

# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**DON BOSCO MIGRANT SERVICES**

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# ABOUT US

DON BOSCO MIGRANT SERVICES DBMS works with the Unorganised workers & Migrants, Employers, Government, for a Decent work agenda and Dignified labour for intra and interstate workers.





# OUR VISION

Establishment of a migrant aligned community with rightly formed conscience upholding inherent dignity, fundamental rights and universal love in Salesian spirit

# OUR MISSION

To promote responsible, safe, and orderly migration through collaboration, and social dialogue, advocating for fair labour standards, empowering marginalized migrants, and reducing their suffering by fostering inclusive, supportive policies and initiatives.





# Migrant Worker Outreach and Support

# 1

## TOTAL BENEFICIARIES



Migrant workers enrolled in  
E-Shram & welfare

1056



Medical camp beneficiaries

660



Women empowerment &  
de-addiction participants:

151



Irular community  
(families & individuals)

256



# E-Shram Enrollment and Registration Drives

01

## **E-Shram Enrollment for Unorganized Workers in Manali (20-22 May 2022)**

Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) held a free E-Shram enrollment camp enrolling 215 migrant workers, providing access to government accident compensation and pension schemes. Supported by government officials, DBMS staff, and local teachers.

02

## **E-Shram Card Camp – 20th May 2022**

Registration camp at Mamabakkam enrolling 15 migrant workers.

03

## **E-Shram Registration Drive – 15th July 2022**

DBMS registered around 20 construction workers with CSC department support, noting many were already enrolled but unaware of their status.

04

## **E-Shram Registration at Vallakottai**

Facilitated registration for 37 TNUHDB construction ISM labourers with support from Fr. Roshan and MSW students.

05

## **Meeting with Construction Labourers on E-Shram Registration – 22nd August 2022**

Provided info on E-Shram registration and plans to assist those without bank accounts.

06

## **Medical Camp and E-Shram Registration Programme at TNHB Toad Hunter Nagar – 25th August 2022**

Over 80 labourers received medical checkups and E-Shram registration assistance.

07

## **E-Shram Registration Camp and Labour Welfare Programme – 11th October 2022, Ernavur**

Benefited 25 labourers with registration and a welfare program covering labour laws, de-addiction, HIV awareness, and first aid.



# HEALTH AND HYGIENE PROGRAMS

## 01

### Healthcare Awareness Program – 24th April 2022, Mambakkam

**50 migrant** workers attended sessions on personal hygiene, cleanliness, and healthcare, supported by MSW students.

## 03

### Healthcare and Hygiene Program – 15th May 2022, Mamabakkam Village

**30 migrant workers** from Assam and Orissa received training on personal care, cleanliness, and emergency first aid.

## 05

### Medical Camp for Irular Community at Sadayankuppam – 19th November 2022

**45 families** received medical check-ups and awareness sessions on common illnesses and diabetes.

## 02

### Healthcare and Hygiene Program – 8th May 2022

Program for **30 migrant workers from Jharkhand** covering hygiene, PF numbers, and union formation.

## 04

### Health Awareness Programme – 18th June 2022, Shenoy Nagar

Medical checkups, first aid demos, and talks on health, HIV prevention, children's education, and workplace safety.

## 06

### Medical Camp and E-Shram Registration Programme at TNHB Toad Hunter Nagar – 25th August 2022

Over **80 labourers** received medical checkups and E-Shram registration assistance.

7



# LABOUR WELFARE PROGRAMS AND SAFETY AWARENESS INITIATIVES (2022)



In 2022, a series of Labour Welfare and Safety Awareness Programs were conducted across various construction sites in Chennai, reaching over 800 workers. These initiatives were designed to enhance the well-being, legal awareness, and safety of migrant and local labourers through multi-faceted support services and engagement activities.

## KEY FOCUS AREAS ACROSS PROGRAMS

### Safety Awareness and Equipment Use

Workers were educated on construction site safety practices, the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE), and participated in live demonstrations on first aid and emergency response.

### Legal Literacy and Welfare Registration

Sessions covered key labour legislations including the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Act and Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) Act.

Support for E-Shram card registration and other welfare enrolments was provided, ensuring better access to social security schemes.

### Health and Medical Support

Free medical camps were organized, addressing common health issues among workers. Special emphasis was placed on HIV/AIDS awareness, de-addiction counseling, and sanitation practices, highlighting the importance of preventive healthcare.

# DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

These efforts underscore the ongoing commitment to promote a safe, healthy, and informed workforce, especially among migrant communities in the construction sector.



**Arumbakkam (28 July)**

**01**

80 labourers benefited from first aid, safety talks, and HIV/AIDS sessions.



**Periyar Nagar, Thiruvannamiyur (9 September)**

**02**

76 workers participated in a medical camp and safety training.



**Pattinapakkam (27 July)**

**03**

100 migrant workers engaged in sessions on safety gear, labour laws, and welfare services.



**TNHB Ernavur (4 August)**

**04**

Over 300 workers joined workshops on safety, HIV awareness, and legal rights.



**Ashok Pillar, KK Nagar (11 August)**

**05**

Interactive awareness event with educational games and cultural performances.



**Shenoy Nagar (28 October)**

**06**

Sessions for 35 workers focusing on de-addiction, sanitation, and safety needs.



# DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

These efforts underscore the ongoing commitment to promote a safe, healthy, and informed workforce, especially among migrant communities in the construction sector.



**Perumbakkam (13 October)**

**07**

Covered legal awareness under BOCW and ISMW Acts.



**Ottery (15 October)**

**08**

Focus on first aid, de-addiction, and highlighting substandard living conditions.



**Dr. Santosh Nagar (16 October) &  
Manali New Town (18 October)**

**09**

Combined Ayudha Pooja celebrations with welfare and HIV/AIDS awareness programs.





# Migrant Worker Community Support & Outreach



01

## **North East Labourers Meeting at Adambakkam**

Discussed forming a union for support in Chennai, focusing on registration, employment, and workers' rights.

02

## **Northeast Migrant Workers Meeting at Adambakkam – 14th August 2022**

Tribal leaders discussed forming a trade union for strengthening community bonds and addressing issues.

03

## **DBMS Membership Enrollment Drive**

Union and welfare board memberships facilitated in Villupuram and Kallakurichi.

04

## **Visit to Migrant Workers at Thiruninravur Construction Site**

Observed harsh living conditions and lack of facilities; children mostly study in native places.

05

## **Migrant Ministry Experience at Villupuram**

Surveyed migrant families and highlighted struggles including unfair wages and long hours.

06

**Visit to Arenri Village – 24th May 2022**

Met physically challenged migrant worker Karthi, who supports his family and recruits labourers.

07

**DBMS Visit to Khaprakhol, Odisha – 10th Nov 2022**

Engaged migrants, leaders, police to learn challenges, safe travel, and migrant support.

**Sanitation and Water Issues in Arenari Village**

On 3rd November, government officials visited Arenari village and were shocked by the poor sanitation, including plastic waste and stagnant water breeding mosquitoes. With help from local workers, they cleaned the area and cleared the drainage. They met migrant residents who shared concerns about health, safety, and the lack of nearby water facilities. Although reported to authorities, the water issue remains unresolved, and residents hope for a prompt solution.





### **Irular Community Receives Free Land Pattas – 26th November 2022**

DBMS has supported the Irular community, previously bonded laborers forced to work in poor conditions near Kosas Thalai river. After years of struggle and protests, with DBMS's help, they applied for land rights.

On 26th November 2022, the Thiruvallur Collector distributed free land pattas to 35 Irular families in a ceremony attended by officials and villagers. This marked a historic moment as the community finally secured their own land and a better future.





## EDUCATION & CHILDREN WELFARE

Over the past few years, Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) has been at the forefront of empowering migrant and underprivileged communities across Chennai and beyond. Through a wide array of initiatives—including educational programs, health and hygiene camps, cultural celebrations, sports tournaments, and leadership workshops—DBMS strives to uplift children, youth, and families facing economic hardship, social exclusion, and irregular access to basic services. Our commitment extends from ensuring continuous education in brick kiln areas to fostering civic engagement and promoting personal development in evening study centres. Below is a categorized overview of DBMS's key activities and events, illustrating the scope and impact of our holistic outreach efforts.

### **Summer Camp at Sadayankuppam and Burma Nagar (May 8-11, 2022):**

100 children from seven study centres participated in group activities, games, a cooking contest, and a prize distribution. The camp concluded with thanks and snacks.

### **Summer Camp Reflection:**

Reflections from teaching at Kannagi Nagar Government School highlighted the calling to serve the needy and be a Good Samaritan. Experiences with slum children were moving, exposing discrimination and neglect.

