

**Support for Child Labour Rehabilitation Programme
Don Bosco Child Labour Mission - Davangere**

Interim Report
(OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2008)

Presented to



By



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Introduction

Davangere stands very much forward in organizing children's activities and looking after the children especially those most in need of help. Don Bosco Child Labour Mission too had its share in following up its inmates and doing the good that it could for the welfare of the little ones who are under the wings of DBCLM. We are also happy and proud to put forward the fact that within a short span of time we could do so much for the children especially in the field of education and in caring for their physical and material welfare. There were so many factors that stood firm for our favour but we are also so sorry to say that there were so many factors that were very much against us in carrying out this difficult task of caring for those who have no one to turn to. At the same time we are extremely happy and contented to put forward this small report of what we have been able to achieve with the magnanimous help of many kind hearted persons.

Activities realized during the reporting period

Children's day

For DBCLM children's day is a community event/celebration where the local community is conscientized or awakened to shoulder their responsibility towards fostering children's rights. The children's day with all its ups and downs was held on the 14th of November 2008 with its theme, **"Celebrating Children, to awaken the community and to empower Children"**

After concentrating on conscientizing the urban community during the past years, DBCLM has moved on to the Grama Panchayath level to celebrate children's day. The purpose is to awake the rural community by focusing on strengthening the Community Based Organizations and different stakeholders, so as to make them play an active role in children's education.



Participants involved

- Zilla Panchayat members (District Panchayats)
- Taluk Panchayats Members
- Gram Panchayats: President and members
- S.D.M.C members of different schools
- Parents
- Headmasters and Teachers
- Youth Leaders

Children's participation

- 800 children from different Government Schools.
- Children from Child Labour rehabilitation centers.

Effects on Community

- CBO's began to think of their role in children's education.
- Created awareness on Children's issues.
- Highlighted local problems/issues of children-like children being forced to work in **"Seeds crossing"**.
- Stressed the role of parents.
- The experience sharing of some of the rescued children moved and inspired other children.

The Zilla Panchayat's member vowed that he would make policy changes in the functioning of Zilla Panchayat, which would benefit children. The most important and inspiring speech by the guests was the inspirational speech of Mr. Ismail Saheeb, who captured the attention of the audience when he asserted that we must celebrate Children's Day everyday. Everyday should be a day of joy and happiness for every child. Then children's day celebration becomes meaningful.

The ultimate aim of the Children's day was the empowerment of children and as a team, we together with our friends feel that that was achieved to a great extent.

Formation of a New Child Right Club At Pothalekatte village

DBCLM was once again over enthused with joy and satisfaction as it achieved one more of its milestones namely that of having inaugurated the 51st Child Right Club on 27.11.2008 at 11.00 am in a village called Pothalekatte in Harpanahalli Taluk. Our joy was doubled that it was one of the largest gathering of the villagers and the well wishers of the Child Right Clubs. A good number of members from community based organizations were also present namely the Gram Panchayath President and the members, the president of SDMC and the members, Child Right Club resource persons from the Educational department, the Headmaster and all the teachers, various youth groups and the SHG members. Of course, the school children, majority of the parents and a good number of villagers who sacrificed their day of work in order to witness this important event in the history of DBCLM.



As we reached the village around 10.30 am the whole village was there to welcome us and soon we started the function since all the details were seen to by the Headmaster and the DBCLM staff in advance. The children were more enthused to perform a number of items during the function which was yet another platform for them to develop their own talents. During the function two of the children themselves who are members of the CRC spoke at length about Child Rights and the need for education.

“It was the first time in the past ten years that there was such a huge gathering with microphones and such a big shamyana etc.”, remarked the headmaster, which was agreed to by the villagers and its leaders. The headmaster also invited the villagers and its leaders to work towards 100% enrolment and retention of children in schools, as the teachers are ready to work hard. The headmaster also admitted the fact that even though the education department has issued orders to educate all the children on Child Rights, they have not made any effort to implement it. The effort of Don Bosco in educating the children on Child Rights and encouraging the children to participate in various programmes is praise worthy, said the headmaster speaking on the occasion.

All of us noticed a real vigor and joy on the faces of children all through the programme that lasted for more than two hours. We were once made aware of the fact that many of the children have skill and talents which will seen only if there is some platform for them to exhibit it.

Today we are proud to proclaim with our dear supporters that we have more than 70 Child Right Clubs in different schools.

District Level Convention of the Child Rights Clubs

The District Level Convention of all the members of the child right clubs was a unique programme and first of its kind in the whole of Karnataka which was held on 27th December 2008 in Channagiri Virupaxappa Dharmashala, Opp – Clock Tower, Station road, Davangere with the theme “Come and Join hands with us to empower children through Child Rights Clubs...”. In the history of Don Bosco Child Labour Mission Davangere, which has initiated many projects for the benefit of the marginalized children, this convention marked a milestone in its pursuit to empower children. The children became a power in the packed auditorium when they raised their voice in unison demanding their rights. It was an attempt to bring all the concerned government departments of the district, local civic bodies, school authorities and the media on the same platform so that they all stand by the ‘empowered children’ in their efforts to exercise their rights. The District Administration, the Education Department, the Labour Department, the Women and Child Development Department, the Social Welfare Department, the Backward and Minority Communities Department, the Gram Panchayath and the School Development Monitoring Committee and the Teachers came together to pledge that they would be protectors and promoters of child rights.

