



**DON BOSCO NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE YOUNG AT RISK**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25**

**1,35,310** Family Members & Adults

## People were supported by 11 YaR Provinces

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





## PROVINCIAL DON BOSCO PROVINCIAL HOUSE

Don Bosco Nagar Post, Bandlaguda Jagir, Himayathsagar Road  
Hyderabad - 500 086, Telangana State, INDIA.

Dear Friends of Children,

Warm greetings to each of you, companions on this sacred journey with our young people.

As Don Bosco taught us, "Education is a matter of the heart." Working with children at risk is not just a mission — it is a vocation of love, presence, and hope. In our work, we are called not only to accompany and protect, but also to *advocate* and *collaborate* on their behalf.

**Advocacy**, in the Don Bosco spirit, means standing beside the young — especially the most vulnerable — and giving voice to their dreams, their struggles, and their rights. We are invited to be prophets of hope, challenging systems of exclusion, and building spaces where every child can be seen, heard, and valued.

**Networking**, too, is part of our Salesian identity. Don Bosco himself gathered educators, professionals, and lay people to create a strong, united front for youth. Today, this means building bridges between communities, institutions, and organizations to form a support system where no child is left behind. Together, we are stronger, more creative, and more effective.

Let us remain faithful to Don Bosco's preventive system — grounded in reason, religion, and loving-kindness — and work hand in hand to build a future where every child, especially those at risk, finds a home, a purpose, and a family in us.

With gratitude for your tireless service and Salesian heart,

In Don Bosco,

Fr. Thomas Santiago sdb



*"It is not enough to love the young; they must know that they are loved." — St. John Bosco*

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## STREAM YOUR DREAM TO MAKE IT CREAM

Sir Edmund Hillary, who was the first to conquer the previously unconquerable Mount Everest said,

***“You don’t have to be a hero to accomplish great things... to compete. You can just be an ordinary chap, sufficiently motivated to reach challenging goals.”***

The ministry with the young at risk is nothing short of a marathon, with several challenges along the way, and many hurdles to cross before one reach or want to reach the final line. Our effort is not only to provide our young people with a roadmap to their dreams and aspirations, but continuously and consistently accompanying them along this marathon journey, tracking individual progress and making course corrections. In understanding their aspirations and ambitions, we are better equipped to guide them truthfully and precisely. This accompaniment requires a ‘mentoring process’ of their self-reflection to acknowledge their limitations and to process those weaknesses into strengths thus their success is assured. Our ultimate endeavour is to ‘prepare good human persons with great values’. We want our young people to have compassion for the poor and the needy, act with integrity and never waver from the path of what is right. In short, they value themselves and make a difference in their family and society.

The Don Bosco YaR Forum through its pedigree, investment, and focus on a number of aspects that ensures the young person is at the epicentre of our ministry and thereby ensuring their dreams come alive.

Down the history of Don Bosco YaR Centres, numerous young people have paralleled with Sir Edmund Hillary in fulfilling their ambition in life, in spite of their personal limitations or family crises. Today our alumni are placed in educational institutions, government offices, corporate companies, NGOs and social sectors, etc. It is through consistent hard work, determination, perseverance, and a ‘fire in the belly’, they have become who they are in life.






In our YaR Centres, do we have young people with proper motivation and willpower to focus on Himalayan dreams to conquer? Do our staff have the passion and dedication to accompany these young people towards their life goal? Do our Salesians stand out as exemplary personnel to offer the Salesian educational pedagogy with love and concern? Do we keep abreast with the latest trends and developments of youth ministry?

These queries may sound like the unconquerable Mount Everest if we keep asking rather than start climbing. Let us start addressing these challenges systematically.

**"It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves,"** so says Sir Edmund Hillary.



Fr. Joe Prabu  
Executive Director  
DB YaR Forum



For every at-risk young person

life to the full...



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# DB YAR NATIONAL FORUM

The Don Bosco National Forum, for the Young at Risk is a network throughout India that supports and empowers youth. Operating in challenging areas DB YaR carries out outreach efforts, rescues and rehabilitation for at risk individuals. By adopting holistic approach, it offers care facilities, counseling services, vocational training and pathways for reintegration.

With 11 Provincial Commissions across Bangalore, Chennai, Dimapur, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Panjim, Shillong and Tiruchy, DB YaR National Forum supported and assisted a total of 3,65,498 people in 2023 - 2024 through various programs in multiple cities.

Advocating for the rights of youth, the goal of DB YaR National Forum is to create a society where they can realize their potential and make positive contributions. Fundamentally, DB YaR paves the way for at risk youth to assimilate and prosper independently through education as an essential resources and assistance.

## VISION

A world where every child and every young person lives, and grows towards "fullness of life" in secure, enabling environments.

## MISSION

Inspire and lead Salesians and their collaborators to respond with courage, creativity and commitment to the needs of the Young at Risk and to advocate and collaborate with individuals, civil society organizations and governments to ensure caring, enabling environments and opportunities for growth, and development.

