

DON BOSCO NAVJEEVAN BALA BHAVAN VISAKHAPATNAM



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,



It was amazing to see how Visakhapatnam became clean, green and beautiful within less than a month in connection with the International Fleet Review in the first week of February 2016. The roads became smooth and well marked with traffic lines and signals. Most of the commuters also kept the lane discipline and traffic rules. New palm trees and flower plants appeared with cyclonic speed. Pavements became colorful with new tiles and beautiful paintings emerged on the walls along the roads in the city limits.

It all shows that we are capable of rising up to the occasion in a situation of emergency. No wonder then that Visakhapatnam emerged as the 5th cleanest city in all India rating. Now it is the duty of every Individual and Institution, both Governmental and non- Governmental, to internalize these values of cleanliness and beauty and make it an integral part of their thinking and being. What is enforced from without will last only as long as the element of fear lasts, but what is internalized accompanies the person wherever he goes because he does right things not out of fear but out of conviction and respect for himself and others.

Respect for each other should be the fabric on which our personal and societal life built. This training should begin in the family very early in the life of a child and must be carried forward in educational Institutions, and all the systems of which the individual forms a part. Many educational institutions in the rat race for academic achievements fail to treat the children as persons and aim only at making them super computers, neglecting the more fine and valuable aspects of human life. All these lead to abnormal behaviors like a man killing practically all of his family members, or children walking into class rooms and shooting their teachers and companions, or people entering a home for senior citizens and gunning down the nuns who were serving food to sick and elderly. Training children as holistic individuals is tough and need much more than mere words. Children are better trained through examples of their mentors than mere oral instructions. So let us invest more into the integral training of people especially children and youth which alone will save our planet earth and foster the sanity and sanctity of individuals and external charm and beauty of our surroundings.

Fr. Thomas Thottiyil sdb





HOMAGE TO DON BOSCO ON HIS FEAST

Don Bosco is not a name which the Bosco Tech Trainees can easily forget once they enter into his Educative System, irrespective of the different domains of skill training. Don Bosco and his training method does not dissect persons into parts but treat them from a holistic view of life where the integral development and transformation of the individual is aimed at as the final outcome. Unlike most people who disappear from the world with the laying to rest of their mortal remains, the life of great souls still continue to throb for the welfare of humanity and their life and values continue to inspire and motivate the world.

With the support and encouragement of the Salesians, the Staff of Visakhapatnam organized a number of competitions for the trainees of Bosco Tech and other non-formal trades to honor Don Bosco, the great educator, visionary and friend of youth on his feast. The competitions included Rangoli, Essay Writing, Drawing and Quiz. At ten in the morning the students were divided into nine groups and Rangoli competition was conducted. Each group was unique with patterns giving an esthetic expression and conveying powerful messages. Though only 30 minutes were allotted, groups did a commendable work within the stipulated time. Judging became difficult as the differences were razor thin. Four groups emerged as winners with two groups sharing the first prize and one each second and third. Pencil sketching of Don Bosco's picture also saw four participants emerging as winners with one in the first place, two in the second place and one in the third place.



In the post lunch session, Essay Competition was conducted on the 'Vision and Mission of Swami Vivekananda', the young Indian Saint. The participants in their expressions heaped lavish praise on the model for youth. They portrayed him as an ever-inspiring individual whose glow will not fade with the passing of time. Into that vision of Swami Vivekananda let our great Nation awake.



The Quiz Competition which followed the Essay competition, had the theme 'Don Bosco and his contribution to the world', especially his Globally Renowned Educative System known as the 'Preventive System'. The participants projected a total mastery over the subject through their prompt and correct answers. They seemed to believe that it is a learning which they did not do just for a competition but for the whole life.



Heartfelt thanks to the organizers and participants of various events who paid rich homage to Don Bosco who set apart his entire life for the welfare of the most needy youth, on the happy occasion of his Feast.



