

THE DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY
PAPER PICKERS' REACH - OUT PROGRAMME

THE ANNUAL REPORT 1988 - 1989

The glorious sunset heralds the dawn of yet another anniversary day - the fourth of its kind. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and our lips quiver with praises for all those who made this day a happy reality which otherwise would have remained a distant possibility. This is indeed a red-letter day in the annals of Anbu Illam as it steps into another period of purposeful and blissful actions.

We are deeply delighted to have as our Chief Guest Mr. Bharathi Raja, a noted Tamil Film Director, whose praiseworthy and unique performance have enriched our culture and who has left a lasting impression in the sands of time. Your presence, Sir, is a singular sign of your interest in our consistent and concerted efforts to uplift the unforgotten and the forsaken sections of youth society. We accord a joyous welcome to Mr. Rajasekaran Nair, I.P.S., the commissioner of Police Madras. His presence sooth to say, is a reassuring sign of protection for our boys. We extend a cordial welcome to very Rev. Fr. Vincent Durairaj SDB the Salesian Provincial of the Province of Madras and Srilanka. He is the Chief animator and a guiding force of our involvement. We also appreciate the significant presence of very Rev. Fr. Edward Corcoran SDB, whose selfless love has led to embrace many unfortunate children of Mother India. Our sincere and hearty welcome to you our friends, and well wishers who have deigned to grace this auspicious swith moment with your presence.

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION:

Don Bosco Anbu Illam is a non formal institute run by the Salesians of Don Bosco, the great Educator and the friend of youth. Don Bosco Anbu Illam is a Registered Social Service Society that aims at rehabilitating the poor and vagrant youth, particularly the most neglected paper pickers and the station boys. The society has formulated laudable programmes to prevant vagrancy in the city of Madras. Began four years ago, the Don Bosco Anbu Illam has earned a name for itself in the task of forming street children into honest citizens and signified human beings. This is our Task and this is our Challenge.

THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

Don Bosco Anbu Illam embarked on the fourth successful term with the meaningful third anniversary celebrations in the month of October 1988. Mr. L.M. Manezes, I.A.S., Special Officer Corporation of Madras, Mr. P. Durai I.P.S., Commissioner of Police, Madras; Mrs. M.P. Nirmala the Director of Approved Schools and vigilance services; and very Rev. Fr. Vincent Durairaj SDB; The Salesian Provincial of the provincial of the Province of Madras and Srilanka, made the functionan impressive one.

The Salient features of the event were the inauguration of the new shelter home at 16 Malayappan Street, Mannady; inauguration of the Co-operative Paper Shop, the inuaguration of the Tailoring Unit at 16, Malayappan Street, Mannady; and the issuing of the identity cards. Since then the multifarious activities of Anbu Illam for the benefit of the Street Children have attained a new strength and stature.

THE STAFF OF DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM.

Anbu Illam has a new Salesian Community this year. Bro. Joseph Valentine SDB, joined Fr. Vincent Xavier SDB as an Assistant Director. Mr. Arulappan and Misses. Varalakshmi, Vijayalakshmi, Johnsi, Prema and Mrs. Thulasi - the Students of Nava Nirmana Social Service Institute have joined our organisation. They are rendering their valuable service to prevent vagrancy among Street children through Educational Projects. At this hour, we gratefully remember Bros'. K. J. Thomas and Vincent Manohar for their selfless dedicated services in the past.

FORMATION OF NEW CONTACT CENTRES

There are already eight street contact centres in North Madras. These facilitate our constant contact with paper pickers and street children. This year we have established four more contact centres. They include contact centres at Tondaiyarpeta, at Ambethkar Nagar, at Nungampakkam, and at Fort Station. These places apart from our Shelter Homes enables us to foster communication. Sharing and mutual enrichment among rag-picking boys. We carry shelter Home Extension Services" to all boys of these areas.

With the Co-operation of the students from Navanirmana Social Institute we have conducted a detailed survey of all station boys at Central Railway Station; and got to know their problems, needs and aspirations in order to offer meaningful services to them.

MEDI - CARE PROJECT

Apart from the normal and usual medical attention given to our boys a thorough medical check-up was organised at the behest of Don Bosco Anbu Illam on the third of June - through the kind favour of parents' Teachers Association of Don Bosco, Egmore. Our sincere thanks to Fr. Johnpeter sdb. the Rector of Don Bosco Egmore and his team members.

This year four of our drug addicts have been completely rehabilitated through T.T.K. Clinic. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Smt. Santhi Ranganathan M.A. Hospt. T.T. Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation and her dynamic team.

