

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21



Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk

Bangalore - Chennai - Delhi - Dimapur - Guwahati - Hyderabad - Kolkata - Mumbai - Panjim - Shillong - Tiruchy

Strategic Priorities of DB YaR Forum 2020-2025

Priority Groups



Young at Risk Addicted to Substances



Young Migrant Workers



18+ Young at Risk Leaving Care

Programme Models



Neighbourhood and Community Oriented



Focus on Rural and Tribal Areas



Attention to Prevention Strategies

Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

As I write these lines, our country, as also most of the rest of the world, is still engaged in the brave fight against the pandemic that brought poverty, pain and tragic loss of loved ones to millions across the globe. Though each



of us tried to contribute our mite to reach out to those affected, we know in our hearts that the scars and the memories will be hard to heal. Many thousands of poor young people now face life without parents or family, and without means of livelihood. We continue our efforts, with the support of friends and well-wishers, to reach out, to rescue, to open up avenues.

The year this report spans, understandably was a subdued one. We had to suspend many of our usual activities. But we were also challenged to be creative, to respond to the Covid-19 situation as it evolved.

As I present to you this Annual Report I would like to place on record the thanks and appreciation of the entire family of DB YaR Forum to Fr Thomas Koshy whose gentle and sagacious leadership of the Forum as Secretary and Executive Director from May 2014 to May 2020 took the Forum to new levels of collaboration, innovation and professionalism. We all remember that Fr Koshy had earlier served as Joint Secretary of the Forum and had been associated with the Forum from its very conceptualisation and launch. Though Fr Koshy left the national office at Delhi in June 2020, from his new assignment at Don Bosco Navajeevan, Hyderabad, he continues to be closely associated with us all. Thank you, Fr Koshy.

Another person whose name has become almost synonymous with DB YaR Forum is Fr Thomas Aquinas, whose association with the YaR family goes as far back as the late 1990's, to the beginnings of HomeLink Network. Fr Aquinas was Joint Secretary of the Forum from May 2015 to May 2021. During this time, as Director of HomeLink Network, Fr Aquinas transformed HomeLink and ChildMISS, laid the foundations of data led management of YaR centres and services and harnessed cutting edge information technologies to the work with the Young at Risk. Fr Aquinas left the national office in June 2021 to take up his new assignment at Don Bosco College, Hyderabad. Thank you Fr Aquinas, and thank you for continuing to guide and mentor the HomeLink team.

My sincere thanks to the team at the national office for conceptualising, designing and producing this Annual Report, 2020-21.

With every good wish,

Tony Pellissery SDB Executive Director

December, 2021

DB YaR Forum

Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk, also known as DB YaR Forum, is the all-India network of Don Bosco institutions and organizations committed to the safety, growth, development and rights of at-risk, vulnerable, marginalized children and young adults.

Inspired by Don Bosco, the vision of DB YaR Forum is of a world where every child and every young person lives, and grows towards "fullness of life" in secure, enabling environments.

The forum aims to inspire and lead Don Bosco organisations and their collaborators to respond with courage, creativity and commitment to the needs of the Young at Risk and to engage and collaborate with individuals, civil society organizations and governments to ensure for the Young at Risk caring, enabling environments and opportunities for growth and development.



By "Young at Risk" (YaR), we mean children and young adults, who are in or have been through situations of neglect, abuse, exploitation, exclusion, violence, or experiences that negatively impact their lives. For us, the Young at Risk are young persons living or working on streets, involved in child labour, begging, or in occupations not suited to their age, in conflict with law, in correctional centres, or into petty crime, young persons who are orphans, abandoned, homeless, vagrant, runaway, migrant, displaced with no means of livelihood, school dropouts, those deprived of basic educational opportunities, affected by wars, violent conflicts, socio-political upheavals, those into substance abuse, infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, trafficked, abused, associated with commercial sex work, third gender, differently abled, and young persons in extreme poverty.

We reach out to the Young at Risk though presences on streets, in market places, in railway and bus stations, in "slums". We engage in rescue and emergency assistance to children in difficult circumstances. We run a variety of child care institutions, including drop-in centres; open shelters and reception units; children's homes. We offer counselling, rehabilitation and social reintegration, vocational guidance, skill development and placement services. We run bridge courses, coaching classes and drop out prevention centres. We offer young people opportunities for holistic and integral education adapted to individual requirements. From the first contacts, our multi-skilled and dedicated teams accompany young persons, enabling and empowering them to stand on their own feet and take their place in society.

