

DON BOSCO MIGRANT SERVICES



2024 - 25

Annual REPORT



OUR IMPACT IN 2024 -25

Total
number of
people
reached

7,911

Children
reached

2,536

Laborers
reached

5,748

Families
reached

1,040

Programs
conducted

113

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EMPOWERMENT & ADVOCACY IN ACTION

SPCSA Review Meeting **26 June 2024 – Deepagam Hall, Citadel**

At a strategic review session, DBMS shared its migrant outreach progress from Dec '23 to June '24. Fr. Simolin detailed field interventions, while experts Fr. Bosco, Fr. Joe, and Dr. John Arokiaraj offered insights on rag pickers, education/employment support, and data-driven solutions.



Inter Agency Group (IAG) Meeting **Hosted by DBMS**

DBMS convened key agencies to discuss better coordination for humanitarian response, especially amid climate-induced emergencies. Emphasizing partnerships between NGOs, government, and corporate CSR bodies, the meeting underscored the importance of strengthening local systems and disaster resilience.



Welfare & Awareness Meetings in Ezhil Nagar in August

Two impactful sessions addressed:

- **Women's Labour Rights** – Focused on wages, job security, and welfare schemes.
- **Child Abuse Awareness** – Covered abuse signs, protection strategies, and reporting methods.

The sessions empowered participants marking a strong step toward a safer, informed community.



Staff Animation Program **Location: Redhills**

Led by Fr. John Santhosam, this energizing workshop offered practical strategies for self-motivation, resilience, and teamwork. Staff explored real-life challenges and solutions, leaving with renewed clarity, confidence, and tools to enhance productivity and well-being.



Supporting Intra-State Migrants

The Migrant Ministry Director led a special meeting to support young intra-state migrants separated from their home communities.

📍 **Venue: Don Bosco Campus, Ennore**
Date: September 2024

Focus Areas:

- Spiritual assistance for Catholic youth
- Psychological support and mentorship
- Career guidance and job placement
- Community events to foster connection
- Data is being collected from parishes and institutions to better serve this group, creating safe and inclusive spaces within the Don Bosco network.



Strategic Development Meeting

📍 **Date: September 2024**
By: Don Bosco Migrant Services Team

Staff gathered to plan improvements to intra-state migrant initiatives and the Evening Study Center.

Key Actions:

- Collaborate with CSR and government departments
- Improve resources and facilities for 5th-grade+ students
- Reward achievers and track academic growth
- Organize community-building picnics
- This strategy aims for long-term empowerment, blending education, legal aid, and leadership development.



PATHWAYS TO POTENTIAL

A New Beginning: Don Bosco Migrant Shelter Inaugurated

On January 31, 2025, the feast day of St. John Bosco, Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) inaugurated a new Migrant Shelter within the Anat Farm Community. The shelter was solemnly blessed by Rev. Fr. Don Bosco, Provincial of the Salesian Province of Chennai (INM), and spearheaded by Directors Rev. Fr. Pitchai Muthu and Fr. Simolin. This initiative reflects the Salesian commitment to empowering marginalized groups through practical support and vocational training. The shelter offers temporary accommodation for homeless migrants.

Education Access for Migrant Children: Community Meeting

On January 19, 2025, a significant community meeting was held in Chennai to address the educational needs of migrant children who had not been enrolled in school. Organized by Sister Partima, Sister Madhu, and Don Bosco Migrant Services, the session brought together 78 participants, including both parents and children. The local education counselor leading the session requested a comprehensive list of unregistered children and assured the migrant families that his office would assist with school enrollments. This proactive step marked a vital move toward ensuring that migrant children are not left behind in accessing their right to education.

Tamil Nadu Bishop Conference: Uniting for Migrant Welfare

On January 25, 2025, the Tamil Nadu Bishop Conference in Madurai gathered religious leaders and organizations to focus on the urgent need to support migrants. Representatives from the Salesian and Jesuit congregations, including Fr. Simolin, Fr. Francis Bosco, Fr. Felix, and Fr. Packiya Raj, shared experiences and strategies in their work with displaced populations. Discussions emphasized holistic support systems for migrants, including shelter, legal aid, vocational training, and emotional and spiritual care. Fr. Francis Bosco highlighted the power of spiritual services in fostering belonging, while Fr. Packiya Raj shared the Jesuits' efforts in offering psychological support and job training.

Mr. John Wins State-Level Symposium

On February 21, 2025, Mr. John, a displaced migrant student currently enrolled at Don Bosco Polytechnic College in the Basign Bridge area, achieved a major academic milestone. He secured first place in a state-level paper presentation symposium hosted by P.S.B. Polytechnic College, Kelambakkam. The event, titled "Arrive and Achieve 2k25," drew participants from institutions across Tamil Nadu. Mr. John impressed the judges with his clarity, research depth, and innovative thinking, earning top honors among a highly competitive group. His achievement stands as a powerful testament to perseverance and academic dedication.

MULTI-LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS ACROSS INDIA

MIGRANT EMPOWERMENT MEETING — MARCH 16, 2025

At St. Francis Xavier's Church, Broadway, Don Bosco Migrant Services and Jesuit Migrant Services (JMS) co-hosted a dynamic meeting led by Fr. Simolin. The session focused on empowering the migrant community through key initiatives such as union registration, group formation, Easter celebrations, and soft skill training.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF UNORGANIZED LABOR REPRESENTATIVES — MARCH 20–21, 2025

Held in New Delhi, the National Federation of Unorganized and Migrant Workers (NFUMW) hosted a large-scale conference with over 70 delegates from Tamil Nadu, including a representative from DBMS. Topics included labor union formation, access to ESI and healthcare, monetary assistance, housing, and legal protections.



COLLABORATIVE ACTION FOR ASSAM MIGRANTS — MARCH 20–21, 2025

Don Bosco Institute in Guwahati and Don Bosco School in Dibrugarh hosted a two-day stakeholder consultation titled "Collaborative Action for Assam Migrants." With over 100 participants, including DB4M migrant help desk delegates from across India, the event addressed the plight of Assamese migrants in states like Tamil Nadu and Delhi. A field visit to Khwune Tea Garden further strengthened connections between source and destination states.



DBMS—IOM COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY MEETING — MARCH 25, 2025

A vital meeting between Don Bosco Migrant Services and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) took place in Sriperumbudur to refine service delivery for interstate migrants. The discussion centered on improving outreach, legal protection, and correcting past service delivery gaps.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Introductory Trade Union Meeting – Kannagi Nagar Women Workers Rise

 **Date:** September 2024
Venue: Kannagi Nagar Night School



A first-of-its-kind meeting was held to introduce the idea of a trade union for unorganized women workers.

Highlights:

- Educated 15 women on the importance of unionization
- Shared info on government schemes and rights
- Collected contact details for follow-up
- Facilitated by Mr. Gopal and DBMS team, this initiative paves the way for better wages, rights, and social security.

Community Development Dialogue – Perumbakkam Rising

 **Date:** October 2, 2024
Venue: Bolini Clubhouse, Perumbakkam



Over 100 residents and NGOs gathered to shape the future of Perumbakkam.

Notable Guests:

- Mr. Karthikeyan, DCP, Pallikaranai
- Mr. Vengadesh, ACP, Kelambakkam
- Mr. Shanmugam, Inspector of Police
- Mr. Jayaprakash, Social Development Specialist, TNUHDB
- Discussions focused on security, housing, infrastructure, and inclusive growth—setting the tone for stronger civic collaboration.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

NGO COORDINATION FOR FLOOD RESCUE & RELIEF

Location: Chennai Secretariat

DBMS joined hands with government officials and NGOs to strategize for flood preparedness. The focus was on:

- Coordinated logistics & shelter plans
- Volunteer mobilization for rescue & medical aid
- Clear communication protocols for real-time updates

Thiru. Rajesh Lakhoni, IAS led the session. Representing DBMS, Fr. Simolin and Dr. John committed logistics and community outreach support.

RONGMEI COMMUNITY CELEBRATION – CHENNAI

Date: 26 September 2024

Attendees: 450+ participants

A vibrant cultural and advocacy gathering of the Rongmei tribe, celebrating heritage and strengthening community identity.

Notable dignitaries included:

- Chiru IAS, Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu
- Israel Jabesingh IAS
- Timothy T. Gonmei IRS

The event emphasized education, employment, and unity, with strong support from DBMS.

FR. RAFAEL BEJARANO VISITS GUMMIDIPUNDI

Date: October 2024

Fr. Rafael Bejarano, from the Salesian Youth Ministry Department, visited Gummidipundi, expressing solidarity with migrant youth and families. His presence affirmed the Salesian commitment to the marginalized and encouraged a compassionate response to the challenges they face.