Ms. Priyamvada
Staff



I, David Poeder, am part of the Navajeevan Visakhapatnam Family for the past seven months as a volunteer. Time elapsed so fast that I feel that I am here for less than three months. I enjoy my stay in Navajeevan a lot, mainly because I love working with children. Though the work can sometime be very exhausting and challenging, being with kids and youngsters is very rewarding as well. Children disseminate so much happiness and affection that it is very hard to be unhappy in their presence.

In the Bridge school, called Beach Blossom, where I teach the 3rd class English and Mathematics, it is very wonderful to see how fast children, who are mostly young at risk and from BPL families, whom many schools won't be happy to have as their students, learn new lessons so fast and enthusiastically. Nothing gives more joy to a teacher than the progress and development of his/her students day by day.

After classes in the Beach Blossom School, I spend most of my time with the boys of the Allipuram Home. In Navajeevan we feel it is a family and I treat the boys as my younger brothers. It's not only that we live in the same building, but we help one another as members of the same family. Fun and frolic is life of Navajeevan and this is much more so when we take the children out for a picnic or sightseeing. We also venture into the field of cooking occasionally, to prepare for the children some food of their choice. Small deeds of love are enough to bring a big smile on the faces of children, which is their expression of appreciation, love and gratitude.

As I already mentioned, the work with young people can also be very challenging and demanding, especially when you come from a different country and continent where cultures have much differences. So I am happy that I am not a volunteer all my life. I am happy too that I am not alone as a European volunteer and that gives me opportunity to share and express my successes as well as my anxieties to them with an occasional bite of Pizza or Hotdog.



At no time I regretted my decision to come to India to spend one year in a childcare and child-friendly Institute. In the last seven months I discovered a lot about myself and how to face various situations. I am looking forward to many more challenging situations, with many young and smiling faces around me. My work in Navajeevan is not an experiment for one year, but an experience for a lifetime.

David Poeder
Volunteer



Malnutrition



I was once speaking to European children helping people in poorer countries who do not have enough to eat. A problem: “hunger” is a concept they did not understand. They had never experienced it. That may be the situation of most of the readers of this magazine as well. We, priests, religious and educated, English- speaking laity are unlikely to suffer hunger. So, a subject like malnutrition may simply be an academic discussion for us, with no heart-felt concern.

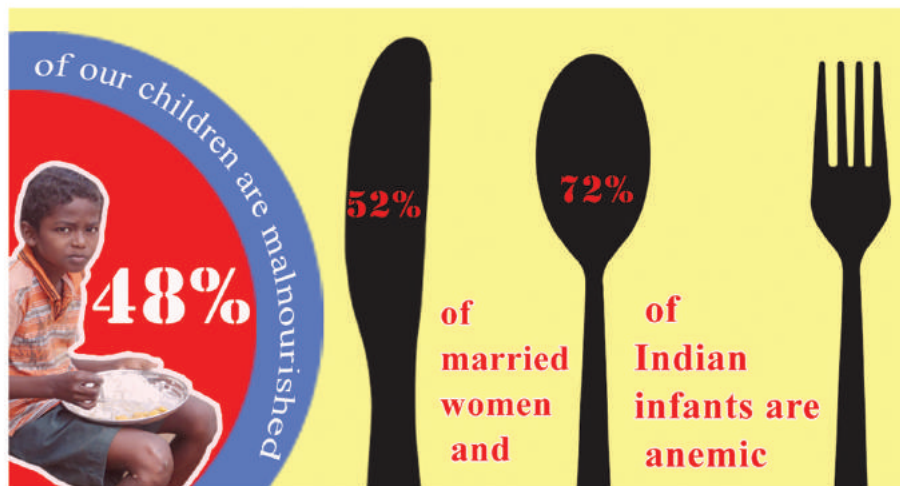
But malnutrition is a terrible reality for a huge number of people, right in our own country. About 48 percent of our children are malnourished. India has both terribly undernourished people (many) and a smaller number of overweight persons. In India, the greater problem by far is lack of adequate nourishment. For people like you and me, the opposite is more likely.