FAMILY  
IS  
WHERE I  
BELONG

Art by: Dipsikha Sahani, Age 11,  
Snehalaya - Child Friendly Guwahati



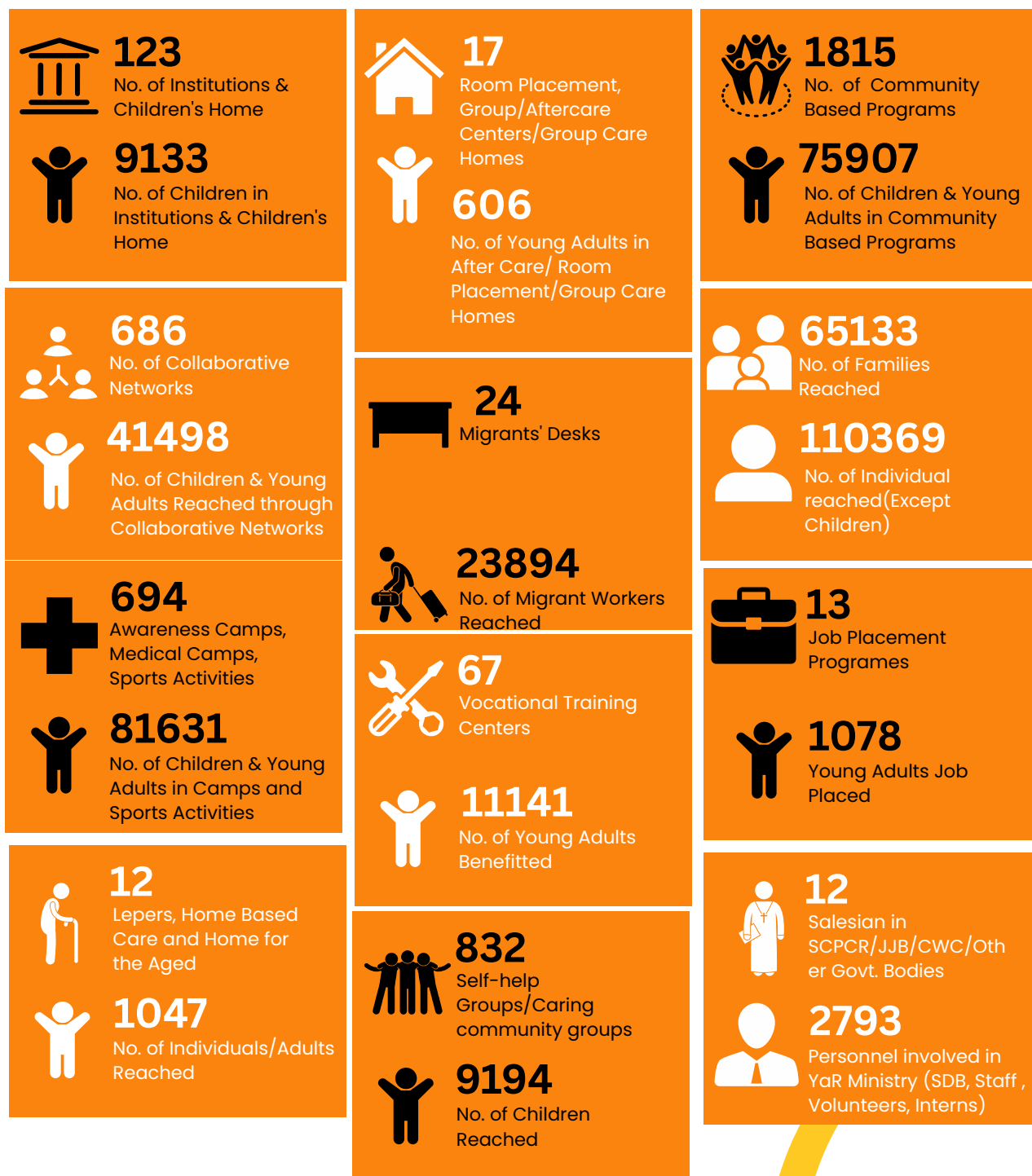
Art by: NAVEEN H., Age 13, Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Chennai by INM Project,  
Campaign poster competition, 2024



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# DB YAR STATISTICS REPORT

The statistical report of DB Young at Risk National Forum 2023-2024 is a data-driven insight generated during the period from June 2023 to May 2024 and aims to provide a comprehensive overview of activities of the forum and the impact of the activities on the children and young adults.





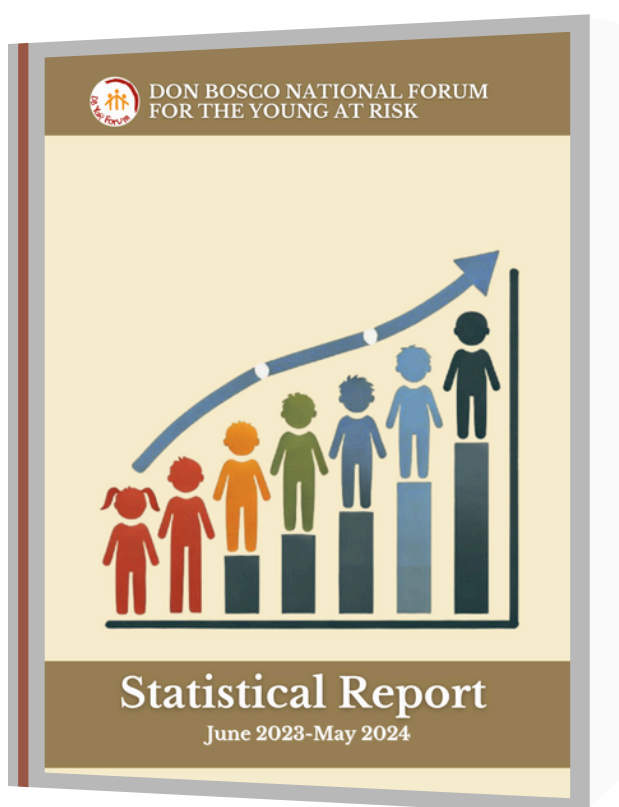
The provinces gathered the data diligently from each center with the guidance of the national team, putting substantial effort into careful and critical collections. The tool of the data collection was revised to accommodate the new activities and programs from respective provinces, and also to bring clarity on certain areas. There was a persistent communication with the YaR Province Coordinators and the YaR Centre data in-charge to have a logical data presentation. After undergoing multiple reviews to ensure accuracy and relevance, the data was then thoroughly analyzed with interpretations, identifying challenges, recommending for better outcomes, and highlighting the efforts of each province to ensure their efforts are realized and bring in more collaboration in the process.

Notably, the statistical report draws the dynamics of the organization dedicated to fostering positive changes in the lives of the young at risk. The suggestions from the participants of the Annual General Meeting Body were also taken into consideration while analyzing the statistics.

The statistical analysis report is itself a tool for data-driven decision-making and collaboration to develop project proposals for their respective provinces. It serves as a road map for continued growth, innovation in projects, and impact on the stakeholders. It critically identifies the challenges and gives a picture of the successful programs to adopt as models.



Art by: Dipsikha Sahani, Age 11, Snehalaya - Child Friendly Guwahati



# IMAGINE YAR MINISTRY



The Imagine YaR Ministry has been diligently pursued since its launch in 2019. The Imagine YaR Ministry's perspective plans were developed over a five-year period that will end in 2025. This year, to streamline the process, a Google template was created and distributed to all provinces, allowing them to provide updates on the perspective plans they had previously established. During the Leaders' Orientation in July 2024, Fr. Joe Prabu led a session on developing the effectiveness of the perspective plans. He introduced a thorough template and provided guidelines on how to match these plans with the province goals. Although the attendees expressed a wish for a dedicated session to dive more into this topic, time constraints prevented it from happening.

After the orientation, the updates on the perspective plans were incorporated into the SWOT analysis, along with the operational plans of action from each province. The General Body Meeting (GBM) held at Tiruchy, discussed the future course of strategic plans for the next 5 years.





# HOMELINK NETWORK

## Homelink DIGI Software Upgradation & its Implementation



The data migration from Homelink Child MISS (Management Information System & Services) to Homelink DIGI (Data Intelligence for Global Interface) was completed, overcoming initial delays caused by technical challenges such as compatibility issues and integration difficulties. The data was thoroughly reviewed and adapted to fit the new platform, enhancing its performance and user experience. Homelink DIGI has been deployed across various nodes/partner organizations, with data entry, starting with core modules such as Organization, Staff Permissions, and Centre Types. Additionally, the implementation of photo recognition technology will improve the tracking and tracing of the missing or unaccompanied children. Power BI has been integrated with the Homelink database, having over 350 customizable reports to support decision-making and legal compliance. A gap analysis led to adjustments to the digital forms, ensuring smooth implementation.