MIGRANT ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Kuki Fresher Meet – 13 Nov 2024

Zeliangrong Sports Meet – 14 Nov 2024

Participants: 500+ migrants

Held in Chennai, these two landmark events fostered community bonding and promoted migrant rights. Activities included sports, networking, and awareness sessions.

DBMS INITIATIVES FOR MIGRANT WELFARE

DBMS JOINS STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS



DBMS actively participated in the State-Level Interstate Migrant Workers Advisory Committee meeting to influence key policies:

- Registration via the ISM Portal with mobile-friendly options
- Grievance redressal: Proposed multilingual, accessible complaint platforms
- Medical awareness: Recommended outreach and digital health education
- Rapid-response teams: Suggested district-wise support cells
- Railway assistance hubs: Proposed help desks, rest areas, and medical aid

DBMS's inputs were well-received, reinforcing its role in policy advocacy.

EVENING STUDY CENTER FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN - PUDUPET VILLAGE, GUMMIDIPOondi



In response to high dropout rates among migrant children, DBMS launched a community study center offering:

- Academic & language tutoring
- Recreational activities
- Staff fluent in local & native languages
- Expected

Outcomes:

- Reduced dropouts
- Better school adaptation
- Boosted confidence and continuity in learning

NGO MEET ON MIGRANT CHILDREN'S WELFARE



DBMS joined a state-led NGO forum addressing the vulnerabilities of migrant children. Key outcomes:

- Emphasis on linking children with Child Welfare Committees (CWC)
- Exchange of best practices among NGOs

State-NGO partnership pledged for child protection and education
DBMS reaffirmed its commitment to collaborative advocacy and child rights.

SPIRITUAL ANIMATION FOR MIGRANTS



To uplift migrants emotionally and spiritually, DBMS hosted a special session featuring:

- Prayer & interfaith reflection
- Personal sharing circles
- Emphasis on faith as a source of resilience and unity

Impact:

Participants felt spiritually renewed, emotionally supported, and more connected with their migrant community.

DON BOSCO MIGRANT SERVICES AND BRICK CHAMBERS ASSOCIATION



Meeting Overview

On March 28, 2025, Fr. Simolin, Director of Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS), met with members of the Brick Chambers Association in Kavarapettai to explore collaborative opportunities for improving the welfare of migrant communities. The session aimed to highlight the benefits of partnering with DBMS, with a focus on health, education, and child development initiatives.

Key Discussions

Fr. Simolin opened the discussion by emphasizing the comprehensive range of services offered by DBMS, such as medical camps and educational awareness programs that directly benefit migrant families. The association representatives expressed appreciation for these services and acknowledged their positive impact on community well-being.

A key request from the Brick Chambers Association was support for procuring educational materials for migrant children. DBMS assured the team that it would explore avenues to fulfill this need, reaffirming its commitment to supporting the academic growth of children in these communities.

Another significant discussion point centered on the importance of parental involvement in education. Fr. Simolin stressed the need to encourage migrant parents to consistently send their children to school, underscoring education as a powerful tool for social mobility and empowerment.

The upcoming summer camp organized by DBMS was also discussed. Fr. Simolin clarified that the camp would be entirely facilitated and funded by Don Bosco Migrant Services, requiring no financial contribution from the Brick Chambers Association. However, the association willingly offered non-financial support in terms of coordination and local outreach.

The meeting concluded on a note of optimism and collaboration. Both DBMS and the Brick Chambers Association committed to ongoing cooperation in areas of health, education, and community engagement. The association expressed heartfelt gratitude for DBMS's dedication and reaffirmed its willingness to support future initiatives aimed at improving the lives of migrant families.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE BECCHI DON BOSCO BROTHERS' YOUTH FEAST 2025



**Kavaraipettai
February 16, 2025**

On February 16, 2025, the Becchi Don Bosco Brothers organized an inspiring and dynamic Youth Feast in Kavaraipettai, aimed at celebrating the enthusiasm, creativity, and strength of young people—especially those from migrant backgrounds. This event was not merely a celebration, but a platform to build unity, foster talent, and reinforce the message that youth, regardless of their circumstances, are vital architects of tomorrow's world.

The day was marked by the presence of the esteemed Fr. Robert Vincent SDB from Ennore, who served as the chief guest. His motivational address stressed the pivotal role that youth play in societal transformation, urging them to rise above challenges and pursue a future filled with purpose and hope. His words set a tone of empowerment and reflection that resonated deeply with everyone present.

Approximately 40 migrant youth participated enthusiastically, bringing energy and diversity to the gathering. One of the most moving highlights of the day was a dance performance by the migrant youth, which fused both traditional and modern forms.

Adding a heartfelt touch to the occasion, the young participants presented complimentary gifts to all attendees, symbolizing gratitude and the importance of shared celebration.

The Youth Feast stood as a powerful expression of identity, togetherness, and youth-driven change. With the leadership and support of the Becchi Don Bosco Brothers and the guidance of Fr. Vincent, this gathering reaffirmed the potential of young migrants as contributors to a vibrant, inclusive society. It was more than a day of festivity—it was a step toward lasting empowerment and belonging.

Bridging Lives and Futures

CCBI Commission for Migrants Meeting



📍 Shanti Sadan, Goa | 📅 Feb 20–21, 2025

Don Bosco Migrant Services took a transformative step by distributing school kits, including shirts and essential educational supplies, to children of brick kiln workers and ICDS beneficiaries. These children face severe educational disruptions due to seasonal migration and child labor. This initiative not only offers material support but plants seeds of hope, inspiring parents, employers, and contractors to value education over exploitation.

Kuki Association Community Gathering



📍 Chennai | 📅 March 26, 2025

The Kuki Association held a pivotal community meeting, electing Mr. Lal as their new team leader—a decision met with great enthusiasm. New migrants were warmly welcomed, and the association reiterated its dedication to integration and support. Mr. Poujendai from Don Bosco Migrant Services introduced the association to various programs, including vocational training, education, and social support.

LABOUR WELFARE PROGRAM FOR BRICK KILN WORKERS



On February 21, 2024, a comprehensive Labour Welfare Program was held in Arani, bringing together over 150 brick kiln workers, community leaders, and key stakeholders. Organized with the support of Jeevan Nirman Chennai, the event aimed to raise awareness and improve access to essential welfare schemes and services.

Key Stakeholder Engagement

The day began with a stakeholder meeting including the Brick Association President and members, Village Administrative Officer (VAO), and representatives from Don Bosco Migrant Services. The discussion focused on:

- Decent living conditions
- Regular and fair wages
- Access to basic entitlements
- Support for children's education

Distinguished Guests in Attendance

The program was honoured by several notable guests like Thiru. Kumaran – Village President, Arani Police Department, Thiru. Kallaimaghal – Headmaster, Pondavakkam, Thiru. Ananda Raidu – Brick Association President, Brick kiln stakeholders: Thiru. Vengal Rao, Naageswar Rao, Rama Krishna, Rama Naih, Rathiya, Suvaa Raidu, Mallikarjun, K. V Rao, Fr. Simolin, Fr. Lourde, Dr. John Arokia, Sisters Punitha, Beronica, and Premcila, Mr. Jerome – Media representative who brought insight and support to the event

Participants engaged in informative sessions and discussions on:

- Government Registration Portals
- Safe Migration
- Health & Hygiene
- Education for Children
- Support Services from Caritas India & Don Bosco Migrant Services

These sessions aimed to empower workers with practical knowledge and link them to available resources.

This Labour Welfare Program represents a meaningful step forward in supporting the rights and well-being of brick kiln workers in Arani. With strong collaboration from local authorities, educational institutions, and service organizations, the event marked a significant stride toward safer, more empowered communities.

Cultivating Leadership, Growth & Purpose

FUTURE LEADERS: Night School Orientation

 **Date: 01 July 2024**



At the night school orientation, students were inspired to pursue education as a path to transformation. Stories of resilience through learning were shared, emphasizing the life-changing power of education.

A special ceremony honored teachers for their dedication with thoughtful gifts, reinforcing their vital role in shaping young lives. The session ended with a renewed sense of motivation and unity in the mission to uplift through education.

TEACHERS' MEET

Date: 14 July 2024
Venue: Don Bosco Illam,
Peravallur



The night school teachers' meeting opened with prayer and reflection, led by Br. Ronald. A core session on the Don Bosco Preventive System reminded teachers of the importance of love, guidance, and proactive care, especially for underprivileged youth.

Past performance was reviewed, and a dynamic action plan for 2024–25 was charted by Fr. Simolin. Academic rewards, competitions, and holistic student engagement were central to the plan.

STAFF ANIMATION PROGRAM

Date: August 2024
Location: Redhills



Led by Fr. John Santhosam, this energizing workshop offered practical strategies for self-motivation, resilience, and teamwork.

Staff explored real-life challenges and solutions, leaving with renewed clarity, confidence, and tools to enhance productivity and well-being.

