

Migrant Voice

07 March, 2024




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**NARESH ASSOCIATE FACTORY
AWARENESS PROGRAM**



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**DBMS TEAM MEET
MANIPUR STUDENTS**



EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITORIAL

Fr. Simolin, SDB
Director DBMS, Editor
boscomigrants@gmail.com

Fr. Lourdhu, SDB
Asst. Director DBMS,
Sub-editor

DESIGN

Meril Anand KJ
Art Director,
85273 33989

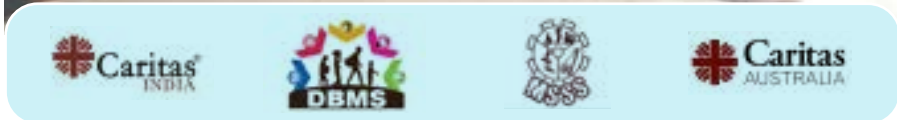


Designed @
SIGA STUDIO,
Kilpauk, Chennai-10

NARESH ASSOCIATE FACTORY AWARENESS PROGRAM

24 FEBRUARY, 2024:
**NARESH ASSOCIATE FACTORY,
MANIPUR.**

On February 24, 2024, an impactful awareness program was successfully conducted at the Naresh Associate Factory aimed at enlightening migrant workers on the challenges of unsafe migration and workplace exploitation. The program, orchestrated by a collaborative effort involving the People Empowerment Association (PEA), dedicated student volunteers, and the diligent staff of the DBMS, served as a platform to educate 25 migrant workers hailing from Jharkhand, Assam, and Bihar. The focus was on imparting knowledge regarding safe migration practices, insurance benefits, and government entitlements.



Program Overview

Participants

The program witnessed the active participation of 25 migrant workers representing the states of Jharkhand, Assam, and Bihar.

Educational Objectives

The primary goal was to raise awareness about the perils of unsafe migration and exploitation in the workplace. Information dissemination on safe migration practices, the importance of insurance coverage, and understanding government entitlements formed the core educational content.

Program Highlights

The sessions were thoughtfully structured to cover various aspects of migrant workers' concerns.

Engaging presentations and interactive discussions were

Collaborative Initiatives:

The success of the program was attributed to the dedicated efforts of the People Empowerment Association (PEA), compassionate student volunteers, and the proactive involvement of the Database Management System (DBMS) staff.

conducted to address queries and ensure a comprehensive understanding.

Emphasis was placed on empowering workers to make informed decisions regarding their migration and employment choices.

Key Topics Covered

Unsafe Migration: Highlighting the risks and challenges associated with unsafe migration, underscoring the importance of careful planning and research.

Exploitation in the Workplace: Shedding light on potential exploitation and providing

strategies to recognize and address such issues.

Safe Migration Practices: Offering guidance on how to undertake a safe migration journey, emphasizing legal processes and documentation.

Insurance Benefits

Informing workers about the significance of insurance coverage and its role in safeguarding their well-being.

Government Entitlements: Clarifying the rights and entitlements of migrant workers as stipulated by government regulations.

CONCLUSION

The awareness program concluded on a positive note with a refreshment session, fostering a sense of camaraderie among participants. The collective efforts of PEA, student volunteers, and DBMS staff have undoubtedly

contributed to the enlightenment and empowerment of migrant workers. This initiative aligns with our commitment to promoting social responsibility and ensuring the well-being of all members of our community.

We extend our gratitude to everyone involved in making this program a success and look forward to future endeavors aimed at creating a more informed and secure working environment for migrant workers.



JEEVAN NIRMAN PROGRAM

22 FEBRUARY, 2024:
OMR, CHENNAI.

Dr. John Arokiaraj's leadership has played a pivotal role in the success of the Jeevan Nirman Program. His expertise and experience have guided the program towards impactful outcomes.