## Documentation for Publication and Visibility

The regional associates created seven mini-research studies addressing local issues, utilizing Child MISS data to identify causes and informed decision-making. This initiative inspired Bangalore Province to conduct an impact assessment study by YaR Centres in the states of Karnataka and Kerala. To elevate these studies, the DB YaR Forum is working on the transition of mini-research into broader context, encouraging centres to conduct their own data-supported researches.



The Homelink Network released eight regional annual reports, showcasing the work and impact of the network. A brochure promoting Homelink DIGI was developed to attract new NGOs and strengthen the network's reach, aiming to reduce missing children's cases. Additionally, 25 flipbooks were created and shared digitally to engage children and raise awareness on various issues. A total of 144 snippets, (104 image-based, 40 video-based), and 33 infographics, were prepared to facilitate thought provoking discussions and improve data visualization.

## Training and Capacity Building of Personnel

A three-day orientation and training sessions were held for newly joined Network members and YaR Forum Directors, focusing on building a solid foundation for child welfare services. Regional associates conducted seven training sessions for 256 civil society members and NGOs on Homelink DIGI, child rights, and recent child welfare developments.

At the node level, 54 training sessions were held, educating 269 staff members on Homelink DIGI and supporting daily documentation processes.

The Data Insights initiative was taken, simplifying complex data into clear, visual stories, making it accessible for better decision-making. The National Team provided seven training sessions, reaching 59 organizations and 239 participants, focusing on Homelink DIGI, Power BI reports, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP) 2023.



## Homelink National Training Programme



The Digital Innovation for Enhanced Documentation Training Programme was held from 20-22 January 2025 at Don Bosco Media House, Trichy. Organized by Don Bosco YaR Forum, Delhi, and hosted by Trichy province, the program brought together 33 participants to enhance documentation and decision-making using Homelink DIGI.

The training covered Sustainable Development Goals, resource mobilization, data visualization, proposal drafting, mini-research preparation, and the impact of AI. It also addressed the rapid penetration of digitalization and the emerging challenges. The program emphasized collaboration, innovation and data-driven approaches to create sustainable solutions for the welfare of at-risk youth and their families.

## Monitoring Visits and Evaluation

The regional associates have actively engaged with 27 non-network organizations, conducting 10 training sessions, resulting in 3 new organizations joining the Homelink network. Efforts are focused on expanding the network to improve child tracing through a larger dataset, especially with biometric integration in Homelink DIGI. The Homelink National Director made 15 visits to regional offices and organizations, engaging with teams on training, planning and monitoring. These visits focused on capacity building, addressing challenges in data entry, strengthening the network and facilitating teamwork.



**03**

**New organization joined homelink network**



**15**

**Visits by Homelink National Directors to regional offices**



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## Observation by Regional Associates: Training, Planning & Monitoring



The regional Associates made 113 visits to nodes to train data managers and staff on the Homelink DIGI tool, including updates, documentation and reports. These visits, lasting 4 to 8 hours, also included capacity-building sessions on data-led decision-making, social media, and issues like substance abuse and trafficking. More visits were made than planned due to staff changes at nodes.

Locations closer to the region were visited more often, while distant ones were followed up remotely. Frequent visits boosted productivity, improved data quality, and strengthened support from Node Directors, making the implementation process smoother and more effective.

## Orientation & Capacity Building on AI for Children

An approach to capacitate underprivileged children on AI has been considered, especially in villages and small cities in India where proper internet facilities are lacking. The network is working to raise awareness about AI and the latest technology coming in trends and its future implications to prepare for changes in the digital era and equip them to adapt to the needs of a rapidly advancing digital world. A total of 17 orientation sessions were conducted, benefiting 1179 individuals aged 14 and above.



## Advanced Developments and Plans

The Homelink DIGI has been successfully implemented across 11 provinces through eight regional hubs, but a study is underway for the second phase of development with additional features in the web application. This phase aims to address the diverse needs of partner organizations across 20 states, ensuring this tool aligns with the needs of the network partner organizations, working with vulnerable and marginalized people of the society.

The Don Bosco Data Protection Policy has been drafted and presented to the Annual General Body Meeting (AGM), with a consultative working committee formed to proceed with its development. Discussions have taken place, and the policy will be ratified by a legal firm. Later, it will be presented to the Governing Body Members (GBM) for authorization and final approval by SPCSA. A Node Functional Guidelines has been introduced to guide the implementation of Homelink DIGI at the ground level. It clarifies roles and responsibilities across various offices, including the National Office, Regional Office, and the partner organizations using the tool.

Additionally, DB YaR Forum has prepared a long-term strategic plan for Homelink Network, divided into two phases over six years. This plan focuses on digitalizing social work, providing technological support, and ensuring the network's sustainability. The plan aligns with SDGs, aiming to create child-friendly environments and accessible resources for marginalized communities while promoting data-driven decision-making in the non-profit sector.



Children in the Institutional Based Care			
April 2024 to March 2025			
Hubs	Male	Female	Total
Bangalore	3,896	743	4,639
Chennai	184	295	479
Coimbatore	809	666	1,475
Delhi	96	11	107
Guwahati	136	72	208
Hyderabad	641	280	921
Kolkata	169	139	308
Mumbai	229	0	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,160</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>8,366</b>

Children in the Outreach Based Care (Service Centres)			
April 2024 to March 2025			
Hubs	Male	Female	Total
Bangalore	21,774	22,913	44,687
Chennai	3,342	7,151	10,493
Coimbatore	1,384	2,872	4,256
Delhi	5,255	10,266	15,521
Guwahati	1,283	1,290	2,573
Hyderabad	1,079	988	2,067
Kolkata	769	573	1,342
Mumbai	159	191	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,045</b>	<b>46,244</b>	<b>81,289</b>



# DON BOSCO FOR MIGRANTS

## 1. Annual Coordination Meet

A national online meeting on July 10, 2024 marked the launch of DB4M's 2024-25 plans. Discussions focused on full-time staffing, 24x7 multilingual helpline services, provincial forums, database registration (2000 migrants per province), and upcoming national workshops.

## 2. Migration Immersion

Four Deacons from Dimapur province had living experience with Northeast migrants living in Bangalore and Tiruppur from July 16 to July 31, 2024. Key learnings included textile sector exploitation, lack of documents, and spiritual isolation.

## 3. National Migrant Workshop

With participation from all Salesian provinces and key partners, the National Migrant workshop was held on August 16-17, 2024, at Mumbai. It featured talks by Bishop Alwyn D'Silva and national leaders. Focus areas included legal aid, data tools, and Church-based migrant care systems.



## 4. Goa Migrant Forum Meet

Jesuits, NGOs, and trade unions met at the Goa Migrant Forum on August 31, 2024 to discuss legal frameworks, grassroots collective building, and disaster preparedness for migrants.