The program served as a much-needed refresher, preparing teams to face their mission with renewed purpose and strength.

SUMMER CAMP 2024

A Joyful Learning Experience for Migrant Children

This year's Don Bosco Migrant Summer Camp brought together over 620 children from various night schools and migrant communities across Chennai. Held in multiple phases and locations—including Mettupalayam, Puduvayal, Arani, Panampakkam, Thuraipakkam, and Perumbakkam—the camp was organised by Br. Sathish and Br. Rock Valenstine, under the guidance of Fr. Simolin and Fr. Lourdhu.

Over three days in each location, children participated in educational enrichment, games, competitions, and cultural activities. Despite language barriers with children from Odisha and other regions, the team adapted by learning basic words and incorporating inclusive, engaging methods.



Objectives of the Summer Camp

- Educational Enrichment – Strengthening academic foundations through interactive English sessions
- Social Skills Development – Encouraging teamwork, communication, and leadership
- Recreational Activities – Offering a variety of games and competitions for physical and emotional well-being
- Cultural Exposure – Celebrating diverse backgrounds through dance, art, and song
- Community Building – Fostering a sense of belonging among migrant children



Camp Schedule Overview

Phase 1: Mettupalayam, Pannathope & Anna Nagar

Participants: 60 children
Teachers: Mrs. Nivetha, Mrs. Bhuvaneshwari, Mrs. Saranya

The camp was inaugurated by lighting the Kuthuvilakku, symbolising the illumination of knowledge. Activities included English lessons, games, treasure hunt, singing and a vibrant dance competition that brought smiles to every face.

Time	Activities
9:00 AM	Prayer / Inauguration
9:15 AM	Action Songs / Self-Introduction
10:00 AM	Basic English Sessions
10:30 AM	Break
10:45 AM	Party Games & Competitions
11:45 AM	Snacks Distribution
12:00 PM	Wind Up

Phase 2: Puduvayal Brick Chambers (RER, VBW, VBI, PVR, GRT)

Participants: 240 children
Teachers: Mr. Thasaya Sagar, Mrs. Borsha, Mr. Debaraj, Mrs. Suja Santhi, Mrs. Jisenthra, Mr. Deepak, Sr. Veronica, and Sr. Premcila

Each chamber participated actively in educational and recreational activities. The dance competition stood out as the highlight, with children arriving in costume and performing with energy and confidence.

Unlocking Potential Through Learning

Phase 3: Arani & Panampakkam

Arani Camp (May 11–13, 2024)

Participants: 140 students from night schools

Teachers: Mr. Santhan (VBM), Mr. Vimal (SBIP), Mrs. Sureka (SBI), Mr. Lokan (SLG)

Panampakkam Camp (May 13–16, 2024)

Participants: 100 children

Teachers: Mr. Prana Bandu (SSB), Mr. Munkund (PSR), Mrs. Lalitha (ABI)

Both camps opened with ice-breakers and action songs like Ram Sam Sam, followed by dance and singing competitions. Children from different chambers collaborated and shared joyful moments together.

Phase 4: Thuraipakkam & Perumbakkam (Tamil-Speaking Areas)

Participants: 110 children from four night schools

Teachers: Mr. Prana Bandu (Ezhil Nagar), Mrs. Praveena (Kannagi Nagar), Mrs. Manimagalai (Q-Block), Mrs. Subalakshmi (19-Block)

Held in two shifts—morning at Thuraipakkam, evening at Perumbakkam—this phase featured unique activities like cooking competitions and treasure hunts, making full use of shared language and cultural understanding. Participation was enthusiastic and deeply heartfelt.



DBMS ORGANIZES A DAY OF JOY AT MGM THEME PARK



On 24th November 2024, Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) organized a joyful day outing to MGM Theme Park for students from ten evening study centers. This special event was more than a day of fun—it was a heartfelt reward for students who had shown remarkable dedication to their education.

Selection Criteria

To ensure fairness and purpose, DBMS established clear eligibility criteria:

- Academic Excellence: Students who passed all subjects with consistent effort.
- Outstanding Attendance: Students with 90% or higher attendance, reflecting discipline and engagement.

More Than Just a Trip

This outing was a symbol of encouragement—a message to every child that their hard work is noticed, appreciated, and celebrated. It aimed to:

- Recognize and reward consistent academic effort
- Motivate continued excellence and regular attendance
- Build a sense of pride, belonging, and personal achievement

For many students, it was their first-ever trip to a theme park—an unforgettable experience filled with rides, laughter, and friendship.

This event reflects DBMS's commitment to holistic development. We believe education doesn't stop at textbooks—it includes recognition, motivation, and joyful moments that shape confident, motivated young learners.

Opening Doors Through Education

EDUCATION AWARENESS FOR IRULAR COMMUNITY

A focused education awareness program was held in Kavarapettai to sensitize displaced migrants and marginalized communities on the critical importance of education. The session highlighted how education can break the cycle of poverty, improve employment opportunities, and uplift social status. Through interactive discussions and practical advice, families were encouraged to enroll their children in school and commit to long-term learning. The event fostered a renewed sense of hope and determination among participants to prioritize education.



EDUCATION AWARENESS FOR IRULAR COMMUNITY

An impactful awareness session was conducted for parents of tribal children from the Irular community, addressing school dropout prevention. Attended by 38 participants, the event included guest speakers from government and social welfare departments who emphasized the significance of regular school attendance. Parents were encouraged to play an active role in their children's education. The session laid the groundwork for ongoing support to reduce dropout rates among tribal children.

EDUCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM

Don Bosco Migrant Services organized an education awareness program for 70 migrant children and their families at SLGBW Chamber. The event emphasized regular school attendance, featured motivational talks, and awarded shirts to students with consistent attendance. Through role plays and group activities, children were taught the long-term value of education. The program successfully inspired children and parents alike, leading to increased commitment to schooling and stronger collaboration between educators and families.

Community-Driven School Enrollments and Education Support

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DRIVE

An awareness program and enrollment drive at PVR Chamber engaged 40 children and their parents. While 23 children were already attending school, 33 were newly registered during the event. Parents were educated about the role of education in shaping their children's future, and each child received a shirt as a symbol of encouragement. The initiative not only increased school enrollment but also strengthened parental commitment to regular school attendance.

GUMMIDIPOONDI SIPCOT AND MANALI – ADDRESSING THE EDUCATION CRISIS

In Gummidipoondi SIPCOT, nearly 95% of the area's 300 migrant children were not attending school. A similar crisis exists in Manali. To address this, evening study centers were established in both locations, offering structured learning spaces and homework support. Alongside, awareness sessions for parents highlighted the long-term benefits of education. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to combat educational neglect through collaboration with NGOs, local authorities, and community groups.



These initiatives have begun to empower families and inspire a cultural shift toward valuing education. Children previously disconnected from formal learning are now gaining basic literacy skills and a renewed sense of purpose. Parents are becoming active participants in their children's educational journey. Moving forward, Don Bosco Migrant Services aims to expand these programs, ensure their sustainability, and reach even more vulnerable communities.

Evening Study Center Inaugurated for the Irular Community



In a significant step towards educational equity, Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) launched a new Evening Study Center for the Irular community, in July 2024 reaffirming its commitment to empowering marginalized groups through learning and support.

The center aims to bridge the educational gap faced by Irular children by providing a structured, nurturing space for after-school study and homework help. Inaugurated with the active participation of community members and DBMS staff, the initiative has already been welcomed as a beacon of hope.

Key Objectives:

- **Improve Educational Outcomes:** With consistent guidance, children are expected to see measurable academic improvement and better future opportunities.
- **Promote Social Inclusion:** The center encourages belonging, confidence, and greater engagement with wider society.

This initiative highlights DBMS's belief that education is not just a service, but a powerful path toward dignity, self-reliance, and long-term change.

FOSTERING HOPE, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

EMPOWERING BRICK KILN CHILDREN

 **Brick Kiln Sites across Chennai**
 **March 2024**

Don Bosco Migrant Services took a transformative step by distributing school kits, including shirts and essential educational supplies, to children of brick kiln workers and ICDS beneficiaries. These children face severe educational disruptions due to seasonal migration and child labor.



TEACHERS' MEETING & WELFARE PLANNING

 **Brick Chambers, Tamil Nadu** |  **March 29, 2025**

Don Bosco Migrant Services reaffirmed its commitment to educators and students at brick chambers by hosting a dialogue focused on salaries, student welfare, and upcoming initiatives. Teachers' financial concerns were prioritized, while student-focused efforts were emphasized. A seasonal boarding program was announced to provide students with a distraction-free learning environment.