The World Bank rates India as one of the countries with the highest rates of malnutrition. Our percentage of underweight children is extremely high in fact, higher than that of Sub-Saharan Africa, considered to be the poorest part of the world. The Global Hunger Index for 2015 ranks countries. Where do you think we stand on the hunger index among South Asian Countries (one of which is a rich country)? We are the third worst. Only Afghanistan and Pakistan are worse off.

A section of the middle classes in India have become much richer in the recent twenty-five years. This is what we mean when we say India is much richer today. But, one third of the world’s malnourished children live in India. If you take Indian children under age three, half are malnourished. And a third of the richest kids are overfed.

Another sad truth: girls and women are more undernourished than males. Undernourished women give birth to underweight children, strengthening this vicious circle. 52% of married women and 72% of Indian infants are anemic. A sad situation, really.

For a person to have adequate and appropriate nourishment, food needs to be available, of course. Two more factors matter a lot. Guess which.



One: Having enough money to buy the food. There may be plenty of fruits and vegetables in the market, but, if I am too poor to buy them, I am never going to eat them. Many are in this situation.

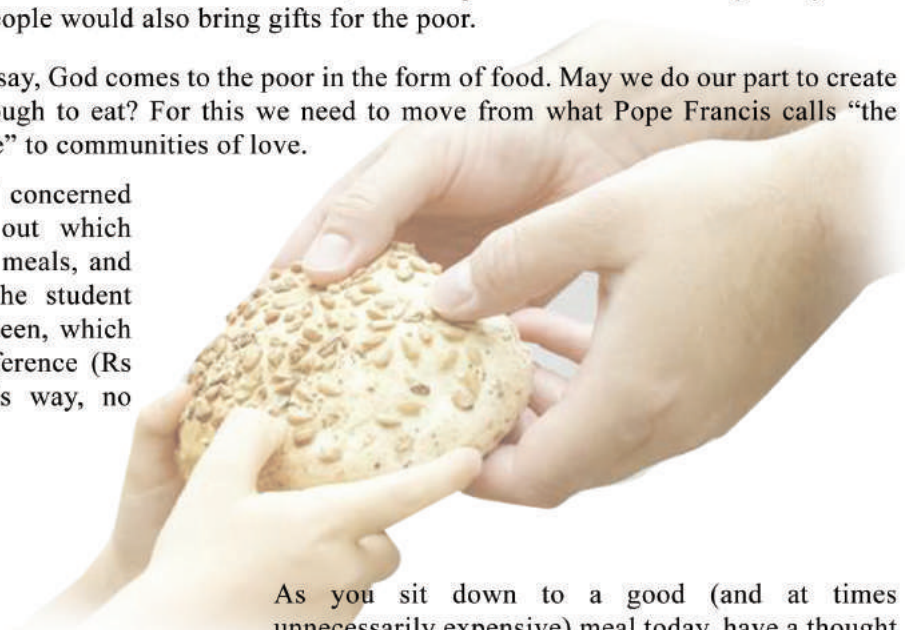


Two: Ignorance. An ignorant mother may give her children unhealthy food. Or, she may (abetted by unscrupulous medical practitioners) buy tonics to improve her children's health, while that same amount of money would have got her fresh vegetables, milk and eggs, which are far more nourishing than the bottle of tonic. Another factor I was not sufficiently aware of how about you? Malnutrition in India is worsened by our poor sanitation. About half our populations do not have toilets in their homes. Open defecation leads to bacterial infections, which further weaken people.

In this year of Mercy, we the well-fed and well-educated can do more to help the truly malnourished. When the early Christians met for the Eucharist in homes, not in expensive church buildings- they made sure no one went hungry. People would also bring gifts for the poor.

As Mahatma Gandhi would say, God comes to the poor in the form of food. May we do our part to create a world where all have enough to eat? For this we need to move from what Pope Francis calls "the globalization of indifference" to communities of love.

Here is one example of concerned action: A college found out which students had no money for meals, and made this arrangement: The student would pay Rs 5 to the canteen, which would later collect the difference (Rs 17) from the fathers. This way, no student went hungry.



