



E-Newsletter



October 2014

Warm Greetings from the Don Bosco Research Centre!

On the occasion of Diwali, I take great pleasure in bringing to you all the first edition of our newsletter featuring the events and activities done in our department. You will find highlights of research studies, workshops, training programmes, publications, collaborative measures, advocacy issues and so on undertaken by the Centre. The online format that we have adopted will make for greater flexibility and reach. This issue features a workshop on the changes proposed in the new Juvenile Justice Bill, highlights of a training workshop organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, a teacher training programme on substance abuse identification and prevention and a collaborative venture with Caritas India. We hope that you will enjoy reading our newsletter and enhance your understanding about the very diverse programmes and activities of the Don Bosco Research Centre. We are eager to have your feedback on this initiative, so please do not hesitate to send suggestions for making this newsletter more interesting and enriching.

Happy reading!

Fr. Gregory D' Almeida,
Director,
Don Bosco Research Centre, Mumbai



WORKSHOP ON THE NEW JJ BILL, 2014



A half -day workshop on the topic 'Repeal and Re- Enactment of the JJ Act : Understanding the New Provisions' was jointly organized by Don Bosco Research Centre, Shelter Don Bosco and Don Bosco Balprafulta on 12th Sept, 2014 at the Don Bosco Provincial House, Matunga. More than fifty representatives from various NGOs within the city of Mumbai participated in the workshop. Dakshayani Madangopal, the CEO of Don Bosco Research Centre welcomed the gathering, following which a short PowerPoint presentation was shown commemorating the bicentenary celebration (1815-2015) of Don Bosco. Fr. Gregory Almeida, Director of Shelter Don Bosco, Don Bosco Research Centre and Don Bosco Balprafulta, introduced the main speaker for the day, Ms. Maharukh Adenwala, advocate at the High Court, Mumbai.

Ms. Maharukh spoke on various provisions of the new JJ Bill and questioned the very logic behind this Bill, remarking that it contained only cosmetic changes and lacked pro-child provisions. The Bill should have been sensitive to the philosophy of Juvenile Justice on the basis of which the existing JJ Act had been formulated. Some of the important contentious provisions in the new Bill that she highlighted were:

- the move to lower the age of juvenile offenders from 18 years which went against the objective of the reformation theory
- no provision for children with families on the street
- no distinction made with reference to Children's Homes, Shelter Homes and Open shelters
- no clear definition of care plan and rehabilitation.





Ms. Maharukh said that the new Bill removed the schemes for after care (for post 18 years) and diluted the power of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) by allowing the State Government to assume authority over CWC and CWC being made accountable to report to the District Magistrate. CWC was now more of an administrative body and did not get enough time to spend with the child and to come up with child sensitive or child friendly approaches. It was pointed out that it was essential to put CWC members on a payroll i.e. grant them regular salaries and re-examine the reformation process.

She emphasized on the importance of revamping the correctional and rehabilitation facilities integral to the reformation process in order to curb the heinous crimes committed repeatedly by juvenile offenders, planning after care programmes, maintaining a list of children moving out of Children's Homes, initiating aftercare programmes, appropriate skill development before the children moved out of shelter homes.

The workshop stimulated interactive discussions and among the NGO representatives about the follow up that required to be done before the JJ Bill was finally passed.



UNODC TRAINING ON IMPLEMENTING DRUG USE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES

A four day training programme for NGO representatives was conducted at Holy Family Hospital, Bandra, Mumbai from Sept 22-25, 2014, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in collaboration with Plan-India, on implementing drug use prevention and treatment services for children, adolescents and families. The Don Bosco team was represented by Dakshayani Madangopal (Don Bosco Research Centre), Bindu Chadda (Shelter Don Bosco) and Nikita Tanpure (Don Bosco Balprafulta).

Elizabeth Mattfeld of the UNODC welcomed the NGO representatives and outlined the objectives to be covered over the four days of the training programme. These included reviewing effective drug prevention and treatment practices, unique developmental needs of children and adolescents and an introduction to eight evidence based psychosocial protocols that needed to be part of a comprehensive and patient centered programme, development of basic counselling skills, use of assessment tools, understanding of the differences between children and adult learning etc.

Elizabeth's vast experience in the field was demonstrated by her ability to keep the audience enthused, focused and motivated over the period of the training through highly interactive group work and exercises. The prime takeaways from this programme were the realization of the need for a scientific, data driven, patient centered approach, the need for professional skills in screening, assessment and counselling, the implementation of all psychosocial protocols within a framework of ethics and human rights (mere knowledge will not lead to behavior change) and the adoption of a systemic perspective in drug use prevention and treatment services.



