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ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024





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About Us



“ DBMS is committed to advancing the rights and welfare of unorganised workers and migrant labourers—both within and across states. It engages with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including employers, government bodies, and workers themselves, to promote a decent work agenda rooted in justice, dignity, and equity. DBMS works in close collaboration with trade unions, people's movements, civil society organisations, and a network of well-wishers to strengthen labour protections, improve working conditions, and ensure that the voices of marginalised workers are heard and respected.

”

Vision & Mission



Vision

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

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.

Year in Review: 2023

The year 2023 was a testament to the unwavering commitment of Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) in empowering marginalized communities through education, sports, health awareness, and labor welfare initiatives. Across Chennai, Thiruvallur, and beyond, we worked closely with migrant families, children, and laborers to foster dignity, opportunity, and joy.

From vibrant Pongal celebrations that strengthened cultural bonds to volleyball tournaments uniting youth, from brick kiln schools ensuring education for migrant children to de-addiction programs promoting healthier lives - each initiative reflected our mission of holistic development. This report captures key milestones, impact stories, and the collective efforts of our teams, partners, and volunteers in creating lasting change.



YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023-24 (FY)

INITIATIVE-WISE OUTCOME TRACKING

CELEBRATIONS

Events	Date	Location
Pongal	January 2024	Sadyankupam and Barma Nagar

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Events	Date	Location	No. of teams participated
Volleyball tournament	06 Aug 2023	Mambakkam	3
Football tournament	15 Aug 2023	Vysarpadi	3

MIGRANTS / LABOURS WELFARE

Location	Activity	Beneiciaries
Vallakottai (Kancheepuram)	E-Shram Registration	37 construction workers registered for social security benefits
OMR Metro Site	TNCWWB Registration	120 workers trained on ISM & TNCWWB card registration etc.
SM Nagar	ISM Portal Registration	40 labourers guided through the ISM portal
Multiple Sites	ISM Registration Awareness	Sessions conducted at multiple locations to educate on legal benefits



MIGRANTS / LABOURS WELFARE

Health, Safety & Well-being



Location	Dates	Activities
Chennai (25 sites), Malayambakkam	Aug 2023, 5 Aug 2023 & 26 Nov 2023	First aid, safety training, use of PPE, substance abuse awareness, health & hygiene, worker rights, and women's empowerment

Workers Engagement & Empowerment

Location	Dates	Activities
Mambakkam, Malayambakkam, Various Sites	26 Nov 2023	Games, songs, motivational talks, rights awareness, wellness education, financial guidance, and interactive worker sessions

Advocacy & Policy Discussion

Event	Details
Press Meet, NGO Meeting, National Exposure	Protests and discussions on labor codes, migrant rights, and NGO-government collaboration

Field Work in Brick Chambers

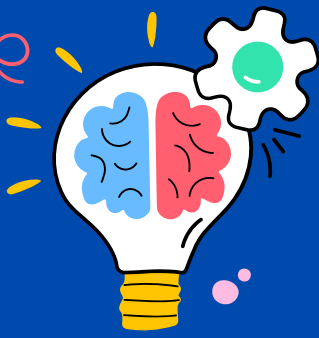
Event	Details
Tiruvalluvar District	Work in 11 brick chambers with 2075 laborers and 322 children focusing on safety, education, and preventing child labor





In 2023-24
(APR TO MAR)





EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

SETTING UP STUDY CENTRES & EDUCATION SUPPORT

- **Location(s)** : Pudukkottai (13 brick kilns), Mambakkam, Aaranari
- **Beneficiaries** : ~430 migrant children

01.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING WORKSHOP

- **Location(s)** : Stella Maris College (Manipur students)
- **Beneficiaries** : 14 students

02.

TEACHER TRAINING & SEMINARS

- **Location(s)** : Chennai (St. Mary's School), Local NGOs
- **Beneficiaries** : Dozens of educators

03.

EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

- **Location(s)** : Irular Community
- **Beneficiaries** : 45 Community Members

04.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

- **Location(s)** : Aaranari, Mettupalayam, Mambakkam, Manali
- **Beneficiaries** : 230 children

05.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Jeevan Nirman Program

Led by Dr. John Arokiaraj, the Jeevan Nirman Program successfully reached over 500 migrants through a Caritas India partnership at the CMRL L&T Project. Key contributions from Fr. Simolin, resource persons, and student volunteers ensured impactful awareness on health and hygiene. Future CSR collaborations with L&T are in progress.

Educational Symposium for Unorganized Labour – Pondavakkam

On February 9, 2024, DBMS held an educational symposium in Pondavakkam for 153 unorganized laborers. With key local officials and experts, the program covered safe migration, workers' rights, wage advocacy, health, hygiene, anti-trafficking, and education. Participants also learned about Caritas India and Don Bosco migrant services. The program included informative sessions on government registration, safe migration, health, hygiene, education, and support services by Caritas India and DBMS. It concluded with refreshments, fostering community spirit. This collaborative Labour Welfare Program reflects a strong commitment to improving the well-being of brick kiln workers, with gratitude extended to all participants and partners.