As you sit down to a good (and at times unnecessarily expensive) meal today, have a thought for the many who seldom have proper meals. It is not enough we pray for them. Jesus did not tell us to pray for the hungry, but to share our food with them. The need is urgent, especially since we live in a country with huge disparities, where nearly half the children lack the food they need.



When God blesses you financially, don't raise your standard of living. Raise your standard of Giving
-Mark Batterson

Joe Mannath, "Malnutrition", New Leader, Vol 126, March 16-31, 2016, P.7.



Fr. Provincial visits Don Bosco Navajeevan

Fr. Thathireddy Vijay Bhaskar, the new Provincial of the Salesian Province of Hyderabad, accompanied by Frs. Thomas and Ratna Kumar visited the various activities of Don Bosco Navajeevan, Visakhapatnam on 30th March, 2016. Being his maiden visit after assuming office as the Provincial, he was accorded a warm welcome and felicitation. Fr. Thomas welcoming Fr. Thathi (the way he is affectionately called) introduced him as the pioneer of Navajeevan works in Visakhapatnam, whose far-sightedness carried Navajeevan to its present stage of growth and achievements.



Addressing the Trainees of Don Bosco Tech and Vocational Training Centre of Visakhapatnam City, Fr. Provincial referred to Leonardo Decaprico, the hero of Titanic fame and stressed on the importance of making right decisions in life and adopting appropriate strategies to convert them into reality. He said that only three percent of people succeed completely in doing the great things they want to do and make their life to go the way, they visualize. The remaining 97 percent end up as the employees of the achievers. This equation can be changed if more people keep their dreams alive with sufficient motivation to fuel them. He thanked the Salesians and the Training Staff for enabling many deserving youngsters to learn a livelihood enhancement skill and to earn their bread with self respect as contributing citizens of Mother India.

Master Joseph a trainee of Hospitality domain, Ms. Sujatha and Padmaja, trainees of tailoring and dress making, shared their experiences of being at Don Bosco and the benefits they gained from it.. They described the training at Don Bosco as not only aimed at livelihood advancement but also as life enhancing. The training aims at all round development of the individual without compartmentalization. Fr. Ratna Kumar in the vote of thanks extended profound gratitude to Fr. Provincial for finding time to visit Navajeevan and to encourage the activities it has initiated to empower the young in difficult situations.





Expectations yes.... Exaggerations no!

Human life is a struggle between what one is and what one wants to be! Those who are where they like to be, are usually a happy lot, because they are at home within themselves and without. But unfortunately the number of unhappy people in the world are on the increase. The main reason for this pathetic state of affairs is that people either underestimate themselves and their abilities or set unreachable and unrealistic goals. Both are equally bad. 'The competition between the monkey and the fish in climbing the tree is not a fair one'. The tortoise overtaking the rabbit is a onetime happening and not a daily occurrence. Besides all the rabbits may not be equally sleepy during a running race!

Reducing people to their performance is not justifiable. The value of individuals should not come from what they achieve alone but that they share in the one human nature. The proclamation 'every Indian is my brother or sister' should not be restricted to the school assemblies but travel with everyone to home, to the market places and in work and worship. People should contribute to their families and society because they feel loved and appreciated and not as a means to buy them. I know a father who wants his son nothing less than an engineer and the son is willing to become anything other than that! In the ongoing combat between the two the boy attempted suicide thrice and the father does not seem to be much worried about it. He likes to be carried to the grave as the parent of a miserable engineer and not as the proud father of a happy son.

Having and setting up expectations and goals in life is a very valuable asset, but it should be useful to the individual in his personal fulfillment and in self actualization. Therefore every family and society should support its members in configuring their own goals and doing the things they love to do, provided it does not infringe on the rights of others. So let us strive for a world where people can have their personal expectations fulfilled and build up a society of happy, contributing and fulfilled individuals.