DBRC COLLABORATES WITH CARITAS INDIA



KHANDWA - MADHYA PRADESH, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014: Caritas India hosted Prabhav 4 under the Jeevika Project, at Khandwa Diocesan Social Service Pastoral Centre from September 10-12, 2014. Jeevika is one of Caritas India's finest projects on sustainable livelihood with seven partnering dioceses of Madhya Pradesh. Jeevika is also supported by Caritas Spain. All the seven directors, Co-ordinators, Cluster Co-ordinators and Field Co-ordinators, along with the accountants of the project were present for this programme. Mr. Vinod Pandey, Project Officer for Projects and Advocacy from Caritas India was present along with three representatives of Caritas India.



The financial literacy model has a research component and is designed in a unique way for different partners to suit specific community needs. DBRC is also in solidarity with Caritas India's International Campaign on "One Human Family, Food for All", a campaign to eradicate hunger.

One of the aspects in this community based approach project of Jeevika focuses on savings and financial inclusion. The Don Bosco Research Centre (DBRC) under their Social and Financial Inclusion Programme has collaborated with Caritas India Jeevika project for Financial Inclusion. Ms. Marina D'costa, Project Co-ordinator of the Social and Financial Inclusion programme participated in Prabhav 4 (Impact Assessment phase of Jeevika project) as a resource person and she also visited the fields of the project. On the third day, she conducted a session on 'Financial Inclusion' based on her learning of the Jeevika project.



TEACHER TRAINING AT MULUND

A half day training programme for teachers in identification and prevention of substance abuse among school children was organized by Don Bosco Research Centre (DBRC) and Wamanrao Muranjan school, Mulund in the school hall on September 13, 2014. The workshop was attended by twenty teachers of the secondary section and junior college and some teachers from the neighbouring schools. Prior to the commencement of the programme, a pre-workshop evaluation form was distributed among the participants to assess the teacher's level of knowledge. The first session on 'Substance Abuse Prevention' was conducted by Mr. Swapnil Pange, psychologist and Counsellor at TISS. Talking about risk and prevention, Swapnil pointed out that a person's curiosity to experience drugs, to be part of the group, and the notion that one could work faster if he/she experiences the effect of drugs were some of the driving forces for substance abuse. Monitoring and regular follow ups with child's behaviour, professionals, doctors, and families were essential for identification and prevention.



Skills building, open dialogues with children, debates, forums, discussions on substance abuse were some of the preventive measures that could be undertaken at the school level. Life skills included; enabling the child to think critically and constructively, problem solving, empathy, awareness and coping with negative emotions. At family level, it would mean improving conflict resolution skills, improving dialogue with families and helping parents to develop effective parenting skills to deal with the issue. Talking about the 'Role of Teachers in Prevention of Substance Abuse in Schools', the second resource person Ms. Mayuri Jain who works at the rehabilitation centre, KEM hospital, explained the prevailing situation among the children based on the latest research findings. Among children from class VIII-XII, about sixty percent had tried substance abuse at some point of time, more so among urban male students coming from nuclear families. Aggressive behaviour, drop in academic performance, withdrawal from teachers and peers, absenteeism and socially inappropriate behaviours were some of the common symptoms displayed by children into substance abuse. However, all such symptoms would not necessarily amount to substance abuse. Risk factors such as family history, trauma, rejection by peers, and lack of skills could trigger such symptoms leading to addiction.



Teachers needed to be sensitive to identify such symptoms and to go beyond what met their eyes in order to draw a correct conclusion. For that they needed to build a good rapport with the children. Accordingly they could enhance protective factors to such vulnerable children as a preventive mechanism. Protective factors included promotion of self esteem, resilience, communications skills, decision making, stress management etc. The programme concluded with a post-workshop evaluation to gauge the impact of the training.

**Fr. Godfrey D'Souza
On His Provincial Visitation to
DBRC on Sept 3rd, 2014**



***Birthday Celebrations for
our Director—
Fr. Gregory D'Almeida***



CONTACT : Don Bosco Research Centre
302, Youth Services Building,
Don Bosco School Campus,
Matunga.
Mumbai—400019
Tel : 91-22-24163343
Email : donboscoresearchcentre@gmail.com
Website : www.connectallindia.com



Suggestions