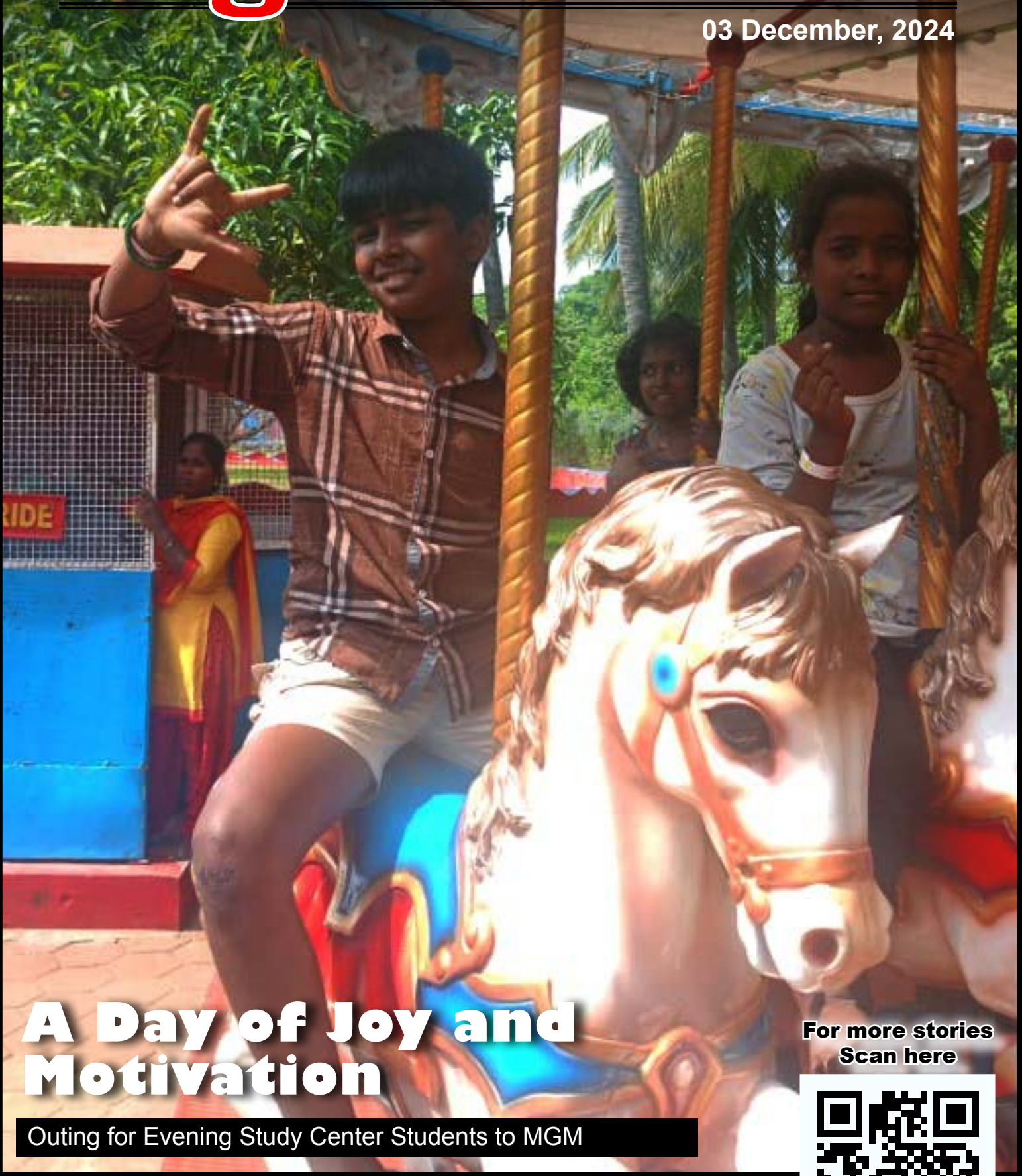


Migrant



03 December, 2024



A Day of Joy and Motivation

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Outing for Evening Study Center Students to MGM