INAUGURATION OF NEW EVENING STUDY CENTER

 **19th Block, Chennai** |  **March 2025**

The newly relocated Evening Study Center was inaugurated within the 20th Block Association Union Welfare Office to improve access to academic support for local students. Union Leader Ganesh inaugurated the event, and 19 children enrolled for tuition services. Each student received a stationery kit and chocolates.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITH DRVIDA NATPU KALAKAM

 **DBMS, Okkiyampetai** |  **March 2024**

The Kuki Association held a pivotal community meeting, electing Mr. Lal as their new team leader—a decision met with great enthusiasm. New migrants were warmly welcomed, and the association reiterated its dedication to integration and support. Mr. Poujendai from Don Bosco Migrant Services introduced the association to various programs, including vocational training, education, and social support.

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH WORKSHOPS

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

📍 Sagayathottam
📅 2 Days | 2024
🎯 DBMS Annual Goals Refined

Facilitated by Dr. John Arokiaraj, the DBMS team:

- Set measurable impact metrics for 2024
- Completed detailed SWOT analysis of all programs
- Outlined KPIs and resource allocation for:
 - Education
 - Health
 - Vocational Training

This session ensured DBMS is mission-aligned and performance-focused for the year ahead.



BEAUTY ARTS TRAINING FOR DISPLACED WOMEN

📍 Durai Pakkam, Chennai
📅 Launched April 10, 2024
👩 30 Women Beneficiaries



A partnership between TNUHDB & Skill Development Board initiated hands-on beauty arts training, including:

- Makeup & Skincare
- Hairstyling
- Salon Management

Goal: Foster self-reliance & entrepreneurship among displaced women from Kannagi Nagar.

Outcome: Women gain skills, confidence & income-generating potential.

UNORGANISED WORKERS' WELFARE WORKSHOP

📍 Jawadhu Hills, Jmunamarathur
📅 May 29–30, 2024
📖 Legal Literacy & Safety

Day 1:

- Orientation on Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008
- Emphasized registration and entitlements

Day 2:

- In-depth look at occupational health & safety under National Policy
- Called for employer-worker dialogue & regular review of safety policies

This workshop empowered grassroots laborers with the tools to claim protections and shape safer working conditions.



STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS

NATIONAL MIGRANT WORKSHOP 2024 — BUILDING COLLECTIVE ACTION

Held in August 2024, this workshop brought together 13 Salesian leaders to share field experiences and chart collective strategies for migrant support. Key outcomes included plans for shelters, help desks in cities like Guwahati and Chennai, state helplines, and forming workers' collectives.



LEGAL AID WORKSHOP - BANGALORE

From 27–29 November 2024, DBMS staff attended a legal training on migrant rights at Indian Social Institute. Sessions covered wage theft, trafficking, detention, and compensation, with case studies and group work. The workshop strengthened participants' capacity to provide legal support and highlighted the role of media in migrant advocacy.



SEWING MACHINE SUPPORT FOR WOMEN — CHENNAI

In March 2024, Sisters Pratima and Madhu helped six marginalized women apply for sewing machines through the Chennai Collector's Office. Three women from Denotified Tribes advanced in the process and were encouraged to apply for DNC cards. The effort deepened local official engagement.



LEGAL DRAFTING WORKSHOP — BENGALURU

Held from 17–19 March 2025, this training enhanced the legal writing skills of migrant support workers. Participants learned to draft FIRs, affidavits, complaints, and petitions, and how to file cases with the Human Rights Commission. The workshop bridged field realities with formal legal processes.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR DISPLACED YOUTH



In the wake of recent violence and unrest, displaced migrant children have found a beacon of hope through a summer skill development initiative in Chennai. At the heart of the effort was Don Bosco Vazhikatti, which played a leading role in organising training sessions and providing a nurturing environment for the participants.

The program was strengthened by the support of caring individuals and institutions, including St. Ann's Provincial, who hosted five girls, and the Holy Cross Sisters, who accommodated two more.

In total, 14 students took part in the program. Beyond gaining technical skills, these young people developed resilience, self-esteem, and a sense of direction. The program not only prepared them for future employment but also helped restore a sense of normalcy and purpose.

In a time marked by displacement and uncertainty, this initiative is a reminder of the power of education and skill-building. It shows how targeted support can create real impact—not just in livelihoods, but in lives.

As DBMS continues its work with migrant youth, this success stands as a clear example of how community collaboration, compassion, and practical training can come together to foster healing, hope, and long-term change.

Bridging Theory and Practice

Transformative Internship Experiences with Don Bosco Migrant Services

Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) continues to serve as a vital learning platform for young social work students through its structured exposure programs and internships. These programs give students real-world experience in understanding the lives, struggles, and resilience of migrant workers across Chennai and its surrounding areas. In recent months, three students - Mr. John Paul Barjo, Mr. Bijas, and Mr. John, took part in meaningful fieldwork that bridged classroom theory with practical field engagement.



Internship: Mr. John Paul Barjo Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur | MSW – Semester 2

Mr. John Paul Barjo approached DBMS seeking hands-on exposure in migrant fieldwork. In response, DBMS organized guided visits to key working zones, including Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) and Sriperumbudur. With the support of DBMS staff, Mr. Barjo observed the day-to-day life of migrant workers—their housing conditions, work patterns, and socio-economic challenges.

Field Visits: Mr. Bijas & Mr. John Don Bosco College, Dharmapuri | MSW – Semester 3

In June, Mr. Bijas and Mr. John joined a DBMS-organised exposure visit across OMR, Manali, and Sriperumbudur. Their time in the field helped them witness the realities of migrant labour up close, including housing insecurity, job instability, and limited access to government support schemes.

They were also introduced to various welfare programs offered by the Labour Department and local agencies, giving them tools to better support and guide migrant communities in their future roles as social workers.

Beyond Observation: Active Ministry Involvement

The internship didn't stop at site visits. All three students actively engaged in community outreach, awareness drives, and support services for migrant workers. By stepping into ministry work, they learned to apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges, building empathy, leadership, and practical problem-solving skills.

Education Beyond the Classroom

As part of their fieldwork with Don Bosco Migrant Services, the trainees engaged in grassroots-level community development and interventions, focusing on inter-state migrants in Sadayankuppam Burma Colony and the Irular tribal community. The work emphasized both needs assessment and rights-based support strategies.

Field Work Duration: 21.08.2024 – 10.10.2024

Trainees:

- Ruby Nikita S. (24-PSW-004)
- Vanavil A. P. (24-PSW-024)



Key interventions

- **Makkaludan Mudhalvan Camp – Mambakkam Panchayat**

Assisted villagers in petition writing and navigated them through the camp for smoother grievance redressal.

- **Group Work on Addiction – Perumbakkam ITI**

Conducted awareness sessions using role play and community songs on drug and phone addiction among adolescents.

- **Water Petition – Kannagi Nagar**

Collected signatures for a petition to address water scarcity and submitted it to the Chennai Metro Water Board.

- **Dropout Prevention – Uthukadu ST Quarters**

Collaborated with the school HM to organize a parental awareness program on school retention.

- **Empowerment Through Police Petition – Walajabad B5 Station**

Filed a petition for a Police Boys Club and invited the Sub-Inspector to a community awareness event.

- **Community Program – Uthukadu ST Quarters**

Mobilized stakeholders for a session on education and healthcare; parents pledged to support schooling.

- **Migrant Workers' Group Session – Mambakkam**

Promoted unity, cleanliness, and non-violence to encourage collective support and identity among workers.

- **Language Intervention – "Tamil Mozhi Karpom"**

Addressed language barriers by teaching Tamil basics to migrants for day-to-day communication and financial literacy.

Ensuring Legal Support and Dignified Repatriation



The Tragic Demise of Migrant Laborer Ramdas Bibhar

Date of Incident: March 11, 2024

Location: TJS Bricks Kilns, Kilikodi, Kavaraipetai, Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu

A Life of Labour, A Tragic Loss

Ramdas Bibhar, a hardworking migrant laborer from Balangir district, Odisha, was employed at a brick kiln in Tamil Nadu. Like many seasonal workers, Ramdas bore the weight of long hours and harsh conditions, far from the comfort of his home.

In early March, his health began to decline due to prolonged fever compounded by heavy physical workload.

On March 10, at 3:55 AM, he was admitted to Stanley Government Hospital, Chennai. Despite medical efforts, he passed away the next morning at 11:40 AM on March 11, 2024.

Legal Assistance & Family Support

In response to this heartbreaking loss, Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) staff immediately reached the hospital to support the grieving family.

Recognizing the family's decision for a swift repatriation, DBMS facilitated all necessary legal formalities by coordinating with the Resident Medical Officer (RMO) and hospital authorities.

Through coordinated efforts, arrangements were made for the safe and respectful return of Ramdas Bibhar's body to Odisha. This dignified repatriation is a testament to the commitment of DBMS toward the rights and dignity of migrant workers.