## 5. Migrants' Database Capacity Building

On September 13, 2024, Salesians and Province Migrant desk staff were trained on Kobo Toolbox and migrant interview schedules covering GPS, entitlements, and documentation. This boosted DB4M's digital capacity for real-time data collection and service delivery.

## 6. World Day of Migrants & Refugees

On September 29, 2024 World Day of Migrant & Refugees was celebrated with the Archdiocese of Delhi and CCBI, in Delhi. The event highlighted pastoral support, mandatory parish registration, and Pope Francis's call for migrant dignity.

## 7. Province Migrant Desk Visits & Review

Visits to Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Mumbai, and Kolkata provinces for Migrant Desk Visits & Review from Sep to Nov 2024 led to evaluations of Odia migrant struggles, the call for Gujarat and AP migrant forums, and SHG promotion in Mangalore.

## 8. Province Forums & CSO Engagements

Forums in Tiruppur, Vadodara, Salem, and Gulbarga emphasized bonded labour redressal, education access, MoU advocacy, and inter-faith collaborations in Province Forums & CSO Engagements from Sep to Nov 2024

## 9. Satgaon Catechists Orientation

On October 27, 2024 in Assam 49 village catechists were trained to assist migrant families using survey data from 1,596 migrants, mainly from Mumbai and Bangalore-bound households.



## 10. Source-Destination Linkages

The link between the source and destination meeting was held at Kantabanj (Odisha) on Dec 3-4, 2024 and Kharguli/Dibrugarh (Assam), on March 20-21, 2025. The focus was on migration drivers, trafficking, data systems, and building source-destination support bridges.

## 11. Labour Days Commemorations

On Human Rights and Women Migrant Workers' Days Dec 10 and 18 2024, DB4M organized awareness drives, health card distribution (Ayushman, ABHA), and called for domestic workers' legislation and 200-day MNREGA guarantees.

## 12. Capacity Meet for International Migrants Day

Ms. Geetha Ramakrishnan and Dr. Elsa, International Organisation for Migration, led reflections on migrant rights, returnee tracking, and strategies like e-Shram enrolment and health camps on Dec 13, 2024.

## 13. ISI-Bangalore Stakeholders' Dialogue

On January 30, 2025, Participants discussed advocacy plans, policy reforms, and collaboration with academia for data-driven action at source and destination states in the ISI-Bangalore Stakeholders' Dialogue.

## 14. IOM Voluntary National Review

On February 14, 2025 in New Delhi, DB4M led civil society inputs on migrant urban realities, legal gaps, and policy best practices like the Apna Ghar project, One Nation One Ration Card, and Disaster Risk Reduction for climate migrants.

## 15. Past Pupils and Cooperators' solidarity with migrants

The meeting on March 26 and 27, 2025 held in Tamil Nadu, reviewed migrant care programs—legal aid, helplines, study centers, and advocacy. Collaborations with Church and government partners were strengthened.





# CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES INITIATIVES



The CFCI model revolves around child rights awareness, leadership skills, and civic participation in the form of community and duty bearers to accelerate the concept of “Child Friendly City” in the cities of Dimapur and Shillong with the implementation partners- AIDA (ANMA Integrated Development Association) and BIDS (Bosco Integrated Development Society). The collaborative approach of the adults and civil society is to engage the leaders of the society to realize the child-friendly agenda.

The vision of the CFCI is that children in these two cities to have access to their rights and develop to their full potential with adults understanding the best interests of the children and guiding them in their decisions and considering the perspectives and needs in relevant matters.

It is at the last lap of the first phase of the 4 years project. However, due to unavoidable circumstances like COVID-19, the project had a coverage time of 3.5 years.

An external evaluation team was appointed to evaluate the project and provide a scientific report. The evaluation presentation meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> November in Shillong BIDS in the presence of both the teams from the cities, the directors of both the cities, the national team physically, and a representative of DB Mondo virtually.



A lot of feedback and discussions took place around it. The revised final report was received in February 2025 and shared with the stakeholders of both cities. As of December 2024, accomplishments across two cities include: sensitizing children; forming child right clubs with adult community members to support child; engaging duty bearers.

As of December 2024, the project has achieved significant milestones across both cities, including sensitizing children to their rights, forming child rights clubs with the support of adult community members, and actively engaging duty bearers.

The project is scheduled to conclude in April 2025, with a four-month extension granted. The team is currently preparing for the project closure in collaboration with all stakeholders, drafting the comprehensive four-year closure report, and assembling the necessary documentation to be submitted to the funding agency for consideration of a second phase.



## Implementation Partner:

**ANMA Integrated Development Association (AIDA), Dimapur**  
&  
**Bosco Integrated Development Society (BIDS), Shillong**

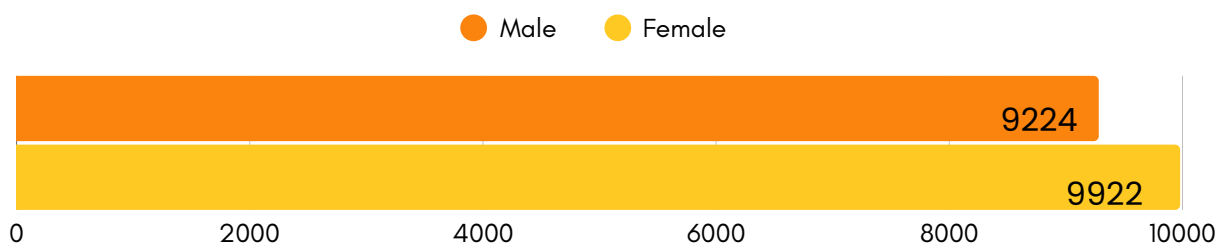
**Outcome: A Supportive environment is created, and children's rights are respected and protected.**

**100%**  
**Child Rights Clubs Formed**

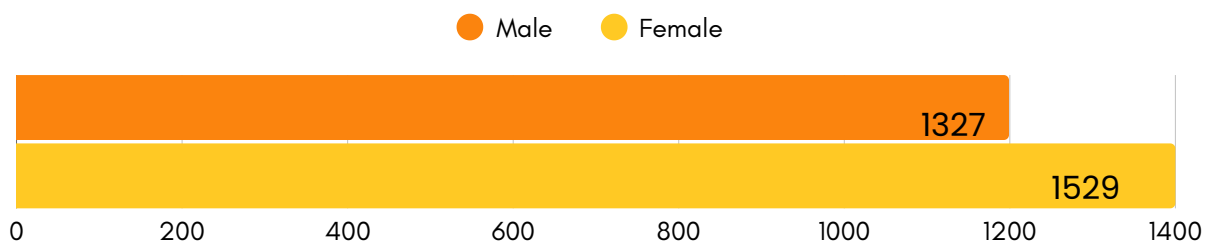
**100%**  
**Community Support**

**100%**  
**Engagement of Duty Bearers**

Child Rights Clubs Active: **162** in Schools & Villages  
Community Support: **1206** adult community members  
Engagement of Duty Bearers: **1232** partners in CFCI Mission



**Child Participation: 19146**



**Youth Participation: 2856**

**Staff: 10**

Female: 6



Male: 4



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# DB YAR LEADERS' ORIENTATION

The 2024 Leaders' Orientation was from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July, for the Salesian leaders and new joiners who are passionate in their commitment to the empowerment of the vulnerable. The goal was to carry out fresh ideas and strategies in addressing the challenges faced by the young at risk in today's world.