Parent-Teacher Meet

Don Bosco Tech - Vizag City



Sri. G Ravi, Retail Trainer of DB Tech Vizag City flagged off the meeting by extending a warm welcome to the Don Bosco Navajeevan Assistant Director Fr. Ratna Kumar sdb and to the parents of Bosco Tech trainees. The meeting commenced at 10:30 a.m., on 11th February, 2016 by seeking the blessings of the Almighty with a prayer song. The parents of most of the students attended the meeting. Starting with Bosco Tech Staff all introduced themselves to the gathering.

Trainer Ravi explained the rationale of the meeting to the parents who were not familiar with meetings of this sort. He stated that when educational inputs and impetus come from various directions, education becomes more holistic and individuals become better integrated persons.

In the ensuing interaction, parents spoke about the qualitative changes that were very evident in their wards' life and behavior after they started attending Bosco Tech Training programs. Some silently and others vocally appreciated the service Don Bosco Tech extended to the individuals and through them to their families and to the Nation. They opined that many problems in the society today are due to under-education and unemployment of youth, who while bubbling with energy do not know how to channel it constructively. Energy not well utilized will be used for destructive purposes.

In the keynote address that Fr. Ratna gave, he spoke about the motivating force behind the Don Bosco Tech and the other Don Bosco Institutions around the Globe. It is nothing but the passion with which Don Bosco their model and guide worked for the welfare of youth, especially the poor and abandoned. Today the followers of Don Bosco and their collaborators work with the same zeal in building a happy today and a happier tomorrow for the young who were not fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to be born with a silver spoon in their mouth. Don Bosco Tech believes that Skilling the youth and making them breadwinners with self-respect and dignity is the best contribution we can make to the young and to the Society. Fr. Ratna also laid stress on the need for smartness in hard work, as it will fetch better and faster result than hard work alone.



TAMASOMA JYOTHIR GAMAYA.....



SUCCESS STORY KARI AKHIL



I am Kari Akhil, 12 years of age from the fishing community of Jalaripet, Visakhapatnam. I have a brother and an younger sister. Our parents had a great desire to give us good education and joined us in an English Medium School. In all enthusiasm we started our studies but being a fishing coolie, my father was unable to meet the increasing expenses of our studies. My mother too started working as a domestic help to augment the family income. As even this could not make much difference, I and my sister reluctantly discontinued our studies. When I started working in a shop as a helper to support my family, one of the staff from Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan met me and it turned out to be a lucky day in our life. The staff asked about our returning to school and spoke to my mother about it, but she was reluctant to send us once again as she was afraid of the repetition of the first fiasco. The staff explained to her about Don Bosco Bridge school which gives educational and nutritional support to the dropout children free of cost and makes learning a happy experience. On learning more about it and dreaming for a different and better future for her children, she sent us to Beach Blossom (Don Bosco Bridge School) where school dropouts will be trained for one year and then mainstreamed into regular schools according to their age and educational preparedness. Thus after one year of joyful Bridge school learning, I was admitted to 8th Class in St. Antony's High School and my sister in 6th Class in Prema Aided Primary School. Now my parents are extremely happy to see us going to school which was disrupted due to financial constraints. **A big thanks to Don Bosco Navajeevan** which ignited in us once again the spark of hope, when we had given up on life and convinced that what remains for us in life was only darkness. May many children like us walk into radiance in spite of the surrounding difficulties and build a better future for them with the support of good individuals and Institutions like Don Bosco Navajeevan.

డాన్ బోస్కో టెక్ సబ్బవరం నందు అమ్మాయిలకు, ఉచిత హాస్టల్ వసతి కలదు

**Bosco Tech
Sabbavaram**
Available Courses
Hospitality
Retail Sales
BPO
Contact :
Cell : 9573316386,
8897992777,
9000460304

THE DIRECTOR
DON BOSCO
NAVAJEEVAN BALA BHAVAN
D. No. 33-1-35, South Jail Road, Allipuram
VISAKHAPATNAM-530 004, INDIA.
Ph: + 91-0891 - 2729259, 9440028106
E-mail : dbnjvizag@rediffmail.com
www.donboscovizag.org

DB Tech - Vizag
Available Courses
Hospitality
Retail Sales
Contact :
Cell : 9154146667,
8790561650
9491163788