SAFEGUARDING MIGRANT WORKERS - A CASE STUDY BY DON BOSCO MIGRANT SERVICES



On April 16, 2024, DBMS responded to a distress call from MPN Labours, a group of migrant workers facing unsafe working conditions and exploitation. A formal letter received by the team prompted immediate action to investigate, support, and restore justice to the affected individuals.

BACKGROUND

The workers, primarily from northern India, were victims of wage theft—with their contractor withholding over Rs. 1,25,000 in salaries. With no access to recourse and limited local support, the laborers found themselves in a vulnerable and desperate state.

DBMS INTERVENTION

- Conducted a fact-finding visit
- Engaged in direct negotiation with the brick kiln owner
- Advocated for the immediate release and return of the workers
- Raised awareness of the human rights violations involved

The owner ultimately agreed to release the workers and allow their safe return home.

SUPPORT AND REPATRIATION

In collaboration with local authorities and partners, DBMS:

- Arranged transportation bookings
- Coordinated safe travel logistics
- Offered emotional and legal support to the workers
- Ensured continuous accompaniment until repatriation was complete

The affected migrants expressed gratitude for the intervention and the compassionate support shown throughout their ordeal.

This case demonstrates DBMS's unwavering commitment to protecting migrant dignity and labor rights.

RESCUE OPERATION SAVES MIGRANT WORKERS FROM EXPLOITATIVE BRICK KILN

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

On April 2024, a critical rescue operation led by Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) successfully liberated 14 migrant workers and 3 children trapped in exploitative conditions at a brick kiln in Mettupalayam, Thiruvallur. These workers, mostly from Bihar and Odisha, were illegally confined and forced to work even after the season ended—violating labor laws and basic human rights.

“The workers were cramped in makeshift rooms with no sanitation and no freedom,” said Mr. Rajesh Kumar, DBMS officer.

UNFOLDING THE EXPLOITATION

Promised fair wages and humane conditions, the workers found themselves stripped of dignity, forced into prolonged labor, and subjected to threats when they asked to leave. Local advocacy groups alerted DBMS, triggering a swift and coordinated rescue with law enforcement and community volunteers.

“This rescue is a wake-up call. We must build systems that protect, not exploit,” – Ms. Priya Devi, Migrant Rights Advocate

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

17 People Rescued
14 Adults + **3** Children
4 Legal Complaints Registered
3 Partner NGOs Engaged
100% Workers Repatriated Safely

LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY

DBMS negotiated immediate travel support for the workers and ensured that they returned home safely with basic amenities, medical care, and legal backing.

Legal proceedings have begun against the kiln owner for illegal confinement and labor exploitation. NGOs and DBMS continue to assist the survivors while advocating for policy reform and increased enforcement of migrant labor laws.



Rescue and Rehabilitation of Exploited Migrant Workers in Chennai

Impact snapshot

7

Workers Rescued from Exploitation

Incident overview

In a deeply troubling case, seven boys from Manipur were misled by a contractor promising legitimate employment in an automobile company in Chennai. Instead of fair work, they were subjected to exploitative deductions, poor living conditions, and ultimately, eviction when they fell ill.

Situation analysis

- ₹11,000 collected per worker as an upfront fee
- ₹2,750 deducted for basic needs like food and hygiene
- Remaining: ₹7,500 for a full month's labor

Skin diseases and heat-related illnesses developed due to extreme working conditions

Critical incident - June 21

Two workers, after falling sick, were evicted without notice—their utensils and gas connection taken. They were left homeless, prompting urgent intervention from their families and support networks.

Swift Intervention and Resolution

- Temporary shelter arranged with a compassionate local homeowner
- Negotiation with the contractor resulted in a written commitment to release pending wages by July 10, 2024
- Restaurant Zaiton stepped in generously:
 - Free accommodation
 - Nutritious meals
 - 15,000/month salary
 - Legal and ethical employment terms

This case is a sobering reminder of how easily vulnerable migrant workers can be trapped in exploitative cycles. The timely intervention of Don Bosco Migrant Services, community allies, and compassionate employers restored dignity and stability for these boys.



UPHOLDING DIGNITY & JUSTICE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

Two Stories of Advocacy and Support from Don Bosco Migrant Services

Resolving Labor Dispute and Ensuring Justice

Case of Mr. Jinlakpou & Mrs. Salie
Location: Tambaram, Chennai

When Mr. Jinlakpou and Mrs. Salie, a migrant couple from Nagaland, were denied three weeks' salary at Kerala Corner Hotel, Don Bosco Migrant Services stepped in after receiving their letter dated June 23, 2024.

The couple had faced exploitation, forced to work 12-hour days instead of the promised 10, and were threatened with legal action when they asked for their pay.

After rigorous mediation, the hotel owner released their dues and accepted their resignation.

OUTCOME

- Full wages received
- New employment secured at Biryani Center, Adyar
- Grievance resolved with documented follow-up

This case highlights the urgency of enforcing labor rights and ensuring ethical employment practices for all migrant workers.

From Tragedy to Resolution

Case of Mr. Achamrongmei
Location: Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu

Mr. Achamrongmei tragically passed away due to electrocution at his residence. The case was registered under Crime No. 161/2024, Section 174 CrPC, and processed for post-mortem. With family consent, his body was transported to NAMDAILONG, Assam, for burial.

Following the confirmation of death, a case was filed under Crime No. 161/2024 (Section 174 CrPC) at B6 – Mappedu Police Station. DBMS supported the family with legal follow-up, enabling timely post-mortem and ensuring repatriation of the body to Namdailong Village, Assam.

OUTCOME

- Death certificate collected (June 18, 2024)
- Petition for accident relief submitted (June 25, 2024)
- Funeral rites conducted with family consent

The case underscores the critical need for occupational safety in informal housing for migrant workers and our commitment to ensuring dignity in death and family welfare.

Manu Kumar's Participant Testimony

"They helped me find my mother again."

A heartfelt testimony from Manu Kumar,
a 12-year-old child supported by Don
Bosco Migrant Service

Testimony of participant:

"My name is Manu Kumar, son of Bolitha Devi, and I am from Bihar.

I was traveling back home from Gummidipoondi by truck when the driver unexpectedly dropped me on the way.

I was left stranded, uncertain of how to return. I intended to go back to Gummidipoondi, where my mother works, but I could not remember the way.

Feeling lost and frightened, I was fortunate enough to meet Mr. G. Atio, a staff member of the Don Bosco Migrant Service.

Mr. Atio kindly took me to their Migrant Service Centre, where I was given a safe place to stay overnight.

The following morning, he helped me reunite with my mother.

I am so happy to have reached my mother safely. Their help made a big difference in my life. I will never forget the care and kindness they showed me."



Hope Restored

Manu's story is a reminder of how small interventions can make a life-changing impact. Thanks to the Jeevan Nirman project and the dedicated team at Don Bosco Migrant Service, a lost child was not only protected but reunited with his family safely. Our response shows the power of timely support, and the need for safe migration systems for children and families.

Dignity in Rest & Road to Recovery

DIGNITY IN REST: A FAREWELL TO A MIGRANT

DATE OF DEMISE: JANUARY 6, 2025

LOCATION: CHENNAI

ORIGIN: ASSAM

On December 31, 2024, a migrant worker from Assam met with an accident and tragically succumbed to his injuries on January 6, 2025. His untimely passing left a deep void, but also ignited a compassionate collective response.

Compassion in Action:

Thanks to the efforts of Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS), JMS, and Uravugal Trust, the deceased received a dignified burial. This collaborative response ensured the migrant worker was laid to rest with respect and care.

FROM ACCIDENT TO ADVOCACY: THE CASE OF MR. PIUCHUIPOU RONGMEI

DATE OF INCIDENT: JANUARY 2, 2025

LOCATION: PORUR, CHENNAI

VICTIM: MR. PIUCHUIPOU RONGMEI, FROM MANIPUR

While crossing the road to dispose of garbage, Mr. Rongmei was struck by a speeding unknown biker in a hit-and-run accident. The traffic police on duty responded quickly and arranged for emergency medical assistance.

Medical Support:

Mr. Rongmei was admitted to Ramchandra Hospital. His condition is currently under evaluation, and DBMS is supporting his family with continuous updates and care coordination.

Justice in Progress:

- DBMS has initiated investigative follow-ups with law enforcement.
- A formal petition has been filed.
- Efforts to locate the fleeing biker are ongoing with support from CCTV surveillance and community engagement.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAMS



Promoting Healthy Choices – Students Program

Date: August 2024

Interactive workshops and personal testimonies empowered students to resist peer pressure and make informed decisions about drug use. Emphasis was placed on self-esteem, mental health, and safe adult support.



MSW-Led Drug Awareness Sessions

Date: July 2024

Facilitated by MSW students, this session educated adolescents on drug effects, legal consequences, and prevention strategies through role plays, group discussions, and real-life examples.