The areas where the internal experts guided were on the perspectives plans of the YaR Leaders and the need to be the agents of change. The province-level priorities and perspectives were discussed in detail to draw the annual plan for each province, strategically touching the pressing issues of the complex society and positively impacting the young population. The external resource persons enlightened the participants on key insights on 'Indian Child Protection Legislations and Initiatives and their implications on Young People at Risk (YaR)', 'Empowering families and Communities for Child-Centric Well-being: Best Models/Practices,' 'Building Bridges: Strategies for Networking & Alliance (through Lobby and Advocacy) with Government and Civil Society Organizations in Child Rights,' 'Financial Sustainability with Impact Creation: Tech-savvy Approaches to Fundraising & Resource Management' which deepened our understanding and enhanced the strategic planning.



The program's mission goes beyond advocacy and skill-building aiming to inspire community-driven change. Participants are encouraged to reflect, grow, and empower youth, creating a ripple effect of positive impact.



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## YaR Orientation Theme:

*"Role of NGO in Community-based Leadership for Juvenile Justice System"*



32  
07

Participants

Resource persons

# DB YAR NATIONAL ANNUAL SEMINAR



The DB Young at Risk (YaR) Forum's Annual Seminar 2024 was entitled "Empowering Families and Communities Towards Caring for Children and Young at Risk." The two-day event, conducted on October 3-4, 2024, at the Alpha Pastoral Centre in Cochin, Kerala, brought together child welfare experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to examine unique ways to provide family-based care for vulnerable young people.

In the opening presentation, Fr. Joe Prabu, Executive Director of DB YaR Forum, highlighted the seminar's emphasis on family-based care approaches and community strengthening. In the inaugural address, Fr. Santiago Thomas, Provincial of Hyderabad, emphasized the necessity of family involvement in Youth Ministry. Dr. M.P. Antony, a former member of the Kerala State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (KeSCPCR), delivered the keynote presentation, suggesting community collaborations and innovative methods for child protection. While releasing the survey report, "Vulnerability to Empowerment: A 50-Year Impact Journey of Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan Institutions, Kochi," by Fr. Shabin Kalanchery, Vice Provincial, handed the first copy to Fr. Santiago Thomas, President of DB YaR Forum.

The event included expert presentations on crucial topics. Ms. Sandhya Mishra of Miracle Foundation India articulated about child-centered family empowerment, Dr. Adv. Fr. Antony Sebastian, former Chairperson of KSCPCR, presented on legal frameworks for alternative care, and Fr. P.S. George, Director of BREADS, stated about the challenges faced by vulnerable children and advocated for family-based care options.





M.S. Meena Kuruvila hosted a panel discussion featuring personal sharing from those participating in various forms of alternative care, which provided useful insights into the realities of these care models. The seminar featured the offline poster launch of the YaR Campaign, "Family is Where I Belong," as well as a pledge-taking ceremony led by Fr. Santiago Thomas. This effort seeks to increase family-based care and community collaboration for at-risk young adults.



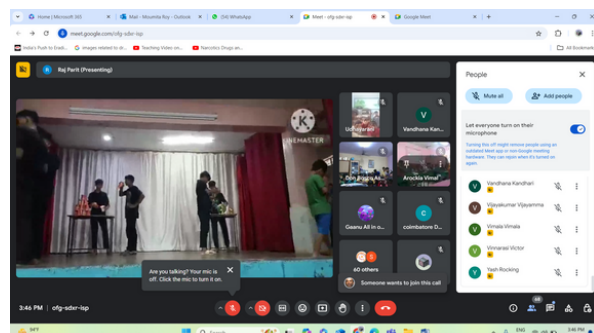
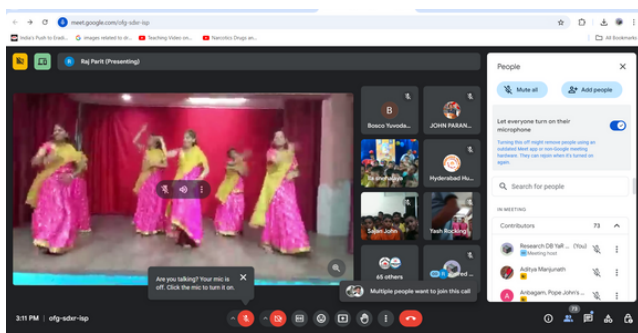
The second day concentrated on the practical application of alternative care models. Ms. Aneesha V L, Legal cum Probation Officer, spoke on Kerala's initiatives in this field. Mr. Sonykutty George of UNICEF Hyderabad, facilitated an interactive workshop on community-based care empowerment. Fr. Joe Prabu presented a video on Homelink DIGI, a web and mobile app for managing data on at-risk youth. Group discussions on the seminar theme offered insights into family integration, alternative care, and child welfare partnerships.

During the closing ceremony, Fr. Santiago Thomas urged participants to continue Don Bosco's mission for at-risk youth. Fr. Joe Prabu thanked all who contributed to the Golden Jubilee of Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan. Fr. Rafael Bejarano Rivera honored the organizers and volunteers for their dedicated service.





# DB NATIONAL YAR DAY AND CAMPAIGN



The DB YaR Forum marked its annual YaR Day with a virtual event engaging 74 devices across India, participated by numerous young people, staff members, Salesians, etc. The presentation concluded the "Healthy Mind, Healthy Life" campaign and introduced the new campaign, "FAMILY is where I BELONG."

The event began with a prayer dance by Snehayala Girls Home and mime performance by the DB Ashayalam Boys Home, New Delhi, followed by a welcome message by Ms. Moumita Roy Choudhary. Mr. Pratik Dhainje commented on the highlights of the recently concluded campaign. In his speech, Fr. Joe Prabu, Executive Director, underscored the importance of family-like environments and mentioned strengthening families to better support children, fostering societal acceptance of children in alternative care, and introducing the new campaign hashtags: #KeepMeSafe and #MyFamilyMyRights.

Ms. Vandhana Kandhari, a child protection specialist from UNICEF India, was a special guest and keynote speaker. She presented the latest campaign poster and gave her thoughts on the campaign.

Ms. Dorothy Amaresh ended the celebration with a vote of appreciation. The new campaign aims to promote home-like surroundings in alternative care options while also strengthening families to better support young at risk.

## YAR CAMPAIGN

The "Healthy Mind, Healthy Life" campaign was the 7th initiative in the Young at Risk (YaR) awareness series, focusing on enhancing mental well-being among vulnerable young people. Leveraging social media engagement, the campaign utilized two primary hashtags, #ChildWellbeingMatters and #LiveLifeFully, to spread its message.



