. On 7th of August menstrual hygiene training was

organised for women of Gypsy community for 30 women. They were trained on bodily changes during puberty, Social myths, Menstrual products and hygiene meth-

ods. Let's create a world in which every woman and girl can manage her menstruation in a hygienic way – wherever she is – in privacy, safety and with dignity! The teachers and the school management is conscious of this need and have built systems to enhance this intervention.

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# Promoting CSR as Catalyst for Innovation

**T**wo day training programme on Corporate Social Responsibility (for Sustainable Development) was conducted at The Citadel, Chennai by SURABI, on 25-26th August 2023. 110 persons of INM & INT Salesians and Women Religious and Lay Collaborators participated. This effort of promoting CSR as a powerful driver of positive change, a catalyst for innovation, and as means to foster collaboration between business, Governments and the Civil Society.. The presence of BoscoNet, Delhi enhanced our credibility. Fr. L. Don Bosco, INM Provincial



insisted on coordination and partnership to celebrate ethical approach to fulfil SDGs with accountability and impact reflection, people-oriented approach. The Annual Report

of SURABI 2022-23 was released in the event. CSR personnel from 5 companies were the Panelist and Mr. Nikhil Pant was the major Resource Person. The training covered the essen-

tial aspects of CSR policy such as a the '135 Compliance schedule and sub clauses, Challenges and Strategy on CSR Implementation, CSR Strategy and Policy Formulation, CSR project preparation, CSR Spending Trends and case studies. It also dealt with General guidance and solutions, Government Partnerships and the Way Forward.



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

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