→ Educational Symposium for Unorganized Labour – Varaingakuppam

- On February 9, 2024, an educational symposium was held in Varaingakuppam for 175 unorganized laborers. Led by Fr. Simolin and supported by DBMS staff and local officials, the event featured expert talks on key labor issues and was well received by the community.

→ New Study Centres

- **Aaranari (Sriperumbathur):** Launched with community support, teaching children in Hindi and Tamil.
- **Mambakkam:** Opened September 2023, serving 30 migrant children, including 12 school dropouts, offering flexible sessions.

→ Enrollment Success

Through active outreach, DBMS enrolled 3 out-of-school children into formal schools in Mambakkam in 2023.

→ Children's Day Celebrations

Over 100 children participated in competitions and cultural events across four locations, with certificates and prizes awarded to encourage learning and engagement.



YOUTH



ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SPORTS

1

Volleyball Match Unites Migrant Youth

On August 6, 2023, DBMS organized a friendly volleyball match in Mambakkam, bringing together migrant youth from Jharkhand. The event, filled with energy and team spirit, fostered unity and camaraderie among participants.

Three teams competed with great enthusiasm, showcasing their skills and teamwork. Brothers Ashish and Sheril officiated the matches, while Brother David provided lively commentary. The event highlighted the power of sports in building community among young migrants.

2

Independence Day Football Tournament

DBMS organized a football tournament for construction workers featuring teams Jharkhand FC, Chennai Express, and Katappa. Despite many being new to the game, players gave their best. Jharkhand FC won the championship, with Chennai Express as runners-up. The event ended with prize distribution and refreshments.

Thanks to Vysarpadi Don Bosco Beatitude fathers, DBMS directors, staff, and participants for making it a success.



✦ Celebrations ✦

PONGAL CELEBRATION IN SADYANKUPAM AND BARMA NAGAR

Pongal, also known as Thai Pongal, is one of the most significant festivals celebrated by Tamils across South India. This year, Don Bosco Migrant Service, with generous sponsorship from Sathyan Films, organized vibrant Pongal celebrations across two locations - Sadyankupam and Barma Nagar.

Activities and Highlights: The festivities included traditional games and cultural activities that sparked excitement and celebration among all age groups:

- Running races (boys)
- Uri adithal (breaking the pot)
- Lemon & spoon race (girls)
- Traditional folk and cultural dances

Prizes were distributed to the winners by Fr. Lourdu and Mr. Sathyaseedan, who were the chief guests. Their presence elevated the celebration and encouraged greater community involvement.

Community Impact: The Pongal celebration created a vibrant and inclusive space where people from different walks of life came together. The games and festivities offered a joyful platform for interaction, unity, and cultural pride.



50

INDIVIDUALS
FROM SADYANKUPAM

50

INDIVIDUALS FROM
IRULAR COMMUNITY

100

INDIVIDUALS FROM
BARMA NAGAR

LABOUR WELFARE

2023

Young Labourers

RJNYID social work trainees organized games and motivational sessions for 50 young laborers at the Mambakkam site. Activities included fun group games and talks on unity, self-care, relaxation, and financial management. Prizes were given, and the laborers showed heartfelt appreciation.

E-Shram Registration

DBMS facilitated E-Shram registration for 37 TNUHDB construction ISM labourers in Vallakottai, Sriperumbuthur, Kancheepuram. The initiative promotes social security for unorganized workers. Thanks to Fr. Roshan and RGNIYD MSWs for their valuable support.

Into the Lives of Brick Chambers

DBMS has been active for three years in 11 brick chambers in Tiruvallur, supporting 2,075 laborers and 322 children from Tamil Nadu and Odisha. Efforts focus on education, child safety, and preventing dropouts through study centers and collaboration. Debt bondage remains a key challenge needing collective action.

Press Meet on Labour Code

Held in Delhi, the press meet addressed protests against labor codes viewed as anti-worker, particularly harming unorganized sector workers. Key concerns included the repeal of protective laws for construction and migrant laborers. Around 50 NGO representatives attended.

Meeting at HMS – Egmore

NGOs, led by Mrs. Geetha, opposed Draft Labor Codes repealing 44 laws, fearing weakened worker rights and privatization. They planned protests and a meeting with the Chief Minister to resist the reforms.

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Labor Welfare Programs for Construction Workers

DBMS held a program for 45 construction workers featuring a first aid demo by Mr. Elangovan, and talks on welfare schemes, worker rights under ISM and Building Workmen Acts, and complaint mechanisms. Mr. Deepak covered health insurance and benefits, while Sr. Madhu addressed substance addiction. The event aimed to boost safety, rights awareness, and well-being, with helpline info and skill development resources shared.