# ACTIVITIES FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN AND LABOURERS

## **Drawing & Singing Competitions (March-April 2022):**

- Drawing competition (Apr 27): 10 migrant children at Mambakkam participated.
- Singing competition (Apr 13): Held for nine tuition-attending migrant children.

## **Visit to Migrant Families & Study Centre:**

Discussions with families revealed financial issues, lack of documents, and irregular school attendance. Efforts continue to support education.

## **Migrant Labourers Meeting (Mar 3, 2022):**

Interaction with Jharkhand migrant labourers revealed low wages and desire for stable employment.

## **Migrant Children School Enrollment Visits:**

Focused on Burma Nagar, Pudu Nagar, and Sadayankuppam; parents faced challenges due to documents and awareness.

**Enrollment of Migrant  
Children in Mambakkam  
Government School:** DBMS helped enroll children from Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, overcoming language and documentation barriers.



**In 2022–2023, over 500 children across multiple locations celebrated festivals, educational events, and cultural programs featuring games, swimming, motivational talks, and civic learning, supported by community sponsors and local centres.**



**One-Day Picnic – Queen’s Land (June 11, 2022):** Over 150 children from evening study centres enjoyed games and swimming, supported by DB Egmore and St. Bede's.



**Independence Day Celebrations (14–15 August 2022):** Cultural programs and games were held in Thiruvallur and Perumbakkam for 184 children. Chief guests and sponsors distributed materials and encouragement.



**Children’s Day Celebrations:**

Arenari School and Mambakkam village on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 featured games and motivational talks for 150 children.



**Christmas Celebrations (23–24 Dec 2022):**

Celebrations held at Sadayankuppam, OMR, and Thiruvallur regions. Included gifts, sweets, messages of hope, and festive activities.



**Pongal Celebrations (Jan 2022 & 2023):**

Events held at Saddayankuppam Irular Village and in OMR, Thiruvallur. Children participated in traditional games and cultural performances.



**Constitution Day – Sadayankuppam (28 Nov 2023):**

50 children celebrated by reading the Preamble, learning values, and understanding civic responsibility.





## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SPORTS

### 1) Volleyball Tournaments and Matches

- **Kannagi Nagar (22 Jan 2023):** DBMS organized a lively volleyball tournament with six teams, where Rentu Adukku Challai won, promoting teamwork and youth empowerment under the guidance of Fr. Vincent and Fr. Bosco.
- **Periyapalayam (29 Jan 2023):** In celebration of Don Bosco's feast, a knockout volleyball tournament with seven teams saw Mettupalayam emerge champions, supported by Fr. Bosco, Fr. Vincent, and local youth volunteers.
- **Sadayankuppam Irular Youth Match (26 Feb 2023):** A friendly match at Don Bosco Ennore between Sadayankuppam Irular youth and Ennore Oratory ended in victory for the Irular team, fostering community spirit and youth engagement.

### 2) Football Match for ISM Construction Workers – 30th October 2022

DBMS organized a football match for 40 migrant workers, with West Bengal FC winning 3-2 against Star-studded Jharkhand, followed by a traditional dance, emphasizing the value of leisure for worker well-being.





# EDUCATION FOR MIGRANT AND SEASONAL CHILDREN

## **Brick Chamber Labourers in Kanchipuram and**

**Tiruvalluvar:** Many children miss school due to migration. DBMS enrolled children at 10 sites with Odia teachers; government support was lacking.

## **Brick Kiln Children School Enrollment 2022-23:**

- Schools reopened between Jan 31 to Feb 16, enrolling over 440 children.
- Odia-speaking EVs appointed; education in mother tongue ensured.



## **Pudhuvayil Region Initiative:**

- 13 study centers established near brick kilns for 400 children.
- 13 education volunteers trained in a seminar on Feb 11, 2023.



# EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



## Migrant Children's Education – Pudhuvayil Region

DBMS established 13 study centers near Pudhuvayil, serving around 400 migrant children from brick kiln families, supported by 13 education volunteers. A seminar in February 2023 trained volunteers in effective teaching methods.

## Brick Kiln Enrollment

- **Puduvoyal School:** 165 children from 5 chambers, supported by 5 Odia-speaking volunteers.
- **Pallikapettai School:** 65 children from 1 chamber, with 2 Odia volunteers.
- **Pondovakkam School:** 116 children from 3 chambers, taught by 5 Odia volunteers.
- **Vadakanallur School:** 44 children from 3 chambers.
- **Kilmudalamedu School:** 12 children enrolled despite initial employer resistance, with 1 volunteer.
- **Akravakkam School:** 40 children from 1 chamber, supported by 2 Odia volunteers.