Perumbakkam ITI – Drug & Mobile Awareness

Participants: 86 Students

Focused on dual risks—drug abuse and mobile addiction—this collaborative program with TNUHDB encouraged responsible behavior and academic focus.



“No Drugs” at Kumaran Nagar Labour Colony

Participants: 82

Led by TTK Hospital and animated by Thiru. Solaman & Mr. Saravanan, the session covered addiction prevention, stress management, and community dialogue on substance abuse.



Drugs & Tobacco Awareness – Kavarapettai

Participants: 17

A focused session promoting healthy lifestyles, with interactive discussions highlighting the dangers of tobacco and substance use, encouraging ongoing community engagement.



“No Drugs, No Depression” – Shollinganallur

Date: Feb 13, 2025 | **Participants:** 78 Migrant Laborers

Conducted with IMH Chennai, this session connected mental health and substance abuse, addressed depression symptoms, and introduced accessible support services.



Addiction & Depression Awareness – OMR Colony

Date: Mar 1, 2025 | **Participants:** 180

A large-scale session supported by Don Bosco Brothers, covering mental health education, signs of addiction, and migrant-specific challenges. Interactive Q&A sessions encouraged open conversations

Promoting a Safe and Inclusive Workplace

POSH AWARENESS AT ROOP AUTOMOTIVE LTD, SRIPERUMBUDUR

On July 22, 2024, Roop Automotive Ltd. in Sriperumbudur conducted a POSH awareness session attended by 48 employees, including two HR personnel. The session provided a detailed overview of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013, emphasizing the employer's responsibility to maintain a safe and respectful work environment. Participants were informed about compliance requirements, such as the formation of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), and the formal mechanisms for reporting and resolving complaints. The session encouraged active engagement through questions and scenario discussions, reinforcing the company's commitment to workplace safety and dignity.



A larger POSH awareness session was held at Roop Automotive Ltd. on December 13, 2024, with 216 employees participating, including 119 women and 97 men. This session expanded on the key provisions of the POSH Act, focusing on the rights and responsibilities of both employees and employers in maintaining a harassment-free workplace. Through interactive case studies and Q&A discussions, the importance of the ICC's role in grievance redressal was highlighted. To ensure lasting impact, the company recommended ongoing training and clear communication channels for complaints. The active involvement of HR and management in organizing the session demonstrated Roop Automotive's strong dedication to fostering an inclusive and safe workplace culture.



BUILDING BRIDGES: KEY MEETINGS AND INITIATIVES FOR EMPOWERMENT

INTERFACE MEETING FOR NORTHEAST MIGRANT WORKERS

Date: April 21, 2024

Organizer: Don Bosco Migrant Services

Highlights:

- Brought together 40 Northeast migrant workers, government reps, and community leaders for dialogue and collaboration.
- Led by Fr. Simolin, Fr. Lordu, Sr. Madhu, and Mr. Deepak.
- Focus on safe migration, government registration, legal assistance, and awareness of DBMS services.
- Provided valuable networking opportunities and a communal lunch to foster solidarity.

AWARENESS MEETING ON BASIC RIGHTS AND DECENT LIVING

Venue: Mambakkam

Participants: 40

Chief Guests: Father Simolin and Father Lourd

Key Points:

- Educated attendees on fundamental rights and dignified living standards.
- Included a mini-medical camp offering blood pressure and glucometer check-ups by Mrs. Karthika (MTM staff).
- Snacks and rice kits provided to all participants.
- Emphasized health awareness and empowerment.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Place: OMR

Date: July 20 & 21, 2024

Details:

- Youth meeting at Kannagi Nagar introduced the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan scheme promoting skill development and leadership.
- Clarified misunderstandings about the scheme and youth club roles.
- Followed by home visits to support children attending local tuition, reinforcing educational outreach.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TIES: RONGMEI LEADERS' MEETING

Date: July 2, 2024

Location: Coimbatore

Summary:

- Rongmei leaders from Chennai and Coimbatore met to discuss lifestyle, job awareness, legal compliance, and cultural respect.
- Advocated weekly community prayer to strengthen unity.
- Addressed migrant worker issues and announced plans to register Rongmei community members for better support.

FOSTERING MENTAL WELLNESS

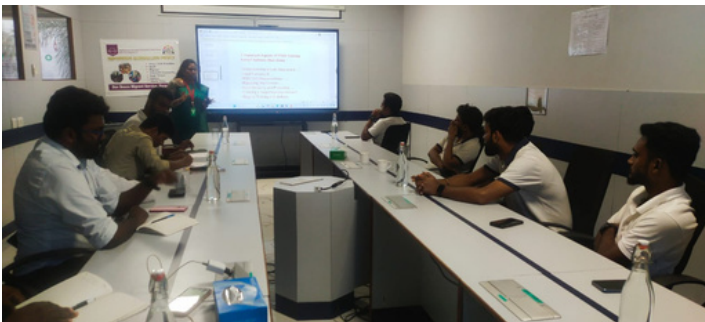
SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS – ROOP AUTOMOTIVE LTD., SRIPERUMBUDUR

In observance of Suicide Prevention Day, an awareness session was held at Roop Automotive Ltd., Sriperumbudur. The program emphasized the importance of mental health and aimed to equip employees with tools to identify and support those at risk. Key topics included recognizing warning signs of suicidal ideation, understanding the link between emotional distress and suicide, and promoting a workplace culture where individuals feel safe to seek help. Employees were introduced to internal and external support resources and encouraged to prioritize mental well-being in their daily lives.



STRESS MANAGEMENT & INTERNAL COMMITTEE POLICY FOR MIGRANT LABORERS – ROOP AUTOMOTIVE PLANT 2

On January 6, 2025, Don Bosco Migrant Services, in collaboration with the HR team at Roop Automotive, organized a dual-session awareness program for 63 migrant workers. The sessions focused on managing workplace stress through practical techniques like mindfulness and breathing exercises, as well as understanding employees' rights under the Internal Committee Policy. Group discussions and real-life case studies enabled participants to relate the content to their experiences. The initiative empowered workers to address mental strain while reinforcing their rights to a safe and inclusive work environment.



DEPRESSION AWARENESS FOR MIGRANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS – DON BOSCO MIGRANT SERVICES

On February 6, 2025, 70 migrant construction workers attended a Depression Awareness Program facilitated by Dr. Geeta Raj Morgan and her team from Kilpauk Hospital. The session covered the symptoms and effects of depression, stress management techniques, and available mental health resources. A Q&A segment and distribution of multilingual leaflets helped make the content accessible. The event broke stigma and opened up dialogue, enabling participants to recognize depression and seek help for themselves or peers. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with calls for regular follow-up programs.



The Right to Thrive

Legal Awareness Program for Migrants



DBMS conducted a Legal Awareness Program at Gummidipoondi.

- Aimed to educate the community on legal rights and processes.
- Provided a platform for locals to voice challenges and seek guidance.
- Issues raised included employment disputes and legal documentation.
- DBMS staff offered initial support and reassurance.
- Emphasized the message: “We are here to support you.”
- Received with gratitude and built trust within the community.

Safety Awareness Program Mela

L&T Construction Site | 31 Jan 2025

In collaboration with L&T Construction Pvt. Ltd., DBMS organized a Safety Mela reaching 362 workers.

Event Themes: First Aid Training, Site Safety, Joyful Life & Motivation

Program Highlights:

- CPR & Emergency Response demos
- Interactive games & scenario-based learning
- Motivational sessions for well-being

Unorganised Labour Union Yatra

Chengalpattu to Thiruvallur | 25 Nov 2024

In solidarity with thousands of unorganised workers, DBMS joined the statewide awareness campaign led by Mrs. Geetha Maa, marking India's 77th Independence Anniversary.

Focus Areas:

- Government welfare schemes for migrant workers
- Legal rights: Wages, housing, education, healthcare
- Community mobilization and state accountability

COMMUNITY HEALTH CAMPS

Fostering Food Awareness Among Children March 14, 2024 | Perumbakkam, Chennai

DBMS organized an interactive food awareness session for children. Mr. Rayar and Mr. Gopinathan led discussions on balanced diets and mindful eating. Children actively participated, sharing experiences and asking questions. The session empowered them to make healthier food choices.



Cleanliness and Health Awareness Program July 20, 2024 | Pudupettai Village, Pudu Gumidipoondi Panchayat



30 residents joined a session on hygiene, sanitation, and health. Mr. Casimir Toppo and Mr. Adeep emphasized disease prevention and clean living. Participants received guidance on daily hygiene and nutrition. Snacks and interactive discussions strengthened community bonds.