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EMPOWERING LIVELIHOODS



WORKSHOP ON LEGAL AID FOR MIGRANTS



DRIVING CHANGE ADVOCATING RIGHTS FOR UNORGANISED AND MIGRANT WORKERS



A DAY OF JOY AND MOTIVATION



CREATING AWARENESS AND BUILDING TRUST



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EMPOWERING LIVELIHOODS

TAILORING SUPPORT FOR MARGINALIZED WOMEN



Srs. Pratima and Madhu visited the Collector's Office in Chennai District to facilitate the allocation of sewing machines for six women from Manali New Town, Burma Nagar, and Sadayankuppam. The women underwent a practical stitching test, oral questioning, and verification of their original documents. During the process, it was identified that three of the women belonged to the Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNC) group. The officer in charge expressed readiness to support them with material assistance for their livelihood and requested them to resubmit their documents to receive a special card provided by the Government.



The remaining three women also completed their tests and are currently under consideration for sewing machine allocation. They are expected to be called back in about one and a half months for the next steps. During the visit, it was observed that the Government offers several welfare schemes for vulnerable groups. The team also

met a supportive official who is actively working to assist migrant workers and the Irula community. This official expressed willingness to help these women register with the Welfare Board to avail of government benefits. The visit was productive, and the process for sewing machine allocation is progressing steadily.

*BRIDGING GAPS, BUILDING FUTURES***EVENING STUDY CENTER FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN**

Pudupet village in the Gummidipondi industrial area is home to a significant population of migrant families. Due to the transient nature of their work, parents often migrate in search of employment, leading to high dropout rates among their children. This issue is compounded by the children's inability to continue their education due to language barriers in the local schools.

Need for an Evening Study Center:

The establishment of an Evening Study Center aims to address the critical challenges faced by migrant children, ensuring they receive consistent academic support regardless of their parents' mobility. The center will provide:

Academic Continuity:

Supporting children to stay aligned with their school curriculum despite interruptions caused by migration.

Language Support: Offering language classes to bridge the gap between the children's native language and the medium of instruction in local schools.

Holistic Development: Creating an environment conducive to learning while nurturing the children's emotional well-being, social skills, and self-confidence.

Plan of Action:

Location: The center will be set up in Pudupet village, accessible to children from the nearby migrant communities.

Target Group: The focus will be on children aged 6–14 years who are at risk of dropping out or have already dropped out of school.

**Activities:**

- Academic tutoring in core subjects.
- Language enhancement programs.
- Recreational activities to promote engagement and retention.

Staffing:

Qualified teachers and volunteers fluent in both the local language and the migrants' native languages will be employed.

Collaboration:

Partnering with local schools, NGOs, and community leaders to identify and enroll children who would benefit from the center.

Expected Outcomes:

- The Evening Study Center is expected to: Reduce dropout rates among migrant

children by providing them with a stable learning environment.

- Help children overcome language barriers and adapt to the local school system.
- Empower children with the skills and confidence to pursue education despite the challenges posed by migration.

Conclusion:

The opening of an Evening Study Center at Pudupet village is an essential step towards addressing the educational needs of migrant children in the Gummidipondi industrial area. By offering targeted academic and language support, the center will ensure that these children have the opportunity to continue their education and build a brighter future.



MIGRANT ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

DBMS had the privilege of facilitating two significant events aimed at bringing the migrant community together, fostering a sense of unity, and promoting awareness about their rights and welfare. These initiatives were undertaken as part of our commitment to support migrants in Chennai, providing them with opportunities for networking and capacity-building.

On 13th November 2024, the Kuki Fresher Meet was held at 16 St. Xavier, St. Asirvadampuram, George Street, Chennai. The event saw an enthusiastic participation of over 200 members, creating a vibrant platform for interaction

and networking among the Kuki migrant community.

On 14th November 2024, the Zeliangrong Sports Meet took place at St. Bede's Playground, Chennai. The event brought together 100+ participants and over 300 public attendees, featuring diverse sporting activities such as football, volleyball, high jump, skipping, and shot put. This event not only celebrated sportsmanship but also strengthened community bonds.

Both programs were made possible through the generous support of DBMS, which provided the venues and logistical assistance. These initiatives go beyond facilitating

gatherings; they are steps toward building a robust network that empowers migrants to access rights-based services and learn about their legal entitlements.