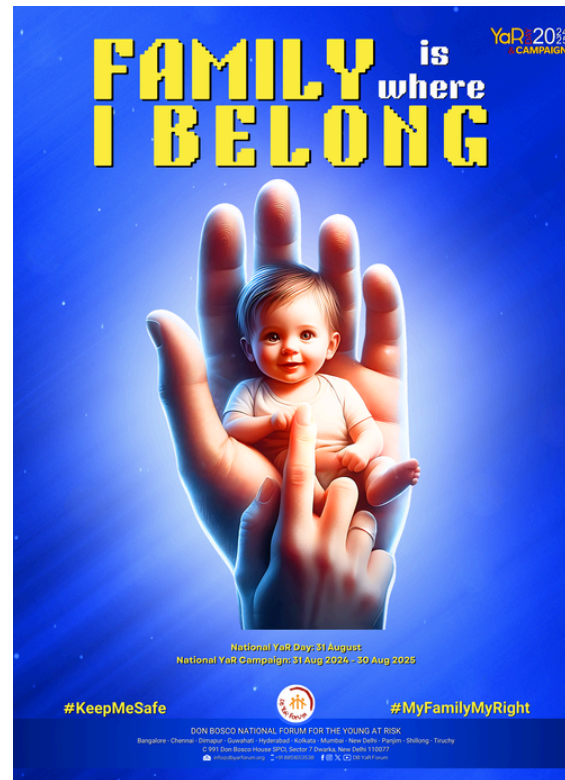
In August 2024, on YaR Day, the "Healthy Mind, Healthy Life" campaign officially concluded. In total, the team developed and distributed 20 carefully crafted informative flipbooks for the "Healthy Mind, Healthy Life" campaign period.

From April 2024 to August 2024, 8 flipbooks were released to educate and engage young audiences about mental health and well-being. Complementing these printed materials, they also created 15 dynamic social media "food bites" – short, digestible content pieces aimed at maximizing online engagement and spreading awareness through digital

channels. All campaign resource materials were comprehensively documented in a shared drive and on on the YaR Forum website ensuring universal access.

The new campaign, "FAMILY is where I BELONG," was launched online by Ms. Vandhana Kandhari, a child protection specialist from UNICEF India. The campaign introduced two powerful hashtags: #KeepMeSafe and #MyFamilyMyRight. Mr. Austin Francis meticulously designed the campaign poster, carefully incorporating the campaign's core theme.

During the seminar, a poster competition was held, attracting 49 entries. Approximately 25 posters were displayed in the seminar hall, encouraging participants to explore the YaR theme and gain insights into children's perspectives. Winners were recognized in both digital and hand art categories.



Following the seminar and drawing from previous campaign learnings, a strategic decision was made to release one flipbook per month, as per the plan from August 2024 to March 2025, 6 flipbooks were released; the list of the issues and responsible offices/provinces is as follows:

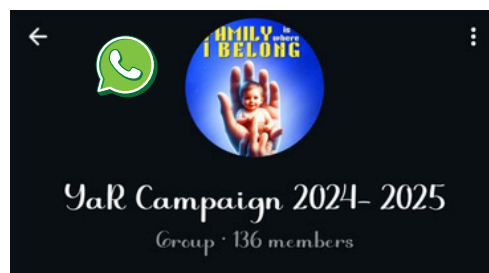
Issue No.	Month/ Year	Date of Release	Responsible Office	Flipbook Titles
1	Oct - 2024	22.10.24	National	Introduction to Families and Alternative Care
2	Nov - 2024	08.11.24	National	Rights of Children in Alternative Care and Family
3	Dec - 2024	13.12.24	Guwahati	How to Express Love and Care in a Family
4	Jan - 2025	15.01.25	Coimbatore	Environmental Consciousness as a Family
5	Feb - 2025	14.02.25	Chennai	Dealing with Family Dysfunction and Conflicts
6	Mar- 2025	14.03.25	Hyderabad	Family Financial Literacy for Children

Issue No.	Month/ Year	Date of Release	Responsible Office	Flipbook Titles
<b>Upcoming flipbooks</b>				
7	Apr - 2025	11.04.25	Kolkata	Celebrating Family Milestones
8	May - 2025	09.05.25	National	Diversity and Cultural Connections in Alternative Care
9	Jun - 2025	13.06.25	Bangalore	The Impact of Technology on Family Life
10	Jul - 2025	11.07.25	Mumbai	Aftercare: Preparing for Adulthood
11	Aug - 2025	08.08.25	Delhi	Identifying Safe Adults in Community and Support Systems



## DB YAR NATIONAL FORUM WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

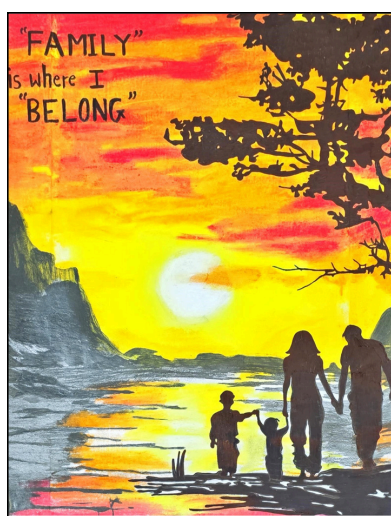
The Don Bosco National Forum for Young at Risk website was officially launched on July 29, 2023, as part of the leaders' orientation program. This portal highlighted YaR's nationwide activity, released critical information and statistics, announcements, and publications to promote transparency and awareness. The YaR website continues to serve as a dynamic platform, regularly updated with key initiatives such as the YaR Leaders Orientation, YaR Campaign, Annual Seminar, YaR Awards, and the Homelink Network. The resource page has been enriched with annual reports from 2020-2021 to 2023-2024, along with essential policy documents, including the Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Participation Policy. Additionally, statistical reports for the periods of June 2022-May 2023 and June 2023-May 2024 have been uploaded.



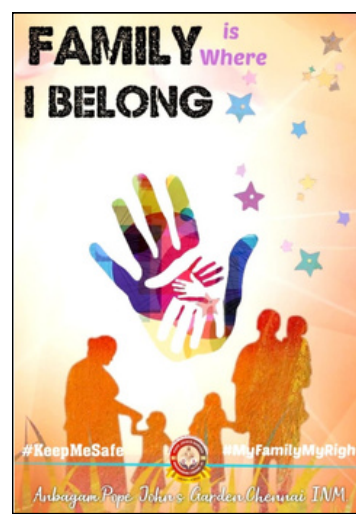
Furthermore, YaR Forum has been actively engaging on social media platforms such as WhatsApp (143 participants in the campaign group), Instagram (259 posts), and Twitter (164 posts) to disseminate campaign and other relevant materials in the context of young at risk fostering widespread outreach and engagement.