HIV Screening and Awareness Program July 19, 2024 | Mambakkam | 93 Participants

HIV screening was done for 50 migrants; no positive cases were found. Separate awareness sessions held for 30 adolescent boys and 13 female migrants. Sessions focused on prevention, detection, and access to healthcare. Joint effort by Tamil Nadu HIV Control Dept., REIVAX, and other NGOs.



Awareness Meeting & Health Camp July 7, 2024 | Manali | 90 Adults, 13 Children



DBMS and Panchayat President held a camp for migrants, PwDs, and single women. Formed Self-Help Groups to promote economic independence and support. Free health checkups and medicines were provided to all participants. Aimed at holistic empowerment through health and community organization.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS EVENTS

VISION FOR ALL: EYE CAMP BY DON BOSCO MIGRANT SERVICES — L&T, PERUMBAKKAM

Don Bosco Migrant Services organized a free eye camp to provide essential eye care to migrant laborers at L&T, Perumbakkam. 157 laborers received comprehensive eye examinations, including vision acuity tests and screening for conditions like cataracts. Prescription and reading glasses were distributed free of cost to those in need. The initiative significantly improved access to eye care for a marginalized group reliant on good vision for their livelihoods.

POLIO IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM — SLGBW CHAMBER, PUDUEL

A government-led polio immunization drive was held at SLGBW Chamber, Puduel, vaccinating 30 children aged 1–6 years. 32 families attended, reflecting strong community engagement and parental support. Healthcare workers also offered advice on follow-up immunizations. The event marked a meaningful step in public health efforts to eradicate polio and protect young children.

GENERAL MEDICAL CAMP — LABOUR COLONY, KUMARAN NAGAR

A general medical camp benefiting 115 migrant laborers was conducted at Labour Colony, Kumaran Nagar, on October 8, 2024. Organized with MCDS Brothers and Wockhardt Foundation, the camp offered consultations, screenings, and treatments for common ailments. Medical teams provided basic diagnostics, preventive care advice, and referrals. The camp underscored the importance of regular healthcare outreach for underserved communities.

EYE CAMP — “RIGHT TO SEE” PROGRAM, L&T METRO SITE

On December 10, 2024, the “Right to See” Community Eye Health Program held an eye camp at the L&T Metro construction site. 75 migrant workers were screened, and 53 were recommended corrective glasses. The initiative addressed vital vision needs, enhancing the workers’ quality of life and job performance. Future recommendations include distributing subsidized glasses, conducting follow-ups, and replicating the model in similar settings.

HEALTH INTERVENTIONS



1. Vision for All – Eye Camp at L&T, Perumbakkam

Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) organized a free eye camp benefiting 157 migrant laborers through detailed check-ups and free prescription glasses. The camp raised awareness about eye health and aimed to prevent vision issues common among laborers. The initiative significantly improved both personal and professional well-being for attendees.

2. General Medical Camp – Labour Colony, Kumaran Nagar (08.10.24)

In partnership with MCDS Brothers and Wockhardt Foundation, DBMS conducted a medical camp that served 115 migrant workers. Services included consultations, screenings, and treatments for common health issues. The camp enhanced healthcare access for a vulnerable group.

3. Eye Camp – L&T Metro Site (10.12.24)

The “Right to See” Program held an eye camp for 75 migrant workers; 53 were recommended corrective glasses. The initiative improved their vision and productivity. Future plans include subsidized glasses and follow-up camps.

4. Migrant Medical Camp – Palnallore (13.07.24)

DBMS supported a camp with Meenakshi Medical College, Yamaha, and Myrtle Social Welfare Network. Services included blood pressure checks, outreach through mobile vans and HR engagement in metal industries. A total of 140 migrants benefited from the program.

5. Migrant Medical Camp – Palnallore Colony, Sriperumbudur (20.07.24)

280 migrant laborers and 109 locals received health services including vitals check, medication, and medical referrals. Yamaha committed to covering treatment costs for 30 referred cases at Meenakshi Hospital, Kanchipuram.

6. Mental Health Awareness Program – Pudupettai (08.09.24)

DBMS conducted a session for 20 migrants from Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha, led by Mr. Casimir Toppo and Bro. Adeep. It focused on mental health awareness, reducing stigma, and coping with migration-related stress. The interactive session fostered community dialogue and emotional support.

Extending Healthcare and Awareness to Migrant Communities

Free General Medical Camp – Chemmanchery

Date: January 25, 2025

Location: Migrant Labour Colony, Kumaran Nagar, Chemmanchery, Chennai

Beneficiaries: 118 migrant laborers

Partners: Equates Hospital, Medavakkam

In a bid to provide accessible healthcare to underserved migrant workers, DBMS organized a free medical camp offering lung checkups, eye exams, and general consultations. A team of one general physician and four nurses from Equates Hospital provided services. Free medicines and follow-up advice were given. This initiative helped raise health awareness and encouraged timely medical intervention.

Key Services Provided:

- Lung and respiratory checkups
- Eye examinations
- General health screenings
- Free medicine distribution



Hygiene and Workplace Safety Awareness Program – Pudukkottai

Date: March 15, 2025

Location: VBW Chamber, Pudukkottai

Participants: 130 migrant workers

This awareness session focused on hygiene practices and injury prevention at the workplace. Organized by DBMS with support from Mr. Uttam, Mr. Raju, and the VBW Chamber owner, the program empowered participants to recognize workplace risks and practice better hygiene.

Highlights:

- Practical solutions for workplace safety
- Education on health hazards
- Active participation and positive feedback

Supporting Migrant Women Laborers

Income Certificate Application – Thiruvottiyur Taluk Office

Income certificate applications were submitted for 13 women (11 from Burma Nagar and 2 Irulars from Sadayankuppam) to support their eligibility for a government sewing machine scheme aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities.



Sewing Machine Scheme – Document Submission (September 2024)



Seven sets of documents were submitted at the District Collector's office to help migrant women benefit from the tailoring-based livelihood program, promoting economic self-reliance.

Abha Card Registration – Sholinganallur



On January 19, 2025, a total of 285 construction laborers were registered for the Abha Card at L&T Labour Construction site, ensuring their eligibility for health and welfare services.

Health as a Human Right: Migrant Well-being

Ayushman Bharat Medical Insurance Drive

Date: January 8, 2025

Location: Don Bosco Migrant Welfare Organization, Purasaivakkam

In a collaborative effort with the GeethaAmmaiyar Construction Workers Welfare Association, Don Bosco Migrant Welfare Organization successfully registered 104 construction workers under the Ayushman Bharat medical insurance scheme. The initiative provides ₹5 lakh health coverage per family per year.



Abha Card Registration Campaign

Date: February 19–20, 2025

Location: Mandaveli, Adyar, Mylapore, RK Road Ariya, Chennai

Don Bosco Migrant Services, in partnership with the Unorganised Labour Workers Federation and Don Bosco Brothers, conducted a two-day campaign to register 343 migrant construction workers for the ABHA Card. Volunteers assisted workers with documentation and awareness sessions on healthcare and social benefits. Held across key Chennai neighborhoods, the campaign targeted communities with high migrant populations.



Health Awareness Program & ABHA Card Drive

Date: March 6, 2025

Location: Tata Metro Construction Work Site, Madhavaram Ring Road

Organized by Don Bosco Migrant Services with support from the Unorganised Workers Federation, this event enabled 307 construction workers to register for ABHA Cards. Chief Guest Tiru. Sentamil Selvan from the HR Department highlighted the importance of worker health and social security. The program focused on raising awareness about healthcare rights and access among laborers at the Metro work site.



Empowering Communities Through Service

Evening Food Distribution for Senior Citizens & Widows

In a heartwarming act of compassion and solidarity, Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS), with the generous support of Ms. Nisha from East Coast Road (ECR) and the dedicated leadership of Fr. Simolin, organized a special evening food distribution for senior citizens and widows residing across seven blocks in Perumbakkam in October 2024.

A total of 200 freshly prepared and nutritious night meals were distributed, each carefully packed to ensure hygiene and quality. This initiative was not just about providing food—it was a moment of dignity, connection, and care for the most vulnerable members of the community. Many of the recipients, often overlooked in day-to-day social support, expressed heartfelt gratitude for being remembered and cared for.

The distribution brought a sense of warmth and reassurance to elderly individuals and widowed women who face daily challenges in accessing basic necessities. For many, this meal was a rare gesture of kindness and a reminder that they are not alone.

Such compassionate outreach by DBMS continues to reflect its unwavering commitment to upholding the dignity and well-being of marginalized communities.

Volunteer Participation in Makkaludan Mudalvar Camp

On August 22, 2024, DBMS joined hands with the Mambakkam Panchayat during the Makkaludan Mudalvar Camp—a government-led initiative to bring essential services closer to local residents.