DBMS, with Mr. Macklin, runs welfare programs at 25 Chennai construction sites focusing on first aid, PPE training, and substance abuse prevention led by Ms. Rajlaxmi. The initiative, supported by TNHB and Triniva, aims to improve workers' safety, social security, and well-being, promoting a more inclusive and supportive work environment.

National Migrants Exposure Programme:

On September 2, 2023, a two-day program at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kilpauk, brought participants from across India. Sessions by groups like the Unorganised Workers Federation highlighted NGO-government collaboration to support communities and encourage impactful interventions.



Fr. Simolin Briefs Commission on Migration

Fr. Simolin presented key migration trends, policies, and challenges, prompting discussions on integration, diversity, education, healthcare, and employment. The commission emphasized strengthening support for migrants aligned with its mission.

Labour Welfare Programs

- At the **OMR Chennai Metro Rail site**, DBMS educated 120 laborers on first aid, ISM registration, TNCWB cards, and tobacco awareness.
- On Nov 16, 2023, a program at **SM Nagar Construction** (TNUHBD project) trained 40 laborers in first aid and ISM portal registration.
- On Nov 26, 2023, a welfare event in **Malayambakkam** for 45 migrants featured songs, talks on women's empowerment, labor welfare, health, addiction, and games, concluding with refreshments and community bonding.



Gram Sabha Meetings

On January 7, the Jeevan Nirman Chennai Team held a vibrant Gram Sabha at Burmanagar, gathering 173 participants, including migrants, leaders, and dignitaries like Fr. Lourde SDB, Sr. Madhu Kispotta, VAO Thiru. Selvaraj, Asst. VAO Thiru. Rumbal, and representatives from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Burmanagar – 07 January



Mambakkam – 26 January



On Republic Day 2024, the Grama Sabha at **Mambakkam** exemplified inclusive governance. Led by President Venkatesan, the session featured inputs from DBMS Director Fr. Simolin, Legal Adviser Sr. Punitha, and Mr. Saurav Mondal of Caritas India. Students from leading colleges and migrant workers contributed actively, voicing concerns on housing, education, and integration.

Don Bosco Migrant Services held an important Gram Sabha in Pondavakkam to address the rights and welfare of brick kiln workers, focusing on health, hygiene, education, and government scheme registration—especially for migrant women and children. The meeting was attended by VAO Thiru. Balaji, Council Member Thiru. Selvam, and kiln owners Thiru. Vengal Rao and Thiru. Suva Rao.

Pondavakkam Village – 6 March



SUPPORT FOR KUKI FAMILIES & SOLIDARITY WITH MANIPUR

DBMS provided cookers and utensils to Kuki families in Velachery and Besant Nagar, easing daily life and preserving cultural practices, while strengthening community bonds.

PEACE RALLY FOR MANIPUR VICTIMS

On 10 September 2023, 27 displaced students from Manipur were welcomed by the Salesian Province of Chennai into various institutions to continue their education. Fr. Don Bosco Lourdusamy and DBMS leaders facilitated a smooth academic transition.

SILENT HUMAN CHAIN FOR PEACE IN MANIPUR

On 10 October 2023, DBMS and Niraivagam held a **psychological well-being workshop** for 14 Manipur students at Stella Maris College. The session focused on trauma recovery, resilience, and mental health awareness, offering a safe space for healing and hope.

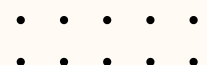
AID FOR KUKI FAMILIES

At RR Stadium, Chennai, DBMS joined thousands in a **peaceful rally** supporting Kuki-Zomi tribal victims of Manipur. Representing DBMS, Fr. Leo pledged continued support for affected families and Manipur students in Don Bosco institutions, affirming solidarity across distance.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR MANIPUR STUDENTS

On 16 September 2023, over 1,000 Religious and clergy formed a **silent human chain from Pattinapakkam to Light House**, Chennai. Organized by the TN Conference of Religious of India, the rain-soaked rally featured prayers, peace messages, and a pledge for unity, led by Church leaders and Archbishop George Antonysamy.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP FOR MANIPUR STUDENTS





VARIOUS PROGRAMMES ON

AWARENESS

Mobile Addiction Awareness Program

Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) focuses on the development of intra-state migrants in Kannagi Nagar and Perumbakkam. As part of their ongoing efforts, DBMS conducted a mobile addiction awareness program for 115 11th-grade students at Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Kannagi Nagar. The session was organized by Mr. Gopal (DBMS) with support from Head Mistress Mrs. Anandeshwari, and animated by Ms. Rajalaxmi (DBMS).



