

VIEWPOINT

The Retreat - Don Bosco (August - October)

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MARIAN MONTH – SOLA ILLAM

SOTCHO, a home for the tribal children began a month long celebration to commemorate the 75th Independence Day and also the feast of Assumption of Mary, the Mother of God. We inaugurated the special month on 18th July 2022. We organized lots of competitions and games for the children to identify and develop their talents to help them to grow holistically in all aspects of life. We divided the students into four teams and organized games regularly in the evenings and also conducted poem writing, dance and drawing competitions for the children. They all participated in these events enthusiastically and revealed their talents.

INAUGURATION OF A NEW ECO-CLUB IN SOTCHO

A new Eco-club unit was inaugurated at SOTCHO on 10th September 2022. Some of the students who always show interest in ecology opted to be the members of eco-club. We inaugurated the event at 3.30 pm. Frs. Arul Maran and Simon were the guests of honour. They encouraged the students to cultivate love for nature and to care for nature. After the inauguration, the members of the new club went for the cleanup drive.

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ECO-AWARENESS RALLY & PLANTATION

The Retreat Don Bosco organized a day of Eco- awareness rally and tree Plantation on 30th October 2022 at Pattipady. Around 20 children from the village actively participated in the event. As the students were making slogans about eco awareness and rallying in the streets of the village, some of the volunteers went to each house explaining the importance of caring for the mother earth. The event ended with tree plantation, the kids actively participated in both the events.

ANTICIPATED CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Anticipated children's day celebration for the after school study centre children was held at the Retreat – Don Bosco on 31st October 2022. The Event was organized to motivate and encourage the children. Prior to the celebration, we conducted lots of competitions in the respective centres and distributed the prizes on the day of celebration. And, we also organized a special dance competition for the kids on the day of celebration and gave away the prizes to the best teams.

One student each from all the centres came dressed like a national leader and graced the event as chief guests. They all delivered speeches about the respective leaders. A five year old boy came dressed like our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and wished everyone. Aftermath, the children planted trees to express their care and concern for the mother earth and Nature. Around 150 children participated in the event. The participants were given a gift each and food after the programme. They all went out of the campus spreading joy and love.

SSGY FETE 2022

The Salesian community along with all the religious communities, generous lay people and volunteers of Yercaud organized SSGY (Social Service Guild Yercaud) Fete, a fund raising event in the Retreat campus. This event is organized annually to mobilize resources to run the Anbu Illam (Old Age Home for Destitute) and Crèche. The day was filled with lot of joy and happiness as we put our hands together and worked hard for a single purpose, i.e., to help the poor, marginalised and the needy. It was an unforgettable day and an experience for all of us. Every one of us felt that organising and participating in a mega event like this is indeed an enriching experience. Moreover, all participants appreciated the contribution made by the fathers and brothers of the Retreat community.

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BAL HEALTH MELA

A day of animation for the children from salem was conducted at the Retreat – Don Bosco, Yercaud on 1st of October, 2022. There were around 800 children participating in the event. We divided them all according to their classes and gave value education, health education and environmental awareness through lots of activities. During the later part of the day, we instilled lots of values through games and action songs. We provided them knowledge about healthy and junk food. Similar mela was also organized in Namakkal on 28th of October. More than 1500 children participated in the event and got benefitted. It was wonderful to see in both the places the campus being filled with kids spending their time in learning and playing.

CAREER GUIDANCE & PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

The Career Guidance & Personality Development Programme was organised by SPS India Foundation of the Retreat-Don Bosco at different locations in Tami Nadu. These programmes were mainly focused on development of student's future career. During the session, the animators suggested them to have a goal in life and take appropriate steps to achieve the goals. We have reached out to 4000 children through this event.

BEAUTICIAN SKILL TRAINING – PALLITHAMAM

Pallithammam is a small village in sivagangai district and it has lots of young women and girls in and around the locality. We have planned to reach out to them through various training programmes. Hence, we have started beautician training in the month of October for these young girls. We have 29 young girls as beneficiaries and they keep learning the skill. We are sure to have great impact on the lives of these girls.



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COMPUTER SKILL TRAINING

Computer Skill Training has been started in Don Bosco Anbu Illam, N. Pudupatti and St. Xavier's Children's Home, Varadarajapuram on 1st September 2022. We have 18 Students in DBAI and 15 Students in SXCH. It was indeed a joy filled learning experience for the students. They learn the basics and proceed slow and steady to learn advance computer skills. Among the eighteen members more than half the participants were able to work on their own in word document. Around 17 of them got jobs in the local shops from the previous batches. We also have begun Computer training in the mid September in Pallithammam. Around 28 students from the locality are benefiting from this training. They have started to learn word and excel.

VOCATIONAL SKILL TRAINING ON SEWING

Vocational skill training in sewing was inaugurated on 03.08.2022 by Rev Fr. George SDB, the Parish priest of Bosco Maiyam. More than thirty participants from different villages took part in the inaugural function. We procured ten sewing machines, sewing materials and stationeries for the training and some basic kits were given to the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were very happy to undergo this training. They have started to learn to stitch their own clothes. They will be trained and placed in jobs.

We are also giving sewing training to the local people in Kalavasal, near rajapalauyam. We have given training to 120 people in four batches. Most of the beneficiaries have got jobs and some of them have started their own business at home. We are planning to go for advance training for the same people who have been our beneficiaries.



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GYNEC CHECKUP AND AWARENESS CAMP

A special medical camp for women was held on 25.09.2022 at The Retreat - Don Bosco in Yercaud, Salem District. This camp was organized by SPS India foundation and Desai Foundation Trust in collaboration with SKS Hospital Salem. We had Gynaecologist Dr.Gaana Shankar, Dr.Dhivya and Dr.Gayathri with their medical team for the camp. There were around 150 women beneficiaries who participated in this camp. The doctors addressed the women and gave them awareness and later had individual check up for the beneficiaries. It was a meaningful intervention by us for the poor people of Yercaud.

JEWELLERY MAKING (15. 09. 2022 – 26. 09. 2022)

SPS in partnership With DFT organized a week long jewellery making and selling training in Vilathikulam. We had around 30 women from the local villages for this training. Mrs. Jensiya trained the beneficiaries. The event was organized to motivate the women of different self-help groups.

GENERAL HEALTH CHECK-UP CAMP

Two general health check-up camps were organised in the month of octorber. The first camp was organized in the slums of Salem and the other was in the villages around Vilathikulam, Tuticorin district. Through these two camps we were able to reach out to 600 poor people directly and more than 1500 indirectly. The doctors examined every one and provided them the basic medicines. They were also promised further treatment with concession in the respective hospitals.