DB YaR Forum promotes and coordinates interventions with and on behalf of the Young at Risk across India through 11 coordination teams, known as Province YaR Commissions – in Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Dimapur, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Panjim, Shillong and Tiruchy – each headed by a Province YaR Coordinator. A team of 3 SDB's – the Executive Director cum Secretary and two Joint Secretaries – based in Delhi form the National Executive Team. We are present for the care and protection, best interests and maximum development of children and young adults in 175+ settings in 125+ locations across 20 states and union territories of India.

THANK YOU



Fr Thomas Koshy



Fr Thomas Aquinas

Our thanks and appreciation to Fr Thomas Koshy, who led DB YaR Forum as Secretary and Executive Director from 2014 to 2020, and to Fr Thomas Aquinas who as Joint Secretary and Director HomeLink Network from 2015 to 2021, made DB YaR Forum a leader and pioneer in using information technologies and data at the service of the Young at Risk.

Imagine YaR Ministry

Journeying Together into Tomorrow

DB YaR Forum and its collaborators across India engaged in a process of study, enquiry and dialogue, from February 2019, reflecting together with various groups of stakeholders, on the path travelled in the 45+ years of focused Salesian Ministry with the Young at Risk in the country. The aim was to, once again, "Imagine YaR Ministry": to be able to attend, with greater creativity, courage and effectiveness, to the call of the diversely at-risk, deprived, excluded, vulnerable young people in our neighbourhoods and in society at large in contemporary India.



A significant high point of this process was the in-depth deliberations held at Mumbai on 20 September 2019, where the 60+ delegates from all the provinces of India, prioritised the main groups of Young at Risk to be addressed in a focused manner in the next five years. The choices of the provinces are summarised in the table below:

Priority Groups	Provinces										
Young persons addicted to substance abuse, and related	INM	IND	INT	INK	INP	INS	INH	INN	INB		
Young Migrant Workers	INM		INT		INP		INH	INN		INC	ING
Young offenders, Children in Conflict with Law, Children of Prisoners	INM				INP				INB	INC	
Young persons who leave CCIs at 18 years of age			INT	INK	INP	INS	INH	INN	INB	INC	
Trafficked Children and Youth				INK				INN			ING
Transgender Young Persons				INK							
Young under media addiction			INT					INN			

In addition, the delegates prioritised also the key programme approaches or models that should characterise Salesian Young at Risk Ministry in India in the next five years.

Programme Models/Approaches	Provinces										
Shifting focus from institutional to neighbourhood and community based approach	INM	IND	INT	INK	INP	INS	INH	INN	INB	INC	ING
Ensuring rehabilitation and reintegration into community				INK	INP	INS	INH	INN	INB		ING
End to end and holistic programming (education, job oriented skilling, placement, career guidance & follow up)			INT		INP	INS			INB	INC	
Greater focus on villages and tribal areas, in addition to urban areas	INM			INK							
From service provider to rights based approach	INM						INH				
Reinforcing prevention strategies (like evening schools, learning centres, remedial classes, & related)					INP					INC	

The remarkable convergence across provinces on both the priority groups of YaR and the programme approaches to be adopted, point to clear choices that Salesian YaR Ministry must make today in the quest for continued relevance and effectiveness.

Earlier, the 118 delegates – Province YaR Coordinators, YaR centre/service directors, senior staff members and select stakeholders from the 20 States and UTs of India - at the National Seminar held at Mumbai on 18 & 19 September, under the excellent facilitation and guidance of Dr J Henry Rozario, had shortlisted these groups of the Young at Risk and these programme models as critical components of an effective Salesian Ministry with the Young at Risk in India in the years to come.

The seminar itself was preceded by 6 months of study and reflection at the level of the YaR centres/services and at the level of the provinces. YaR centres/services across the country conducted focused group discussions - 167 FGD's in all - with children in age groups up to 12, 13-18, above 18, with past students, with staff, collaborators and management teams and held interviews - 62 in all - with related government department personnel, child rights activists, parents and community leaders in the neighbourhood and other stakeholders.