# PARENT & TEACHER ENGAGEMENT

- **SMC Meeting and Kalaivizha – Sadayankuppam (Nov 25, 2022):** Addressed child safety and regular attendance. Children showcased talents and were encouraged by Sr. Malliga.
- **Night School Teachers Meeting (Jul 6, 2022):** Held at DBMS Office; included monthly report review, picnic feedback, salary distribution, and planning.
- **Visit to Illam Thedy Kalvi Study Centre:** Teachers reported irregular attendance. August drawing competition plans were discussed.



# Student Internships, Research, and Collaboration

# 3

## **Internships & Field Placements:**

DBMS has hosted numerous MSW interns for immersive fieldwork. In April 2022, four second-year students from RGNIYD began with a comprehensive orientation by Fr. Nirmal, followed by practical training in survey methods at Mambakkam and a site visit to the SIPCOT office in Sriperumbudur. By July 2022, these students also conducted classes and grassroots surveys under official BEO permission, deepening their understanding of migrant communities.



**Research Collaborations:** Partnering with St. Joseph College, DBMS led a **micro-survey on migrant socioeconomic conditions in Villupuram** and Kallakurichi, guiding 30 MSW students and faculty through interviews with 130 respondents. Concurrently, a month-long survey team based at Don Bosco Gedilam mapped living conditions and livelihood patterns across multiple villages.



**Immersion & Exposure Programs:**

Beyond student interns, DBMS coordinated week-long immersions for clergy and theology students. In April 2022, priests from Dimapur experienced field ministry among construction sites and union meetings. Later that year, four deacons and 36 seminary students underwent a structured exposure program covering street outreach, bonded labor contexts, and migrant construction sites.

**Institutional Learning & Staff Events:**

To reinforce internal capacity, DBMS organizes regular staff engagements: placement drives at RGNIID; monthly meetings to review field reports and launch the Migrant Voice magazine; the foundation ceremony for the new DBMS building; Benefactors' Day celebrations; and targeted training for study centre teachers. A provincial Social Commission meeting further aligned strategic priorities across Chennai and Trichy provinces.

**Workshops & Consultations:**

DBMS convened key sector dialogues, including the Tamil Nadu Migrant Commission meeting at TASOSS, an occupational health and safety consultation in Chennai, and a pastoral animation at Krishtu Jyothi College. Foundational gatherings like the Salesian Social Forum and a migration workshop for Redemptorist Brothers provided platforms for policy discourse and best-practice sharing.



**"Education is not the filling of a pail,  
but the lighting of a fire." – W.B. Yeats**



# Advocacy, Protests, and Legal Actions

# 4



## **Community Outreach & Advocacy**

In April 2022, during a 14-day immersion in Anna Nagar and Adambakkam, the team engaged with around 150 migrant laborers to address wage disputes—successfully resolving a pending case at Cake-Point—and participated in a major protest against the new Labour Codes, advocating for unorganized workers' rights.



## **Protests & Demonstrations**

On 22 April 2022, DBMS joined a unified protest at Villupuram's Collectorate against the Centre's new labour codes, condemning the repeal of 44 labour laws and demanding implementation of the Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Act, 1982, culminating in a memorandum submission.



## **Legal Advocacy & Government**

**Engagement:** On 16 May 2022, DBMS representatives and trade union leaders met the Tamil Nadu Labour Secretary to discuss E-Shram registration challenges, advocating for mandatory employer registration, safety measures, legal aid, and schooling for migrant children. A policy paper was submitted outlining these demands.



## **Fact-Finding & Justice Campaigns**

Following the tragic death of Kamothram – a migrant worker killed at SKM Animal Feed Ltd. on 6 April 2022—DBMS led a fact-finding mission on 13 April and a press meet on 11 May, calling for an independent investigation, judicial inquiry, release of arrested workers, and systemic safety reforms.





## **Solidarity Actions**

On 23 June 2022, DBMS joined NAPM and civil society groups protesting slum demolitions in Ilango Nagar, RA Puram – visiting affected families, condemning demolitions, and submitting a memorandum for justice.



## **Site Visits & Worker Insights**

Regular visits to SIPCOT and brick chamber sites (26 April 2022) provided first-hand understanding of harsh work conditions, wage structures, and child engagement—informing DBMS’s advocacy and program design.