DBMS volunteers were stationed at multiple touchpoints across the camp, helping attendees with:

- Documentation support
- Navigation across service counters
- Information on social schemes and welfare programs

The team also officially registered DBMS services at the help desk, creating a permanent channel for local residents to seek future support in areas such as migrant welfare, legal aid, and public assistance.

Community Appreciation:

The presence and efficiency of DBMS volunteers were warmly acknowledged by Mr. Venkatesan, President of Mambakkam Panchayat. He praised the team's dedication and seamless integration into the camp's operations.

MIGRANTS YOUTH MELA: CELEBRATION, PLANNING & SPIRITUAL OUTREACH

The Karam Festival, a cherished celebration among tribal communities, was marked by heartfelt spiritual devotion, cultural planning, and new collaborations to support migrant communities in **Tamil Nadu**.

Organized by the **Karam Core Committee** and **Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS)**, the events combined traditional reverence with practical steps to ensure ongoing cultural and spiritual empowerment.



Holy Mass and Cultural Planning

The festivities began with a Holy Mass that brought together community members in a moment of spiritual reflection and thanksgiving. The Mass set a solemn tone and invoked blessings for the success of the upcoming Karam Festival.

Following the Mass, 36 representatives from different regions of Tamil Nadu convened for a planning meeting. This gathering focused on organizing vibrant Karam Festival activities and highlighted the importance of cultural preservation. Participants actively exchanged ideas, coordinated logistics, and strengthened their commitment to community collaboration.

A communal lunch followed the meeting, fostering a joyful spirit of togetherness. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and unity, as migrants came together to honour their roots and traditions.

Meeting with Fr. Jewan

A major milestone was the meeting with Fr. Jewan, a dedicated priest from Gummidipoondi, who was introduced to the various spiritual and social outreach efforts of DBMS.

Recognizing the spiritual needs of Hindi-speaking Catholic migrants, Fr. Jewan graciously agreed to begin celebrating Holy Mass in Hindi—a crucial step for the community. He confirmed his commitment to conduct the first Mass on the 15th of this month, initiating regular services for migrants who often lack faith-based resources in their native language.

The Karam Festival initiatives reflect DBMS's core mission: to honour migrant identities while providing holistic support. Whether through cultural celebrations or spiritual outreach, or community leadership, these events rekindle the sense of belonging that every migrant deserves.

MIGRANT YOUTH MELA 2024



The Migrant Youth Mela 2024, hosted by Don Bosco Migrant Services, brought together over 2,100 vibrant young migrants in an inspiring event that blended cultural celebration, community building, and youth empowerment. The mela served as a powerful platform to showcase diversity, enhance skill-building, and offer access to resources for the migrant community navigating life in new regions.

Program Highlights

Traditional Attire Showcase

A stunning display of regional pride and cultural heritage—migrant youth dressed in vibrant traditional wear, including sarees and ethnic garments, reflecting their roots.

Cultural Performances

A dynamic performance honoring the Karam Festival of Assam stood out, with groups performing folk songs and dances, radiating energy and unity.

Skill Development Workshops

Workshops throughout the day focused on career guidance, psychosocial support, and networking, reinforcing DBMS's commitment to long-term youth development.

Food and Refreshments

Various stalls were set up, offering a variety of snacks and beverages, followed by a communal lunch featuring regional cuisines.

Networking and Support Booths

Information booths were available, offering guidance on legal aid, health services, employment opportunities, and educational programs.

💡 More Than Just an Event

The success of the Youth Mela echoes DBMS's mission: creating safe, supportive, and empowering spaces for migrant youth. By focusing on integration, education, and expression, DBMS continues to champion the dreams of those often left unseen.



CHIEF GUEST:
Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail,
State Planning
Commission

A Christmas of Light, Love & Learning - Spreading Joy Across Communities



This year, DBMS turned Christmas into a celebration of service, gratitude, and shared humanity across Tamil Nadu. From Peravallur to Manali Burma Nagar, over 360 children and 20 teachers took part in celebrations that were as vibrant as they were meaningful.

◆ Gifts distributed

- Bags, snacks, and juices
- Sarees for mothers
- Lunch and treats for educators

At Peravallur (Dec 17), DBMS organized a special Christmas lunch for its evening study teachers and staff, acknowledging their unspoken role in shaping young lives.

◆ Celebrating student excellence

Recognition was a central theme. In Kannagi Nagar, Ezhil Nagar, and Perumbakkam (Dec 22), 90 children were honored for academic achievement and consistent attendance. Awards were a reminder that education matters—and effort counts.

Christmas is, at its core, a festival of giving, and DBMS embodied that spirit by reaching out to hundreds of marginalized children and their families. From distributing school bags and snacks to offering sarees for mothers and lunch for staff, the celebrations created warm, inclusive spaces where no one felt left out.

TOGETHER, WE CELEBRATE – TOGETHER, WE RISE

GRATITUDE TO OUR CHAMPIONS

Amid the festivities, the tireless efforts of DBMS educators and community volunteers were acknowledged.

The presence of special guests like Mr. Jebin Deva (TNUHDB – CDO) and Mr. Vinod (Shumaidhangi Charitable Trust) at the Kannagi Nagar event highlighted the growing support from civic authorities and donors who align with DBMS's mission of social upliftment.



Location	Children Reached	Special Guests / Highlights
Peravallur	60	Teachers' Christmas lunch
Kannagi Nagar	90	Award ceremony & Guests
Gandhinagar	100 families	Dance & cultural celebration
Manali Burma Nagar	120	Student performances
Pannur	50	Interactive games and music



A WEEK OF JOY, LEARNING & TOGETHERNESS

This year's DBMS Christmas Program welcomed 25 displaced migrant students to experience an unforgettable week of celebration, care, and community. Held across multiple days and locations, the event offered moments of joy, discovery, and heartfelt connection.

◆ Christmas Eve & Day Festivities

The program began on December 23 with the students arriving in Chennai. Christmas Eve and Day, celebrated in collaboration with KSO, overflowed with laughter, carols, games, and the spirit of giving.

◆ Queensland Amusement Park - Dec 26

For many students, this was their first-ever amusement park visit. A day full of adventure, rides, and wide-eyed wonder became one of the most cherished parts of the program.

◆ Career & Psychological Guidance - Dec 27

A dedicated session offered valuable insights into mental wellness and future planning, empowering the students to dream bigger and plan smarter.

◆ SYM Fest at Tirupattur - Dec 29 to Jan 1

The students joined SYM Fest, a platform for cultural exchange and spiritual growth, celebrating unity through performances, peer interactions, and meaningful engagements.



INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Date: December 18, 2024 | **Venue:** Don Bosco, Egmore |

Participants: 167 Registered Migrants



A Day of Joy and Awareness

The celebration of International Migrants Day beautifully merged with the festive spirit of Christmas, creating an atmosphere of inclusivity, reflection, and community joy. Hosted at Don Bosco Egmore, the event brought together 167 migrants in a vibrant gathering that honored both their rights and their cultures.

Christmas Mass & Cultural Festivities

The program commenced with a cultural Christmas Mass at 10:30 AM, celebrating diverse faith traditions. The Mass was followed by dance performances, gift exchanges, and heartwarming interactions, a true display of unity in diversity.

Community Lunch

A delicious meal was served to all participants, encouraging fellowship and shared joy to embody the season's message of togetherness and generosity.

Empowerment Through Awareness

A key highlight was a Safe Migration Awareness session led by Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS). The session equipped migrants with crucial information on rights, services, and protections, empowering them to make informed decisions and access support when needed.

🏆 Celebrating Participation

To recognize active engagement and cheer, special prizes were distributed to enthusiastic participants. Every guest left with gifts, gratitude, and smiles, reflecting a deep sense of belonging and respect.

PONGAL CELEBRATION AT EVENING STUDY CENTRE, GANDHINAGAR

Date: February 17, 2025

Location: Evening Study Centre, Gandhinagar

Participants: 230 individuals from 100 families

The spirit of harvest, harmony, and gratitude came alive on February 17, 2025, at the Evening Study Centre, Gandhinagar. Over 230 participants gathered in a vibrant celebration of Pongal, a festival that transcends religious and social lines to bring communities together in thanksgiving and joy.

Festivities and Cultural Highlights

- Uri Adithal – A playful, spirited game that built team spirit and excitement.
- Rangoli Making – A visual treat, with vibrant designs gracing the entrance, showcasing the creativity of children and parents alike.
- Dance Performances – Folk dance numbers performed by enthusiastic students brought cheer and cultural flavor to the event.

Samathuva Pongal and Community Lunch

At the heart of the celebration was the collective cooking of Samathuva Pongal, prepared and shared by all participants as a symbol of unity and equality. The Panchayat President of Uttukadu played a key role, supporting the event and joining hands with the community in preparing the feast. Following the cooking, a community meal was served, bringing together families to enjoy a traditional Pongal lunch, a moment of bonding and shared celebration.