What emerged from these exercises provided inputs to the next phase where each YaR centre/service did a SWOC (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges) analysis of their work. The outputs of the SWOC from the YaR centres/services were collated and studied at the provinces level "situation-analysis" discussions by the members of the Province YaR Commissions, YaR National Team, Dr Henry Rozario and collaborators and other leaders in YaR Ministry, which led to the province level consensus on emerging trends and issues of the Young at Risk, assessment of the current level of reach and the effectiveness of province level programmes, current constraints and opportunities, as well as the shifts required in our programme models and approaches.

Between October 2019 and February 2020 there were further discussions and study at the YaR Commissions and at the province levels, leading this general framework and broad choices to be contextualised and adopted by individual provinces, and translated into concrete strategies and action plans by the 180+ services, interventions and centres across the country where we engage with the Young at Risk today.



At the two-day meeting of the heads of YaR Commissions of all the 11 provinces of India, held at Hyderabad in February 2020, the three priority groups and preferred approaches selected by most number of provinces were adopted as the national priorities for DB YaR Forum for the next five years.

Priority Groups:

Young Persons Addicted to Substance Abuse Young Migrant Workers Young Persons Who Leave CCIs at 18 Years of Age

Programme Models:

Neighbourhood and Community Oriented Attention to Prevention Strategies Focus on Rural and Tribal Areas

In spite of the challenges posed by the country-wide lockdowns and Covid-19 related restrictions that came into effect from March 2020, the implementation of these strategic decisions has been steady if not too speedy progress. Together we continue to Imagine YaR Ministry – Journeying Together into Tomorrow ...

Homelink Network

Data-Drive Management of Interventions with the Young at Risk

Launched in 2002, HomeLink Network is an initiative of DB YaR Forum and is its earliest and longest running nationally coordinated programme. Through its proprietary online documentation software, "ChildMISS" it ensures appropriate, timely and real-time response to the needs of the Young at Risk, based on accurate documentation and data analysis supported by the best of technologies available today.



Membership in HomeLink Network with access to "ChildMISS", is open to all organisations – SDB and others – who share the ideals of scientific, data-led, collaborative approach to Child Rights and the concerns of the Young at Risk.

CHILDMISS Focuses on

Developing data led child care system through documentation, research, and databased intervention planning

Data driven networking and engagement with government and other stakeholders on children's issues

Systematically documenting the systems, processes, and workflow of the organizations

Harnessing advances in digital technologies in the service of the Young at Risk

IIIIDe	SD	Bs	OTHER ORGANISATIONS				
HUBs	NODES	SUB-CENTRES	NODES	SUB-CENTRES			
Bangalore	11	31	10	38			
Chennai	7	11	2	2			
Coimbatore	8	10	3	8			
Delhi	5	5	3	3			
Guwahati	9	13	3	3			
Kolkata	3	12	0	0			
Hyderabad	9	17	4	4			
Mumbai	6	7	4	4			
	58	106	29	62			

Coordinated at the national level in Delhi, the network covers 20 States and UTs of India and operates through 8 regional coordination units or 'hubs' - at Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

In July 2020 the ChildMISS Mobile App was launched, making key data available on smartphones, to decision makers at YaR centres and services.

19954 Data Entries in ChildMISS

2952 Children Restored to Families/Guardians

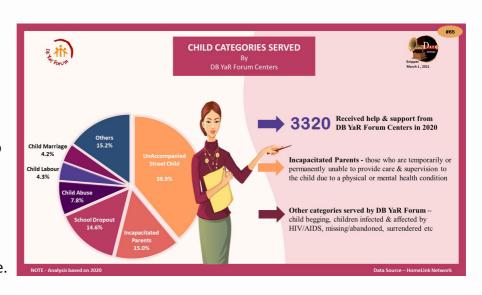
2402 Children reached through Outreach Activities

7414 Services rendered to Children

HomeLink Network teams made 19954 data entries in ChildMISS between April 2020 and March 2021. Data of 5354 children were recorded of which 2952 children were restored to their families or guardians and 2402 children were reached through outreach activities. 7414 data entries related to services rendered to children - like professional counselling, education, medical and home visits. 51 missing complaints filed and 2613 help and rescue services were recorded. There were 377 records of Caring Community Group members and 549 entries of Volunteers.