Mr. Amaranarayan, Deputy Commissioner, Davangere District, while inaugurating the

We conduct meetings once in a month... we brought back to school six children who were child labourers from our village... and we are aware of our rights...” said Radha, a 12 year old girl in reply to the question put to her by the media as to what she had done in the child rights club. The occasion was the press meet held on the previous day of the District Level Convention of the Child Rights Clubs. Radha studies in Class VII and she is the President of the Child Rights Club in Satttoor School in Harpanahalli Taluk, Davangere District.

District level convention emphasized that right of the child is to be respected not only in the school but also at home and in the society. The convention aimed at creating awareness among the children to exercise their rights and get the authorities to provide them with basic facilities in their schools. During the convention, through the resolutions passed, the children urged the District Administration to guarantee basic education to all children, to make every village child labour free and to invite members of child rights clubs to participate in the making of any policy related to the issues of children. The media did not fail the children but stood with them by reporting the mega convention in all its local and state level newspapers with color pictures and details.

Dasara holidays camp for Residential children

The children who are under our care especially the school going ones were given special attention during the Dasara holidays. A week long special programme was organized for them with experts from all over the state enlightening them over various topics. One of the most appreciated sessions was how to prepare them to face the forthcoming exams and how to prepare them well, which was handled by Rev. Fr. Jude Anand SDB. These sessions were made alive by sing songs and various mind throbbing activities.



“Supplimentary Educaiton Center Children Dasara Sports Camp”

On 20th to 25th October 2008 “Dasra Sports Camp” was conducted for the children who study in our various Supplementary Education Centers, which are situated in the Various Gramapanchayaths.

Details of the programmes

Date	Place where the sports was held	Village	Child ren	Co-ordina tor	Village rs
20-10-2008	Sriringhalli High School	Sringrihalli	26	02	80
		Ragimasalavada	13	02	-
		Honnenahalli	10	01	-
		Hallikere	14	02	-
21-10-2008	GHPS Thouduru	Thouduru	13	02	45
		Guledahatti	11	01	-
		Thanda	26	01	-
		Kavala halli	28	02	-
		Kyarakatte Yaraballi	19	02	-
22-10-2008	Lakshmiapura High School	Kanchikere	22	02	-
		Arebasapura	23	01	-
		Jambulinganahalli	20	01	-
			13	02	-

		Satturu Srikantapura	14	01	-
23-10-2008	Uchangidurg Hospital Compound	Chikkamegalkere Uchchangidurga	38 14	02 02	25 -
24-10-2008	GHPS Ramaghatta	Ramaghatta R. Thanda Chatnihalli Diddigi Thanda	32 21 44 16	02 01 02 01	30 - - -
25-10-2008	Kammattahalli H.School	Budihaal Kammattahalli	25 36	01 02	35 -
Total			478	35	215

The following sports and games items conducted for these children for their physical and mental growth.

- o Kabaddi (Pratseka)
- o Throw Ball (Girls)
- o Cricket (Boys)

The out comes of the programme are:

1. Motivated village children to participate in various Sports items.
2. Making them aware of the need to participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities.
3. Physical and mental growth of the children
4. Developing self-confidence in children to come forward and to participate.
5. The children said that this has created a spirit of true sportsmanship and a way to bring out our talents. This helps us to prepare ourselves to participate in the state and national level competitions.
6. By organizing sports in the villages during holidays prevents the children from going for work.
7. During holidays the children get an opportunity to participate in several activities, which helps, in the development of their various abilities. It also helps them to develop in them a sense of time.

The village youth and the parents supported the sports events. They said that this is the best way to develop the hidden abilities of the children and to make them participate in sports and various other activities and it helps them to develop a sports man spirit in them all.

Karnataka Rajyotsava Celebrated with full color

1st of November always remains a day unforgettable for the people of Karnataka because it celebrates its birth anniversary called Karnataka Rajyotsava on that day. As in any other district, Davangere too had a beautiful and colorful celebration of the same on that day. In both our centers, we



had a day of holiday as the Government of Karnataka had ordered and we too had something special for the children.