This year the management of Isabel Hospital has come forward to give us subsidised medical services for our boys. Already some of our boys with severe diseases like Malaria, Typhoid, Tetanus, leprosy, Tuberculosis have been treated to the best satisfaction. We would like to place on record our gratitude to the Dr. Angel Arulraj, Director and professor of the Microbiological Institute at General Hospital. Dr. Anita Simon, Additional professor of Madras Dental College. Dr. Reddy, Dr. Parthasarathy, Dr. Selvaraj of Egmore Eye Hospital and Dr. Selvaraj of Royapettah, deserve a special mention here for their availability and for their sensitiveness to the social cause. May God Bless them all.

EDUCATION AND RE-HABILITATION.

This year too Don Bosco Anbu Illam recorded a steady progress in the field of Education. This year alone we could sponsor the Education of nearly 150 street and vagrant youth in different schools and boardings. We take this opportunity to gratefully remember the various institutions that have come forward to assist us in the task of educating the vagrant youth.

With the help of St. Sebastian's Technical Institute at Madhavaram we have trained twenty boys in car driving. Now we hope that better career, prospectus and social standing await them.

This year around twenty rag-pickers and station boys had been selected and sent to learn different trades such as automechanics and carpentry. Two of these boys are doing ITI course in some noted technical institute such as St. Monfort Technical School at St. Thomas mount and St. Sebastians Technical Institute at Madavaram.

An intense training programme in "Electrical Works" was animated for a month for a group of twelve rag-pickers and station boys at St. Josephs' Technical School, Basin Bridge. After the successful completion of the course, a group of our boys have been chosen to launch, "The Don Bosco Anbu Illam Sound System" with assistance from the skill for progress (skip) Bangalore. Heartfelt thanks to Bro. Lourdurai Sdb. and to the Skip for having endeavoured to promote such a self-employment scheme.

Another notable venture has been the meaningful collaboration with M.R.F. The esteemed concern has come forward with ample employment opportunities for our boys. Already around 15 of our boys have been recruited as part time casual labourers in M.R.F. We owe a depth of gratitude to the M.R.F.

Our Tailoring Unit through its regular classes have trained some of our boys in tailoring to a great extent.

We have identified some of the most vagraney prove slums in North Madras. To arrest the potential drop outs and to prevent possible vagrancy, regular evening schools are conducted in the slums of Park Town, Sathya Nagar, St. Marys, slums at War Memorial have come into picture this year.

Literary programmes for station boys and rag-pickers have been regularly conducted at both the Shelter-Homes.

To heighten the efficiency of our non formal educational programmes the state Resource centre had animated nine days of training programmes for our staff. Very many thanks to Mr. Ranjan, the Director of the State Resource centre and his collaborator Mr. Illandhezhian for their service in this regard.

MARRIED RAG - PICKERS:

Don Bosco Head Load Workers' Associations for married Rag-Pickers has become a well organised and motivated group. Efforts are underway to make this association a registered body, so that the members of this group may receive the due rights and be free from indifferent treatment by people with vested interests. Three Leadership and Awareness camps were animated for these married rag-pickers to initiate them towards building a happy home! A housing scheme for these married rag-pickers through the slum clearance Board is envisaged. We hope this becomes a reality.

The Dhyana Ashram, a centre for prayer and meditation hosted one day awareness camp to the families of Married rag-pickers. The Co-ordinator of this unique venture is Fr. Savarimuthu S.J. We appreciate the support given to us by the Jesuits in this regard.

AWARENESS CAMPS:

To expose our boys to the realities of life as well as to enable them to grow fully we have organised on 12th December 1988 a picnic to Ginjee. This educational tour was sponsored by

Mr. P. Durai I.P.S. former Commissioner of Police, Madras. We thank the Police officials and volunteers for having made the day a delightful one.

A motivation camp was also set up for rag-pickers and station boys from 17th to 20th of April at Tonakela, around eighty of them participated in it. Through various educational programmes and activities these boys have been taught the basic manners of living, and chalk out the plans for their future. May I thank Mr. Eugene, Bro. David sdb, and Mr. N.S. Dassan, B.I.Chandhok F.B. Pithavadian - for having conducted wonderful camp programmes for our boys.

Contact cum awareness camp conducted at St. Bedes' Madras paved the ways for the transformation of forty rag-pickers and station boys.

A follow-up camp for all the Anbu Illam sponsored school going boys was taken up. The objective of this one day camp was to enkindle in them the desire to study. The same type of camp was also extended to our evening class programme.

A Leadership programme was made possible for the Senior Anbu Illam Boys at Ennore on 26th November. Thanks to Fr. Joe sdb. who animated the programme to the full satisfaction of all.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS:

All work and no play render the days dull and gloomy. The festivities and celebrations of Don Bosco Anbu Illam were aimed at creating family and friendly atmosphere, which is essential for the integrated growth:

The death centenary celebrations of Don Bosco added new dimension in the celebrations of Anbu Illam. We fondly remembered the saint who offered himself for the happiness of the poor and abandoned youth.