'Data Speaks' introduced in 2019, is an infographic snippet designed to bring to light some specific issue of the Young at Risk by highlighting the data available on that issue. These snippets are shared on social media platforms like WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook. Between April 2020 and March 2021, the national office shared 101 snippets and the eight regional hubs shared 150 snippets.

'Snippets' were utlized for decision making.
While the Coimbatore hub was able to build a prevention programme on Child Marriage, the Chennai hub was able to set up an awareness programme on Child Abuse. The Hyderabad hub worked towards opening a community based counselling centre.



Data Driven Management was given a thrust throughout the year. Partner organisations and other collaborators were trained on this approach. Owing to Covid-19 several meetings and training sessions were held online. 23 trainings were conducted on online data visualization tools like Power BI and Google Data Studio. 7 training sessions were held on graphic design software like Canva and Picktochart to enhance presentation skills and preparation of infographic reports.

An online workshop on "Data Driven Innovation" with a panel discussion on "Need, Power and Future of Data for YaR Centers" was held on 17 August 2020. Two research reports, "Effect of Covid-19 on CCIs" and "Orphan Children in CCIs" were also published.

Don Bosco for Migrants

Safety, Wellbeing and Dignity for Every Migrant Worker

In spite of best intentions, the Indian state has largely failed in providing legal and social entitlements to the vast, vulnerable, group of migrant workers, particularly in the informal sectors. Migrant workers constitute a floating and "invisible" population, largely on the periphery of Indian society.



Migrant Young at Risk most often live in circumstances beneath their dignity as human persons, in life situations characterized by a variety of constraints and deprivations:

- They lack citizen rights and are deprived of basic entitlements identity proof, formal residency rights, adequate housing, sanitation, access to state provided services like health care, education, subsidized food. Administrative rules and procedures, in effect, exclude them from access to legal rights, banking, insurance and social security systems.
- They suffer discrimination, based on ethnicity, religion, caste, class or gender and are
 frequently stigmatized and looked upon with suspicion. They are vulnerable to abuse,
 trafficking and exploitation. Their jobs are insecure at high risk of being laid off without
 notice or compensation; they are paid low, unfair wages, often at irregular intervals. Their
 working conditions are hazardous, with minimal safety systems in place. In the case of
 children, they often get trapped into "child labour".
- They are unorganized and lack political representation; they are powerless to make their concerns and grievances heard, and even more so to demand their rights.
- Wrenched from emotional, spiritual, familial roots and support systems, struggling to cope with and survive in unfamiliar socio-cultural milieu, burdened with subsistence concerns of kith and kin back home, some take to substance abuse and other unhealthy habits; some take to anti-social activities and are prone to be in conflict with law.





In 2017-2018, DB YaR Forum had launched interventions in 8 cities of India with a view to learning more deeply about the situation of young migrant workers, their constraints and their aspirations as a preparatory step to evolving long term strategies to address these issues. The plight of migrant workers in the wake of the nation-wide lockdowns in March 2020 hit the Indian public in the eye with the shocking realities of migrant workers in India.

A two-part national consultation on migrant workers was held online on 13 and 15 July 2020. Discussions were held on all-India level strategies that could be adopted to address the situation of migrant workers in the country.

During this period, emergency relief services were extended to migrant workers travelling home on foot or stranded in their work locations without food or provisions as a result of the country-wide lockdown.

In September 2020, DB YaR Forum was entrusted with the responsibility of leading the migrant workers related interventions of all Don Bosco Institutions in India. The national and state level teams to lead the initiative in various parts of India were formed and organized under the name and logo "Don Bosco 4 Migrants".



In the context of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions several online meetings were held with teams across the country and an online tool was developed with the aim of collecting information to help understand the situation and aspirations of migrant workers in the country.



Child Friendly Cities Initiative

Communities and Local Governance Committed to the Rights of All Children



With over a third of its population below the age of 18, India has the largest child population in the world. Census 2011 indicated that of the 377 million urban Indians, 120+ million (32%) are children below 18 years and that within this young population, 37 million (31%) are children below six years. A quarter - 30 million of the 120 million - live in slums.