Field Accompaniment and Decision-Making

Fr. Simolin's quick decision-making and on-field accompaniment have been instrumental in executing the program efficiently. His hands-on approach has contributed to the success of the initiatives.

Resource Persons' Support:

Sr. Punitha and Fr. Lourdu's continued support as resource persons has strengthened the program, providing valuable insights and expertise in addressing the needs of the migrant population.

Major Achievement with Caritas India

The recent accomplishment involved the successful organization of a 3-hour program in collaboration with Caritas India, targeting over 500 migrants in the CMRL L&T Project. The program focused on raising awareness about health and hygiene, incorporating an engaging mime performance.

Active Participation

Ten brothers from Kavara-pettai Don Bosco Theologate and MSW interns from Sacred Heart College, MSSW actively participated, contributing to the diversity and richness of the program.

Active Participation

L&T, the project host, expressed appreciation for the program, acknowledging the impact it had on the participants. The engaging mime performance was particularly well-received.

Future Collaborations

Discussions are underway for a potential CSR collaboration with L&T, spearheaded by Dr. John Arokiaraj and Fr. Simolin. This demonstrates the program's positive influence and its potential for broader partnerships.

Acknowledgments

Discussions extend my sincere gratitude to Caritas India for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading this initiative. Special thanks to Dr. John Arokiaraj for his professional approach and guidance, which has been instrumental in achieving the program's success.

Conclusion

The success of the Jeevan Nirman Program in Chennai, especially the recent achievement with Caritas India and the CMRL L&T Project, showcases the program's effectiveness in addressing the needs of migrant workers.

BRICK CHAMBERS

09 FEBRUARY, 2024:
NVARAINGAKUPPAM.

On the 9th of February, 2024, we orchestrated an educational symposium for the benefit of the unorganized labour sector in Varaingakuppam. The session was meticulously planned to transpire from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Distinguished guests included Fr. Simolin, the Director of Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS); Fr. Lourdu Antonyraj, the Assistant Director of DBMS; Sr. Beronica; Sr. Premcila; Mr. Sathis, the Village Administrative Officer; representatives from the Kaverapettai Police Department; Mr. Shiva Kumar, Headmaster of the Pudevoyal School; Mr. Mallikarjun; and Mr. Gopal, who were all extended invitations to serve as experts for the event.

Fr. Simolin presided over the camp with great esteem and proceeded to formally recognize the honour of the chief guests in attendance.

The event was well-received, with a total of 175 attendees participating. we took the initiative to enliven the proceeding with a variety of pertinent themes and enlightening information.



PROGRAMS

- Performances of cultural dance.
- Guidance on safe migration practices.
- Education on basic rights and standards for dignified living conditions.
- Information on government provisions and support services for migrant workers.
- Procedures for registration with the Indian Staffing Federation (ISM) and the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board (TNCWWB).
- The critical role of schooling and educational advancement.
- Raising consciousness about drug abuse, HIV, and AIDS.
- Promotion of health and sanitary practices.
- An overview of Caritas India and its project initiatives.
- An introduction to the services provided by Don Bosco for migrants.



**15 FEBRUARY, 2024:
CHENNAI .**

On the aforementioned date, the DBMS team under the Jeevan Nirman project based in Chennai conducted an educational symposium for the benefit of unorganized laborers located in Pondavakkam. This event was meticulously scheduled to take place between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The session was graced by the presence of esteemed guests including Thiru. Anbu Janaki, the Village Administrative Officer of Pondavakkam; the Police Inspector of Arani; Mrs. Kavitha, the Headmistress of Pondavakkam Government School; Father Lourde, the Assistant Director of DBMS; Sister Beronica; Sister Premcila; Thiru. Manoj Kumar, an employer; and Dr. Isabella, the Director of ARUWYE, all of whom were invited to serve as specialist speakers for the event. Father Lourde bestowed honors upon the chief guests, elevating the



dignity of the occasion.

The symposium was well-received, with a total of 153 individuals in attendance, participating with keen interest.