DBMS's involvement in these events symbolizes our unwavering support for the migrant community, demonstrating that we stand with them in their journey toward securing their rights and enhancing their welfare. Through such engagements, we aim to create an enduring sense of solidarity, ensuring that migrants recognize DBMS as a reliable partner in availing services and resources for their development and well-being.



WORKSHOP ON LEGAL AID FOR MIGRANTS

From 27th to 29th November 2024, all DBMS staff actively participated in a workshop on Legal Aid for Migrants, organized at the Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru. The workshop aimed to equip participants with practical legal knowledge to address the pressing issues faced by migrants and to provide effective assistance in distress situations.

The workshop's objectives

were threefold: to understand the legal processes and proceedings concerning migrant issues, to gain hands-on knowledge of legal cases related to migrants, and to empower attendees to accompany and support migrants in distress through legal means. The sessions employed diverse methodologies, including expert inputs, group case studies, presentations, and constructive feedback from

resource persons and peers.

The inauguration on Day 1 was graced by notable figures, including Fr. Dr. Selvaraj, SJ, Director of the Indian Social Institute, and Fr. Anthony Dass SJ, Superior, among others. A keynote address on migration was delivered by Dr. Denzil, S.J., while Fr. Samir Minj, S.J., highlighted the purpose of the workshop, emphasizing its relevance to fieldwork.

DAY 1

Sessions on Wage Theft and Human Trafficking led by Fr. Martin, SJ, and Prof. Mary Sadhana Abraham, respectively, delved into systemic challenges and legal remedies. Group case studies and presentations fostered collaborative learning.

DAY 2

Legal and criminal proceedings were explored by Adv. Harikrishnan R, while Adv. Nelson P. Raj and Adv. Sivamanithan S shed light on issues faced by migrants in jail. These sessions provided practical insights for addressing such cases effectively.

DAY 3

Adv. Sushavya's session on compensation outlined the steps to ensure justice for migrants. The workshop concluded with an engaging session on media's role in covering migration issues, led by Prof. Renuka Phadnis, followed by an evaluation of the workshop's outcomes.



Outcomes and Impact:

The workshop was highly beneficial for the DBMS staff, enhancing their understanding of migrants' legal challenges and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to address these effectively in the field. The sessions provided a com-

prehensive understanding of legal proceedings, strategies for offering support to distressed migrants, and insights into advocacy and media engagement.

This workshop reaffirmed DBMS's commitment to being a reliable support system

for migrant communities, reinforcing the organization's resolve to facilitate rights-based services and welfare programs for laborers. The learnings from the workshop will undoubtedly contribute to greater efficiency and impact in fieldwork



**DBMS PARTICIPATION IN
GOVERNMENT-ORGANIZED
NGO MEETING ON MIGRANT
CHILDREN**



On behalf of DBMS, our staff actively participated in the NGO meeting organized by the Government, focusing on the pressing issues faced by migrant children. The meeting highlighted the State's commitment to supporting migrant children through initiatives such as placing them under the care of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). This meeting provided DBMS with an invaluable opportunity to network with other like-minded NGOs working in the same domain. Discussions centered on collaborative strategies to ensure the protection, education, and overall welfare of migrant children. The

platform enabled the exchange of ideas and best practices, reinforcing a collective resolve to address the challenges faced by vulnerable children. The Government's assurance to work closely with NGOs like DBMS in addressing migrant children's issues is a significant step forward. This collaborative approach will ensure that the rights and welfare of migrant children are safeguarded effectively. DBMS remains committed to this cause and will continue to work in alignment with the State and partner organizations to bring lasting positive change to the lives of migrant children.



CREATING AWARENESS AND BUILDING TRUST

LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAM AT GUMMIDIPOONDI

DBMS successfully organized a Legal Awareness Program at Gummidipoondi, aimed at educating the local community about various legal issues and providing a platform for them to share their challenges. The program sought to empower individuals with knowledge of their rights and to reassure them of our unwavering support in addressing their difficulties.

The event witnessed active participation from community members, who candidly shared their problems and concerns, ranging from employment disputes to legal obstacles in their daily lives. DBMS staff attentively listened and provided



initial guidance, emphasizing that “We are here to support you.” This message of solidarity was met with overwhelming gratitude and optimism from the attendees.