Children are the first of the victims urbanization of poverty. Life in a slum involves a range of risks including violence, abuse, trafficking, sex slavery, child labour, conflict with law and a host of violations of even basic life, survival and protection rights. Inadequate nutrition, unsanitary conditions and exposure to contaminated water leave children at greater risk of disease and chronic health problems. India has half the world's malnourished children. School dropouts from classes 1 to 5 are 45% of those enrolled. Two out of three children are physically abused.



A child friendly city consciously defends, promotes, and expands - as a duty bearer - the rights of every child in the city as guaranteed by the Constitution, legislated child rights, UN declarations/conventions and the goals set under Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The political, administrative, law enforcement and judicial leadership of the city, its civil society (including media, parents, teachers, academics, opinion leaders, policy influencers...) are



informed about and take responsibility ensuring these rights entitlements. Duty bearers are aware of what they must and must not do and are transparent and accountable - in the public domain - about the way they discharge their duties. Most important, institutional arrangements children as rights holders - supported by parents and the community – to exercise informed and responsible agency to demand, avail and expand their rights and to hold duty bearers accountable.



At a half-yearly national team meeting in Chandigarh in September 2014, DB YaR Forum conceptualized its version of the "Child Friendly Cities Initiative" (CFCI) as a ten-year programme to be launched in 10 cities of India – Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Dimapur, Rajahmundry, Salem, Shillong, Trivandrum, Vadodara, Vellore and Vizag. This was followed by a feasibility study in these cities during October-December 2016.

In April 2018, DB YaR Forum launched the Child Friendly Cities Initiative in Chandigarh, Salem, Rajahmundry and Vadodara. This first phase of CFCI, due to end in March 2021, was extended to June 2021 to make up for the time lost during the lockdown months.

A total of 33,000 children were sensitized of whom 9,021 were formed into child rights clubs and child parliaments. Interaction took place with 14,556 adult citizens, community leaders and members of civil society organisations of whom 7,345 were motivated to participate in Forums for child rights, Caring Community Groups and to actively support the campaigns and other interventions led by children. 2,764 government officials and duty bearers were engaged with, to discuss and address the child rights issues highlighted by the children and civil society members.

33000 Children Sensitized **9021**Children in Groups & Parliaments

14556
Civil Society Members Sensitized

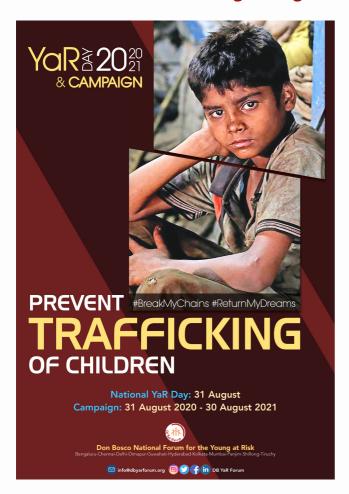
2764Duty Bearers Sensitized

Child Friendly Cities Initiative was supported by Missean Cara, and Kindermissionswerk through Don Bosco Mission Bonn.



National YaR Day & Campaign

Learning through Celebration and Activity



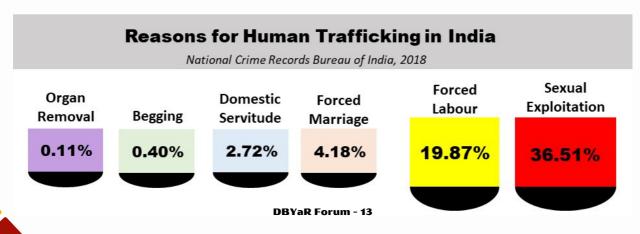
The campaign of 2020-21 spread awareness on various aspects of child trafficking – Child Labour, Domestic Servitude, Child Marriage, Sexual Exploitation, Child Begging, Organ Harvesting and the like. Focus was also given on understanding various government policies and mechanisms, and what each of us can do to curb this heinous crime.