Dengue and Malaria Awareness Program

The Chennai Corporation organized a dengue and malaria awareness workshop in Kannagi Nagar, with participation from various centers, including students from the Don Bosco Study Center. The session educated the public on prevention methods and was especially helpful in teaching children how to protect themselves from these illnesses.





Safe Migration Awareness Program – Naresh Associate Factory

On February 24, 2024, DBMS, PEA, and student volunteers conducted a program for 25 migrant workers from Jharkhand, Assam, and Bihar. The session focused on the risks of unsafe migration, workplace exploitation, safe migration practices, insurance benefits, and government entitlements, empowering workers to make informed decisions.

Awareness Camp – Arani (Feb 28, 2024):

The camp educated 160 brick kiln workers on unsafe migration, Gram Sabha empowerment, health, hygiene, education, and drug awareness. Government officials and DBMS staff offered vital support. The event fostered collaboration and community spirit, aiming to improve conditions for migrant workers.

De-Addiction & Hygiene Awareness

Held in Arenary Village: A health and de-addiction awareness program was held in Arenary Village by Fr. Roshon OMI, Bros. from Perambakkam, and Sylvester. Topics included addiction recovery, personal hygiene, and labor rights. Interactive games and talks made the event both informative and engaging, encouraging healthier living and greater awareness among the community.

Family Counseling Intervention – Burmanagar:

Sr. Madhu and Mr. Deepak conducted a family intervention in Burmanagar, addressing a case under the Senior Citizens and Maintenance Act. The elderly couple, Sriram and Kusum, were facing neglect from their financially stable sons despite poor health conditions. After counseling sessions, the sons agreed to provide financial support and rent out a room to help with household expenses. The intervention successfully restored familial responsibility and ensured dignified care for the parents.





Awareness Program for Metro Construction Workers – Sriperumbudur

On January 19, 2024, Caritas India, in collaboration with Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) and LNT, organized an awareness program in Sriperumbudur for 120 metro construction workers. The session focused on labor safety, health (dengue, malaria, HIV), and government entitlements.

Key speakers included Mr. Deepak, Sr. Madhu, Sr. Punita, Fr. Simolin, Dr. John, and Mr. Saurav. Mr. Kalairaja, Safety Manager at LNT, played a critical role in coordinating the event. Topics such as legal rights, welfare schemes, and safe migration were discussed using engaging visual materials.

The program emphasized the importance of registration with NGOs for continued support. A follow-up meeting was held to plan similar future initiatives, reaffirming the commitment to migrant worker safety and welfare.

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS



● Deacons Conclude Migration Course with DBMS

Deacons and seminarians reflected on their learning journey, expressing gratitude for deeper insights into migration and a renewed commitment to empathetic service.

● Chennai Exposure – Migrant Realities & DBMS Impact

Deacons from Dimapur Province witnessed harsh migrant conditions in Chennai. DBMS's role in advocacy, support, and bridging migrants to resources was deeply appreciated, especially for Northeast Indian workers.

● DB4M Online Capacity Building Meet – Migration

Led by Fr. Bosco, this virtual session focused on education rights, policy, and protection for migrants. Attendees discussed field challenges and received actionable guidance for better implementation.



SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS



Student Orientation Program – Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS)

Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) conducted an orientation program for first-year BSW students from Stella Maris College and novices from the FSJ congregation, offering a comprehensive introduction to the organization's mission and fieldwork. The program combined theoretical sessions with a field visit, providing participants real-world exposure to migrant issues and DBMS's interventions. It aimed to deepen understanding, build empathy, and promote cultural sensitivity among future social workers. By highlighting the complex realities faced by migrants, the initiative successfully cultivated a more informed, empathetic, and practice-ready group of students, better prepared to support inclusive social development.

Meeting with Manipur Students: DBMS held a review meeting with Manipur students enrolled in institutions across the Salesian INM Province. The session focused on their academic and residential experiences, encouraged spiritual guidance, and discussed incentives for academic excellence. Students were found to be in good health and well-adapted, with notable achievements despite initial challenges. DBMS commends the resilience, academic success, and well-being of the Manipur students. With continued support from the Salesian INM Province, their growth remains promising. The team extends heartfelt blessings for their continued success and bright future.



Field Exposure Visit – Ahmedabad & Udaipur

- As part of a Field Exposure Program, our team visited **Ahmedabad and Udaipur** to gain first-hand insights into the lives of interstate migrant workers. A key highlight was the visit to the Aajeevika Bureau Labor Union in Udaipur, a pioneering organization supporting migrant laborers.
- The **Aajeevika Bureau** provides legal aid, economic security, and access to healthcare and education for migrants. Their office is a hub of impactful work, reflecting strong commitment to dignity and rights for migrant workers. Interactions with officials deepened our understanding and reaffirmed the importance of organized support structures for vulnerable communities.