Art by: Airiston Kyndait, Age 16, Rilang Children's Home



Art by: Sumit Kumar, Age 16, Don Bosco Ashalayam, New Delhi



Art by: Kiruthika.S, Age 16, Anbagam Children Home, Anbagam Children Home



# DB YAR CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY



The DB YaR Child Safeguarding Policy was officially launched on 30th May 2024 at the Don Bosco Provincial House, New Delhi. Following the launch, printed copies of the policy were distributed to all 11 provinces. To ensure effective implementation, Fr. Joe Prabu, Executive Director, and Fr. Francis Bosco, Head of the South Asia Migrant Ministry of the DB YaR Forum, conducted in-person training sessions across all provinces.

These sessions were designed to equip Salesians, staff, volunteers, and interns with the knowledge and tools necessary for safeguarding children within their respective roles. In New Delhi, Ms. Moumita Roy Choudhury was entrusted with leading the training program for the local team. This policy document was circulated to all the Salesian General Chapter members gathered from all around the world in Turin, Italy.

The policy remains a living document, with provisions for regular feedback and suggestions from stakeholders. It is scheduled for revision every three years, ensuring alignment with both internal insights and evolving government guidelines.





# DB YAR SWOT ANALYSIS



The National Team conducted a comprehensive SWOT analysis encompassing all provinces. To facilitate this process, a standardized template was developed and distributed to each province. This template required the provinces to detail their respective Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT), as well as outline both short-term and long-term operational objectives. Additionally, it included provisions for identifying measures to mitigate potential threats.

Following its dissemination, the provinces were given a deadline to complete and submit the template. During the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October 2024, representatives from each province presented their findings and analyses.

Subsequently, the provinces were allowed to revise their inputs based on feedback and further deliberations. The goal was to create a cohesive framework that reflects both regional and national priorities, paving the way for a unified strategic direction.



*Art by: Shanti Kumari, Age 10, Child Friendly Guwahati organization*





# DB YAR RESEARCH

## Examining the Interconnections between Adverse Childhood Experiences, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health

The YaR Research explores the linkages between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), substance abuse, and mental health. An Inception Meeting was held on 20th May 2024, with active participation from 51 representatives. A pilot study was conducted at DB Ashayalam on 22nd May 2024 led to further refinement of the tools, which were then finalized and shared with data analysts. The estimated target population was 300 children and 60 counsellors/caregivers and the actual sample size (respondents) were 146 for both Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and one-on-one interviews and 25 for counselors/wardens/caregivers.



**Sample size: 146**

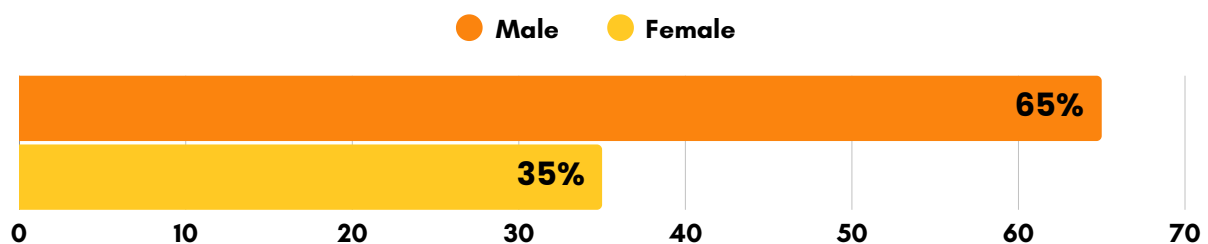
Children and FGD  
Questionnaire



**Sample size: 25**

counselors/wardens/ca  
regivers Questionnaire

The 146 adolescents and young adults had a maximum proportion of male respondents 65% and 35% female respondents.



Approximately 48.6% of respondents were from one-on-one interviews and FGDs, and 41.7% were from counselors/caregivers. The SPSS tool was utilized for Data analysis.





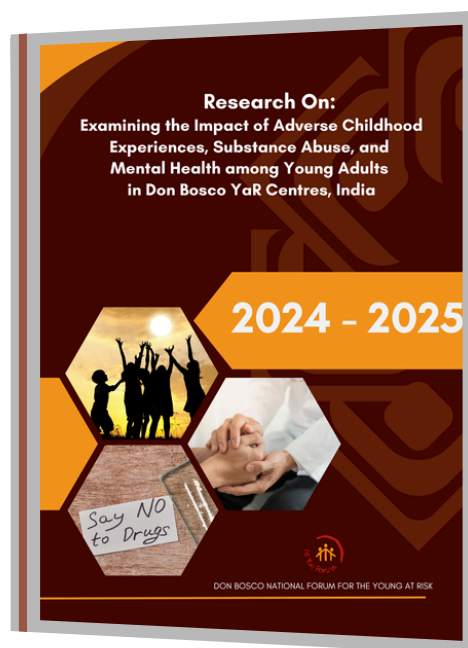
**48.6%**  
respondents  
were from  
Children and  
FGD



**41.7%**  
respondents  
were  
counselors/  
caregivers

## Key Findings:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) severely affect young adults' mental health, often leading to grief, loneliness, and suicidal thoughts. While some have family support, others face neglect and dysfunction. Trauma-informed, empathetic counseling should target root causes. Strengthening family, peer, and caregiver support is vital. Consistent care, proper documenting, and monitoring help foster resilience, healing, and healthy coping.
- Early substance use in young adults involves dendrite, kerosene, ganja, tobacco, and gutkha, often due to peer pressure. Though 50% abstained, curiosity, family violence, and addicted relatives led others to use. Methods included smoking, sniffing, or oral intake, with some turning to alcohol or pencil biting. Effects ranged from brief confidence to anxiety, sleep issues, and withdrawal. A few faced legal issues. While 55% of counselors understood substance abuse, most lacked ACEs training, showing the need for specialized support.
- Young adults with ACEs often face mood swings, depression, anxiety, and self-harm. Substance use worsens isolation, self-neglect, and behavior changes, signaling deeper issues. Recovery involves counseling, therapy, community support, and spiritual practices like yoga and meditation. Family and community support are crucial. Interventions include open dialogue, referrals, and stigma reduction. Yet, gaps in counselor training, mental health access, and referral systems persist. A holistic, trauma-informed approach with education and family support is key to long-term recovery and growth.



# DB YAR GOVERNING BODY MEETING



The first meeting of the Governing Body for the financial year 2024-2025 was convened on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 in Alpha Pastoral Centre, Cochin, Kerala. The second meeting was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 in Don Bosco Media House, Mankandam, Tiruchy. The highlights of the discussions were: SWOT Analysis, Envisioning YaR Ministry Framework and Co-creating National and Provincial level Strategies and Action Plans, YaR Data Protection Policy and Salesian Frame of Reference for YaR Forum.