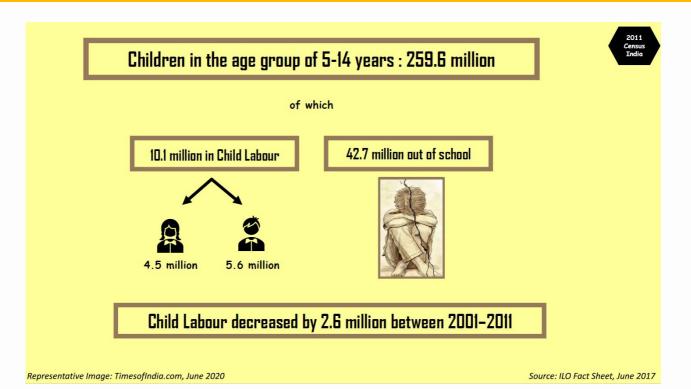
The first National YaR Day, a day for all DB YaR Forum centres across the country to celebrate their life with the Young at Risk, was celebrated on 20 November 2010. In 2016-17, it was decided to shift the National YaR Day to 31 August and to add on a year-long Annual National YaR Campaign, starting on 31 August and ending on 30 August the following year.

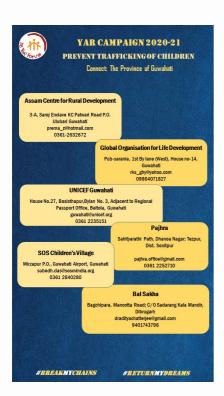
The National YaR Campaign of 2020-21 was on the theme "Prevent Trafficking of Children".

'Human Trafficking' is recognised as a tragic international phenomenon that has had explosive growth. It is the world's second largest criminal enterprise – happening in every location, community and culture. Structured and well-organized, this criminal activity, is carried out by gangs and cartels who execute their plans relentlessly and mercilessly.





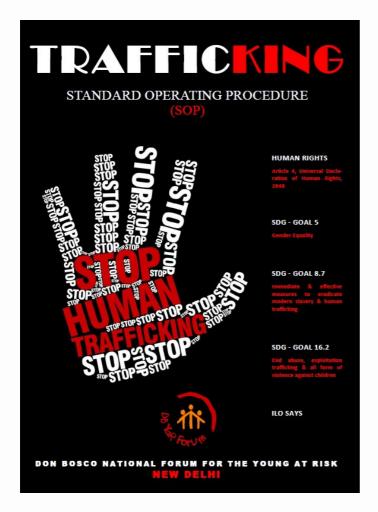






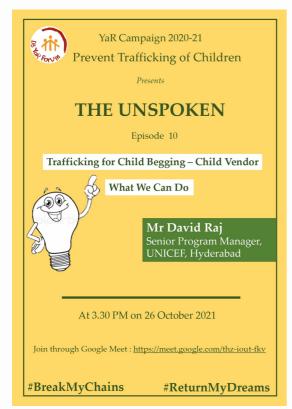


Through WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram, campaign resources in the form of images, posters, data sets, reading material, flipbooks and audio-visual clips were shared with colleagues, friends and partner organisations. Our network members were put in contact with other organisations working to prevent trafficking of children. 'Connect' posters were created through which contact details of these organisations were shared.



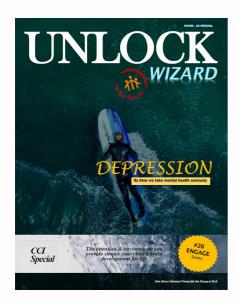
The major highlight of the campaign was "The UnSpoken" (Posters) a fortnightly online series - video sessions live streamed on YouTube and Facebook. DB YaR Forum team at Delhi and elsewhere and invited subject experts and activists presented aspects various trafficking, how to be on guard, how to take preventive measures as well as how to unite against human trafficking. Practical experiences and effective solutions were discussed."

Children form across India participated the in spreading awareness along with the caregivers through skits, dance, mime, quizzes, posters. speeches and poems, Children's performances were integrated into the episodes of "The Unspoken".