We have curated a comprehensive agenda to impart knowledge on a range of vital topics. The subjects addressed included strategies for safe migration and the associated rights, educational measures and empowerment of Gram Sabha to mitigate unsafe migration, and advocacy regarding minimum and consistent wages. Additionally, the program

highlighted the importance of fundamental rights and decent living conditions for workers at their places of employment or residence, anti-human trafficking initiatives, registration in the ISM and TNCWWB, the significance of education and schooling, and awareness regarding drugs, HIV, and AIDS. The event also discussed health and hygiene practices. Furthermore, the participants received an overview of Caritas India and an introduction to the projects and services offered by Don Bosco for migrants.



21 FEBRUARY, 2024:
CHENNAI .

On February 21, 2024, we organized a comprehensive Labour Welfare Program for brick kiln workers in Arani. The event, held from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M., saw active participation from 150 brick kiln workers. The program, initiated with a meeting involving the brick association president, members, Village Administrative Officer (VAO), and other stakeholders, addressed crucial aspects of workers' welfare, including decent living conditions, minimum and regular wages, children's education, and basic entitlements.

Key Stakeholder Meeting

The initial meeting brought to-

PROGRAM THEMES

we infused the program with diverse and relevant themes, including:

- Government Registration Portals
- Safe Migration
- Health and Hygiene
- Education
- Caritas India (Jeevan Nirman Programs)
- Don Bosco Migrant Services

gether the brick association president, members, VAO, and other stakeholders to discuss and deliberate on the welfare of brick workers. Key topics included decent living conditions, ensur-

ing minimum and regular wages, supporting children's education, and securing basic entitlements.

Chief Guests

The event was graced by distinguished chief guests, including Thiru. Kumaran (Village President), Arani Police Department representatives, Thiru. Kallaimaghal (Pondavakkam HM), Thiru. Ananda Raidu (Brick Association President), Thiru. Vengal Rao, Thiru. Naageswar Rao, Thiru. Rama Krishna, Thiru. Rama Naih, Thiru. Rathiya, Thiru. Suvaa Raidu, Thiru. Mallikarjun, Thiru. K. V Rao, Fr. Simolin, Fr. Lourde, Dr. John Arokia, Sr. Punitha, Sr. Beronica, Sr. Premcila, and Mr. Jerome from the media.

Engaging presentations and discussions were conducted on the aforementioned themes to

impart valuable information to the participants, empowering them with knowledge on government registration processes, safe migration practices, health and hygiene, education, and the available support from Caritas India and Don Bosco Migrant Services.

Refreshments and Conclusion

The program concluded on a positive note, with refreshments distributed to the participants, fostering a sense of community and appreciation. The provision of refreshments marked a thoughtful conclusion to the event.

The Labour Welfare Program



organized by Jeevan Nirman Chennai stands as a commendable effort to address the holistic well-being of brick kiln workers. The collaboration with key stakeholders, the presence of esteemed chief guests, and the diverse themes covered during the

program reflect a commitment to uplifting the lives of workers. We extend our gratitude to all participants, collaborators, and contributors for making this event a success and look forward to continued efforts in promoting the welfare of our labor community.

28 FEBRUARY, 2024: ARANI VILLAGE .

On February 28, 2024, We organized an impactful awareness camp for brick kiln workers at Arani village. The event, held from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., was attended by 160 participants, with notable representation from local government officials, including Thiru. Balaji (VAO Arani) and Thiru. Senthil (SI Arani). The resource persons for the program included Thiru. Jayprakash Rao, Fr. Lourd Raj (DBMS Assistant Director), Sr. Veronica, and Sr. Premcila.

Distinguished Guests

The program benefited from the presence of esteemed guests, including Thiru. Balaji

(VAO Arani), Thiru. Senthil (SI Arani), Thiru. Jayprakash Rao, Fr. Lourd Raj (DBMS Assistant Director), Sr. Veronica, and Sr. Premcila..