The program not only increased awareness about legal rights and processes but also fostered trust and confidence within the community. It served as a vital step toward building a robust network of support and collaboration between DBMS and the people of Gummidipoondi.

DBMS remains committed to empowering communities and ensuring that everyone has access to the support they need to navigate legal and social challenges. The positive response from the community has reinforced our mission to be a dependable partner in their journey toward justice and well-being.

DRIVING CHANGE

ADVOCATING RIGHTS FOR UNORGANISED AND MIGRANT WORKERS



On 25th November 2024, DBMS staff actively participated in the Unorganised Labour Union Yatra, a state-wide awareness drive across Tamil Nadu aimed at highlighting the rights and welfare of unorganised and migrant laborers. The Yatra, themed “Vehicle Awareness Drive Across Tamil Nadu”, marked the 77th anniversary of India’s Independence and the 75th anniversary of the Constitution of India. It also celebrated Tamil Nadu’s significant contribution to the freedom struggle and emphasized the role of workers and artists in society.

The Yatra, spearheaded by Mrs. Geetha Maa and her team, included awareness walks and meetings from November 9 to November 26, 2024, covering



multiple districts. Representatives from DBMS, including Srs. Pratima, Madhu, and Mr. Gopal, joined the Yatra at Chengalpattu at 10:00 AM and later continued the journey through Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur districts.

Key Objectives of the Yatra:

Creating awareness about the 10 mandatory registrations and welfare schemes under the Tamil Nadu Government’s action plan for unorganised and migrant workers.



Educating laborers about their rights, including minimum wages, medical assistance, food security, childcare services, educational support, accidental death benefits, housing schemes, and livelihood opportunities.

Highlighting the importance of prioritizing children's education and government job reservations for laborers' families.

The meetings conducted as part of the Yatra provided a platform for unorganised laborers and migrant workers to voice their concerns. Many laborers shared their struggles and challenges, allowing the Yatra team to ad-

dress their issues and advocate for stronger state intervention. The overwhelming participation underscored the urgent need for sustained efforts to improve the working and living conditions of this vulnerable population.

Reflections and Gratitude:

The DBMS team witnessed firsthand the hardships faced by unorganised laborers, particularly migrant workers who fall under the same category. Their struggles, from lack of healthcare to housing insecurity, were deeply moving and reinforced the necessity of continued advocacy.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Geetha Maa and her team for their leadership in organizing this impactful initiative. We also extend our sincere thanks to Fr. Simolin, Director of DBMS, for granting us the opportunity to participate in this crucial Yatra.

DBMS remains committed to supporting the unorganised and migrant labor community by promoting awareness, advocating for their rights, and ensuring access to welfare programs. Together, we hope to bring about tangible changes in their lives and uphold their dignity and rights.



A DAY OF JOY AND MOTIVATION

OUTING FOR EVENING STUDY CENTER STUDENTS TO MGM

On 24.11.24 Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS) organized a memorable day outing to MGM Theme Park for students from ten evening study centers. This initiative was designed as a token of appreciation and a motivational boost for students who have demonstrated exceptional

commitment to their studies and personal growth.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The outing was open to students from 5th standard and above, ensuring an age-appropriate and enriching experience. The selection was based on the following criteria:

Students who passed all their subjects with dedication and hard work.

Students with 90% or higher attendance, reflecting their commitment and discipline.

This outing was not merely a recreational activity but a symbolic gesture of encouragement and love for these deserving students. It aimed

to motivate them to continue excelling academically and to instill a sense of achievement and hope for a brighter future.

The outing served as:

A reward for their hard work and consistent efforts.

A motivation for them to maintain or improve their academic performance and attendance.

A reminder that their commitment and achievements are recognized and valued by the community.

Reflections and Gratitude

The students thoroughly enjoyed the outing, engaging in fun-filled activities and cherishing a day of leisure and bonding. For many, it was a first-time experience of such an excursion, making it all the more special.

DBMS extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the staff, and volunteers who made this event possible. Their sup-

port and contributions have not only brought smiles to the students but have also laid the foundation for their continued success and better futures.

DBMS remains committed to fostering holistic development among migrant children, ensuring they have the tools and encouragement to achieve their dreams.