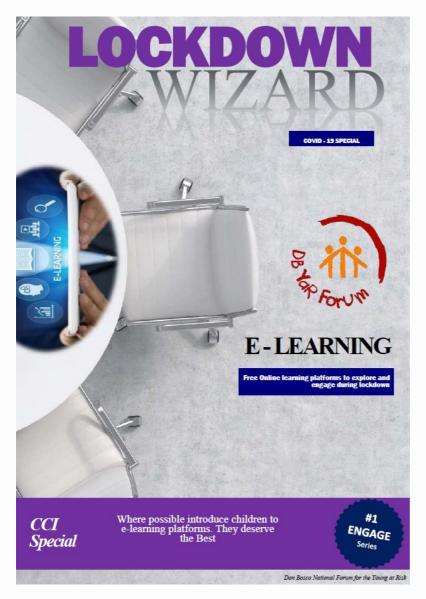


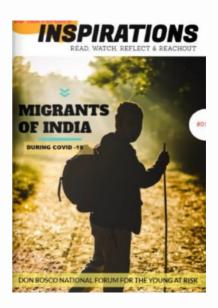


Media and Publications

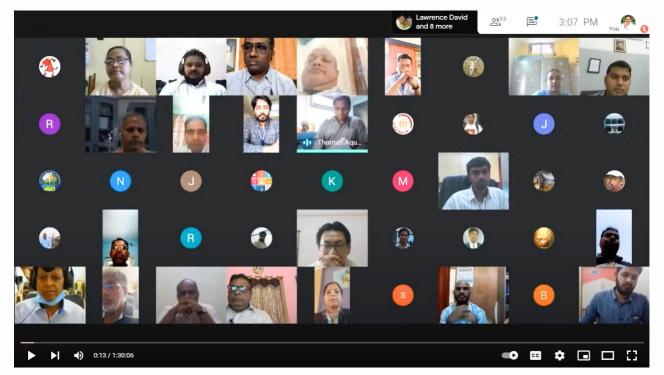


To keep children engaged and to support the efforts of care givers and families caring for children 24x7 during the pandemic induced lockdown, DB YaR Forum introduced a series of flipbooks, "Unlock Wizard". Shared online, these flipbooks presented activity and reading material that could keep children as well as care givers engaged as well as informed. 47 flipbooks were prepared and circulated covering topics like Online Learning Platforms, 11 Reasons Why Data is Important, Migrants in India, Parent or Friend, Social & Life Skills, Mental Health, Nutritional Food, Importance of Data and the like.









Two capacity building trainings were organized online on 'Legal Compliance for Non-Profits' and 'Child Protection/Safeguarding & Indian Laws' with Advocates Adrian Philips and Surbhi Sharma as resource persons.

Some of the other posters and videos shared with the larger audience were on social issues like Safer Internet Day, Autism Spectrum, and Zero Discrimination Day.



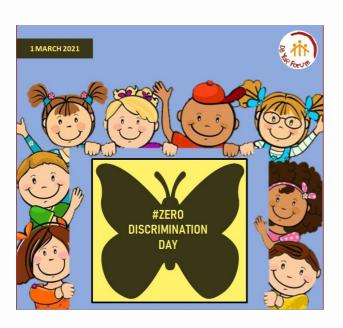




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DB YaR Forum's increased online presence resulted in many followers & friends on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, enabling us to reach larger audiences.







Programmes Not Held

Due to the pandemic and the restrictions put in place by the government on travel and gatherings, we were unable to organise our customary annual programmes, the YaR Leaders' Orientation, National YaR Seminar and the National YaR Awards.

Financial Summary 01 April 2020 - 31 March 2021

Interventions	Funds Available	Funds Utilised	Balance
HomeLink & ChildMISS	60,01,497.19	46,44,450.80	13,57,046.39
Juvenile Justice Alliance	10,24,675.09	3,61,800.00	6,62,875.09
Young Migrant Workers	7,97,106.00	1,83,992.00	6,13,114.00
Child Friendly Cities Initiative	65,14,309.22	65,12,056.60	2,252.62
People's Protection App	40,76,694.42	4,05,906.00	36,70,788.42
Young at Risk Interventions	46,35,876.46	11,05,789.39	35,30,087.07
Total	2,30,50,158.38	1,32,13,994.79	98,36,163.59

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We express our heartfelt thanks and invoke God's blessings, also on behalf of all our young people, on all our donors, supporters, well-wishers and friends.

The Team



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Glimpses of 2020 - 2021



















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