Program Schedule

The program, meticulously organized, adhered to its schedule from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., ensuring efficient use of time and engagement. Engaging presentations and discussions were conducted on the aforementioned themes to impart valuable information to the participants, empowering them with knowledge on government registration processes, safe migration practices, health and hygiene, education, and the available support

Resource Persons

Thiru. Senthil (SI Arani) and Thiru. Balaji (VAO Arani) led an intensive panel discussion, emphasizing the critical aspect of promoting safe and dignified migration. Other resource persons contributed valuable insights on topics such as unsafe migration, drugs, education, and registration of migration.

Government Representation

The presence of local government officials reinforced the collaborative approach between DBMS Chennai, the State, and local government. Thiru. Senthil and Thiru. Balaji assured their commitment to supporting migrant workers in times of emergency.





Topics of Discussion:

The discussions revolved around crucial subjects, including unsafe migration and measures to strengthen Gram Sabha. Additionally, topics such as drugs, health and hygiene, education, and the proper registration of migration were addressed comprehensively.

Positive Impact:

The overarching goal of the sessions was to instigate positive changes in the lives of migrant workers and contribute to the betterment of local communities.

Program Conclusion:

The awareness camp concluded on a positive note, fostering a sense of commu-

nity and collaboration. The participants were treated to refreshments, promoting camaraderie and a relaxed atmosphere for informal interactions.

Conclusion:

The awareness camp served to foster collaboration between various stakeholders to address the challenges faced by brick kiln workers. The commitment of local government officials and the valuable insights shared by resource persons mark

a significant step towards positive change in the lives of migrant workers. We extend our gratitude to all participants and collaborators and look forward to further initiatives aimed at creating a safer and more supportive environment for vulnerable communities.



DBMS TEAM MEET MANIPUR STUDENTS

11 FEBRUARY, 2024:
INM PROVINCE MANIPUR.

The DBMS team recently convened a meeting with Manipur students who have been admitted to various institutions within the Salesian INM Province. The objective of the meeting was to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of their experiences, both in terms of their stay and educational pursuits within the campus.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Evaluation of Stay and Education:

The session commenced with a focused discussion aimed at evaluating the Manipur students' overall experience during their stay and educational journey within the Salesian INM Province. Insights were sought regarding campus life, academic challenges, and any concerns or suggestions they may have.

Encouragement for Spiritual Growth:

The students were heartily encouraged to consider having a spiritual director who could serve as a guiding beacon, monitoring their personal and spiritual growth, and steering them towards a positive direction. This initiative underscores our commitment



to fostering holistic development beyond academic pursuits.

Incentives for Academic Excellence:

A message of hope and encouragement was extended to the students, particularly those who demonstrated commendable performance in academics. They were assured of a promising future, with discussions revolving around potential incentives to further motivate their commitment to excellence in their academic endeavors.

Health and Adaptation:

Noteworthy was the positive observation that all students

are in good health. Additionally, it was reported that the Manipur students have admirably adapted to the local lifestyle, showcasing their resilience and ability to seamlessly integrate into the new environment.

Academic Achievement Despite Challenges:

The team expressed immense satisfaction upon learning that the Manipur students performed exceptionally well in their first semester, despite facing challenges such as a delayed start and various other impediments. This achievement stands as a testament to their dedication and determination.



Closing Thoughts:

In conclusion, the DBMS team is gratified to report positively on the adaptability, academic performance, and overall well-being of the Manipur students. The commitment of these students, coupled with the support of the Salesian INM Province, creates a conducive environment for their growth and development.

Blessings and Best Wishes:

The DBMS team extends heartfelt blessings to all Manipur students, expressing hope that they continue to thrive academically and personally. May their journey be guided by divine grace towards a future filled with success and fulfillment.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special gratitude is extended to the Manipur students for their perseverance and resilience, and to the

Salesian INM Province for providing a nurturing environment for these students to flourish.