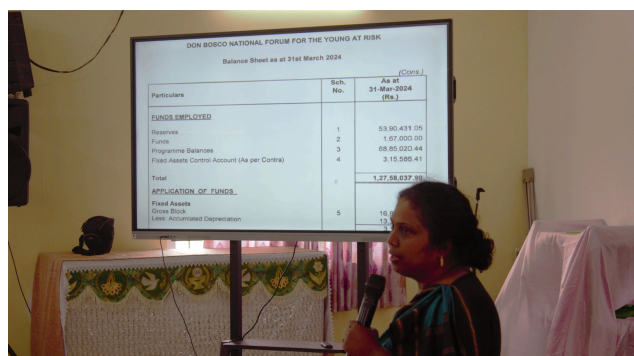


Art by: Shiksha Basfor, Age 11, Child Friendly Guwahati





# DB YAR ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (AGM)



The Annual General Body Meeting for the financial year 2024-2025 happened on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Alpha Pastoral Centre, Cochin, Kerala. It was a daylong meeting with highlights of the programs and activities conducted during the last financial year 2023-2024, and covered up to September 2024.

The Province delegates presented the SWOT Analysis of YaR Forum status in their provinces. There was an update on the implementation of 'Child Safeguarding Policy' to the province representatives. The AGM discussed the latest developments of 'Data Protection Policy' and informed that it is under construction. Three names were nominated by the SPCSA Council for the post of 2nd Joint Secretary of DB YaR National Forum.



Art by: Khadija Begum , Age 15, Snehalaya- Child Friendly Guwahati





## DB YAR FORUM AWARDS

S. No.	Categories	Provinces	Name of the winners
1	Awards Received by Institutions	Hyderabad	DB Navajeevan Bala Bhavan Vijayawada
		Bangalore	DB Yadgir
2	Awards Received by Individuals	Mumbai	Ms. Grace John
		Hyderabad	Mr. S. Joseph Donald, HR & Programme Manager
		Shillong	Mr. Sonu Kumar
3	YaR Children's Award (18 to 21 years)	Chennai	Mr. Shyam Sundar
4	YaR Children's Award (Below 18 years)	Chennai	Ms. Harshini P
5	YaR Alumni Award	Kolkata	Mr. Saharul Peada
6	YaR Innovative Programme Award	Bangalore	Empowering Community and Involving Community and Stakeholders to Prevent Child Labour, Child Marriage, and other Violations of Child Rights - A strategy of Don Bosco, Kalaburagi, Karnataka
7	YaR Social Media Award	Chennai	DB Anbu Illam, Chennai
8	YaR Campaign Award	Dimapur	DB Youth Center - Itanagar
9	YaR Campaign Best Poster Award (First Prize)	Shillong	Digital Poster by Ariston Kyndait (Rilang Children Home)
10	YaR Campaign Best Poster Award (Second Prize)	Mumbai	Hand Art poster by Junaid Javed Shaikh (Bosco Boys Home, Borvali)
11	Homelink Network - Best Hub Coordinator Award	Tiruchy	Ms. D. Jacqueline





S. No.	Categories	Provinces	Name of the winners
12	Homelink Network – Best Node Award	Chennai	Marialaya, Chennai
13	Homelink Network –Phoenix Award	Bangalore	Ragpickers Education & Development Scheme(REDs)
14	Lifetime Achievement Award	–	Fr. George Kollashany



**Fr. Thomas Koshi (left) felicitating Fr. George Kollashany (right) with Lifetime Achievement Award**





## DB YAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Interventions	Funds Available	Funds Utilized	Balance
Homelink Network	72,05,960.81	66,64,251.73	5,41,709.08
People's Protection App	8,64,920.74	8,64,920.74	-
Human Resource Development	22,14,900.00	48,390.48	21,66,509.52
YaR Activities: FC General	20,86,350.98	3,35,913.70	17,50,437.28
Total	1,23,72,132.53	79,13,476.65	44,58,655.88

## OUR PARTNERS



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



DB YaR Forum  
Annual Report 2024-25

## OUR TEAM



**Fr. Thomas Santiagu**  
President



**Fr. Joseph Prabu**  
Executive Director



**Fr. Francis Bosco**  
Joint Secretary 1 &  
Migrant Ministry Incharge



**Fr. Ratna Neelam**  
Joint Secretary 2



**Dorthy Amaresh**  
Finance Manager



**Austin Charles Frances**  
Technical  
Manager



**Raj Parit**  
National Data  
Management  
Coordinator



**Moumita Roy Choudhury**  
National Project  
Coordinator



**Pratik Dhainje**  
Associate Project  
Coordinator

## YaR Coordinators



**Banglore (INK)**  
Fr. Joe  
Previnth



**Chennai (INM)**  
Fr. Arokiasamy  
Arputharaj



**Dimapur (IND)**  
Fr. Blausis Tete



**Guwahati (ING)**  
Fr. Lukose  
Cheruvalel



**Hyderabad (INH)**  
Fr. Pitchaimuthu  
Aruldas



**Kolkata (INC)**  
Fr. George  
Chempakathinal



**Mumbai (INB)**  
Fr. Roshan  
Gonsalves



**New Delhi (INN)**  
Fr. Bimal  
Karketta



**Panjim (INP)**  
Fr. Jose Sequeira



**Shillong (INS)**  
Br. Bosco Ekka



**Tiruchy (INT)**  
Fr. Casamir Raj

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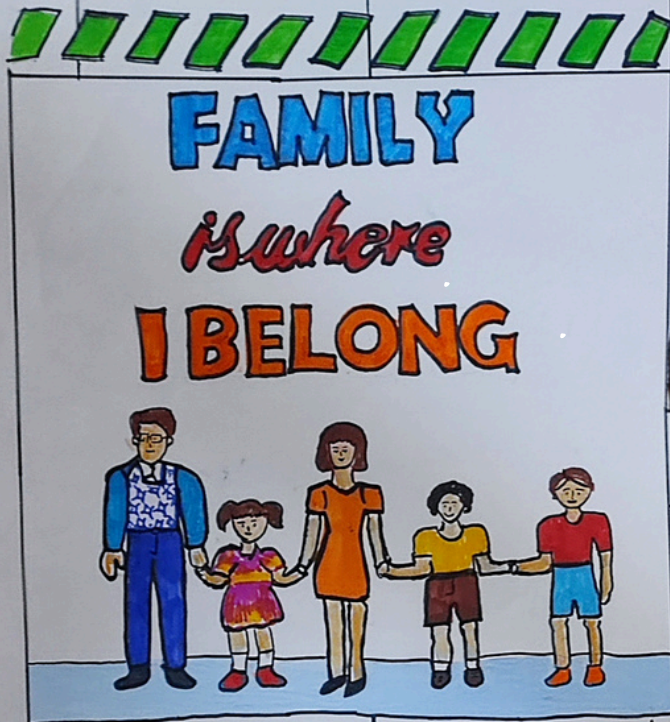
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# FAMILY

## is where I BELONG



**DON BOSCO NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE YOUNG AT RISK**

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