Deepavali and Pongal festivities were celebrated in great solemnity. This years Deepavali celebration was sponsored by Mr. P. Durai IES. the police commissioner of Madras, whose generosity and interest offered a joyous day to our boys.

The childrens day was celebrated in all our Evening School Centres. The day was marked by Sports and various competitive events.

A Day of Living Together was Celebrated with tremendous enthusiasm on 17th October 1989. It was a day when boys felt that they are loved and wanted. Together we resolved to work for better tomorrow.

Festivities in view of Christmas were animated at various places at the behest of Don Bosco Anbu Illam.

- on 3.12.'89 For the Reformatory School Girls sponsored by the sisters of Presentation convent and sisters of Sr. Annes' - at Perambur.

- on 10.12.'89 For the Reformatory Schools, Boys of Royapuram, by Sr. Bedes' Higher Secondary School at Broadway.
- on 17.12.'89 for the Reception Home Boys and Girls by Don Bosco Hr. Sec. School Egmore at Kellys.
- on 22.12.'89 for the inmates and protective Home by Broadway F.X. Salesian Sisters at Mylapore.
- on 23.12.'89 for the street children of the locality - by St. Mary's Parish at St. Mary's School.
- on 25.12.'89 for all the inmates of Anbu Illam, at Mannady DBAI.

The celebrations sent happy tidings of Joy and Peace to hundreds of neglected children. Our sincere thanks to all the sponsors for their helping hand and aid.

HIGH LIGHTS. AND OTHER SALIENT FEATURES:

- During the year we have sent about fifty run away boys back home!
- Four Rag-pickers have been initiated into a very happy married life!

The shelter home at Park Town was recosted to suit our convenience.

One more Co-operative paper shops has added to the sixth existing one.

We took part in various state level meetings conducted by Social Welfare Board and Private organisations to render effective service for the vagrant youth.

Government has consented to give us a place to co-ordinate the works of rehabilitation. Thanks to Mr. L.M. Manazes. The Special Officer, Madras; Mrs. Malathy the former Director of Approved Schools and Vigilance services, and Mrs. M.P. Nirmala the present Director of Approved Schools and vigilance services.

Mr. M.P. Mirmal the president of Exnora International has come forward to create employment opportunity through the "keep the City Clean Project," on 25th June 1989. The day also witnessed Mr. Veerapandi Arumugam the minister for Local Administration granting loans to three of our boys to promote their self employment. The assurance of the minister has strengthened our hope that the State Government come forward to better the lot of these neglected youth of the city.

We are proud to state that the rag pickers and station boys find their shelter in two different places. Dairy seventy five boys come to these shelter homes which is the achievement of the find a fitting place for their integral growth.

PLANS AND PROPOSALS:

1. To co-ordinate the work of the Co-operative paper shop Society.

2. To initiate contact with reputed concerns for job opportunities and various sponsor ships.

3. We hope to get an auto-rickshaw to teach our boys auto driving to enhance their livelihood.

4. At this solemn occasion we would like to state that the State Government has come forward offering us a place to begin a Semi-Rehabilitation Centre, at the Noon Meal Centre adjacent to Annapark Opposite to R.S.R.M. Hospital. This will include a two wheeler servicing centre, Export Tailoring Unit, Co-operative paper Shop and a Regular Non-formal Educational Centre.

5. We still dream of a Boys Town where a street boy who has genuine interest to come up in life, can be accomodated and followed up efficiently.

CONCLUSION:

We thank God our father for his unceasing presence with us. It is his continual Assistance that prompted a sincere transformation of our boys who otherwise are threat to the Society. On behalf of 2,000 street youth we extend a sincere word of thanks to the State Government of Tamil Nadu to the Government Officials, Heads of religious institutions. Well wishers, Benefactors, friends and volunteers for their encouragements, trusts and confidence.

Accept our sincere thanks Mr. Bharathi Raja; Mr. Rajasekaran Nair I.P.S. Fr. Provincial SDB; and Fr. Corcoran SDB for having graciously accepted our invitation despite your heavy schedule.

A special word of thanks to the UNICEF, especially to Mr. Dass Gupta the Chief Project Officer of Zona Representations for UNICEF in South India at Madras for having financed this years Anniversary celebration.

We woe a deep sence of gratitude to the Directorate of the Vigilance services and Social Welfare Board for their continued help in our developmental tasks.

A sincere thanks to my fellow salesian confreres, our Benefactors in India and Abroad for all their supports, warm friendships, dear affection and meaningful collaborations. To you my friends I extend my greatfulness for having come over here to share our joy and happiness. May this New year bring prosperity, peace and good health to you all. God Bless You.