The Government of Karnataka organized a state level function and our children in collaboration with the state child labour programme participated in the function and put up a tableau. The caption in front of the vehicle which carried the children reads thus. **“Save us Save us We don’t want work, give us education”..**

Animation for Youth Groups

In May 2008 DBCLM organized Summer Camp in different villages of Harapanahalli. And we could experience the participation and voluntary involvement of youth in organizing the camp. This was keenly noticed in a few villages. This inspired us to build-up their groups by organizing Animation programmes and periodical meeting for them. And so we organized an animation programme for the different youth groups of ‘Jangam Tumbigere’ of Harapanahalli Taluk. More than 45 members of different youth groups came forward for the animation programme. The main resource person was the Coordinator of UNICEF Project Davangere.

Formation of Child Rights Protection and Child Labour Prevention Committees [Task Force]

Don Bosco Child Labour Mission always believes in strengthening CBO’s and the local community in the promotion and protection of children’s rights. One of the means to achieve this aim is the Formation and Follow up of Child Rights Protection and Child Labour Prevention Committees [Task Force].

The process of Formation of Task Force: Before the inauguration of the Task Force our staff got permission from the Gram Panchayat Secretary and fixed the date for the Formation of the Task Force and also served notice to all the

1. Gram Panchayath members of 8 villages, which comes under the gram Panchayath
2. SDMC members
3. SHG groups
4. Anganwadi workers
5. Headmasters of Schools
6. Members of Continuing Education centres
7. NGO’s

Representatives from these groups came for the meeting.

Our social work coordinator took a session to all the participants on the following themes.

1. The role of the CBO’s in the elimination of child labour system.
2. The protection of the rights of children.
3. Development of schools.
4. The importance of free, compulsory and qualitative education.
5. The aims and purposes of Task Force

Members who participated

Sl.	Participants / Groups	Total No.of Participants
1	Headmasters of 6 villages	06
2	SDMC members and the President	07
3	Anganwadi workers	03
4	Panchayat members	06
5	The village accountant	01
6	The members of Continuing Education Centres	02
7	The members of Women organization and the Youth Organizations.	06
8	The members of Non-Government Organizations (NGO's)	04
Total		35

The members choose 28 members from different groups to constitute the Task Force. Mr. Manjunath our coordinator explained the aims and the motto of the Task Force and then the committee was formed. Nearly 28 members took membership in the committee. The head of the gram Panchayath was selected as the head and the coordinator of the organization. The head of the organization should follow the maintenance of the records and all other formalities which were explained by Mr. Manjunath the coordinator of the project. It was decided that the entire report of the committee should be submitted to Deputy Commissioner and to the head of the Zilla Panchayat.

Outcome:

1. Although it was difficult to gather the representative groups from 8 villages, we noticed that they were interested in discussing children's issues. It was the first time that the different stakeholders of the G.P discussed and passed resolution in the proceedings of G.P on child related issues.
2. The members of the Task Force understood their role in making the Panchayath Child Labour Free villages.
3. They understood the value of quality education and their role in achieving it.

The active participation of teachers gave us the hope that they would work with a renewed spirit in the school and their attitude to children will be a positive one.



Challenges Faced

Difficulty in organizing community based programmes:

The people of Davangere mainly depends on agriculture for their daily sustenance and this is the season when hectic agricultural activities. Due to the fact that all the farmers were engrossed in agricultural activities we

could not organize community-based programmes. In two places the formation of Task force could not be done due to the lack of co-operation of the people.

Change of Government and the mass transfer of Government officials:

The recent political activities in Karnataka especially that of the change of Government left us with a great void as majority of the Government officials were transferred all of a sudden. Hence we had to spend our time in establishing new relationships with them in order to gain their heart. The government officials were also rather unfriendly due to the government policies. This becomes one of the major hurdles that we face as days go by especially with the recent political and religious developments in the state.

Difficulty in getting the children back to the Hostels: Davangere is a place where lot of festivities and celebrations take place. Hence all the children insist on going home for any celebrations that comes and incidentally every month there is one celebration or other. But after the festival it is very difficult to get them back to the hostels and to begin anew. It is the tedious task of the staff to bring back the children every month which involves a lot of patience, time, and energy and of course money.

Difficulty in placing the children in various Hostels: There are very many hostels that are willing to look after the children but very few of them really care for the welfare of the children. Many of the children after adjusting so well in DBCLM would find it very difficult to adjust themselves with the new set up.

Financial statement

Sl No	Particulars	Amount
1	Staff Salary	51000.00
2	Cooks Salary	22200.00
3	Food expense	205787.15
4	Stationery expenses	10487.10
5	Building Maintenance, Water & Electricity	39603.50
6	Teaching Materials	6604.60
7	Education expense	33969.26
8	Uniforms /toiletries etc for children	15392.14
9	Medical expense	9377.42
10	Travel and transportation	8723.33
11	Miscellaneous	6305.00
	Total	409449.50
	Money received from Yojana during the period	139665.00

Conclusion

DBCLM is convinced that employment of children in any occupation deprives them of their fundamental right to education and more generally of the rights of childhood. Thanks to the support extended by YOJANA. We are able to assist many children and the society to understand the right to education as the most important right of every child.