

THE DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

5-A, Bretts Road, Salem-636 007

IX th ANNUAL REPORT(1997-1998)

We are pleased to present this IX-th Annual Report of our Society to the well wishers, benefactors and the general public acknowledging their profound contribution and support for our growth and service. During the last 9 years we have been able to do commendable service for the vagrant, neglected, street and working children in and around Salem. Thanks to the pioneering hard work of our predecessors Fr.Francis Schlooz(late), Bro.Meril, SDB, Fr.Edward Xavier, SDB and Fr.Lourdunathan, SDB.

The VIII Anniversary celebration was held on 19th July 1997 which was solemnly graced by Most Rev.Joseph Anthony Irudayaraj, D.D., Bishop of Dharmapuri. On this day His Lordship blessed the Rehabilitation Centre at Kondapanaickanpatty, Near the Foothill of Yercaud. It was dedicated to Our Lady of Mary Help of Christians.

The year 1997-98 was focussed on the street and working children who are with their parents.

SHELTER HOME SERVICE:

Our initial concern for the street and working children starts with providing shelter home for them who don't have a place to stay. During the last year we have contacted 205 street boys including 40 of them who were at the shelter home at the beginning of the year. They were doing odd jobs in the bus stands, junctions, restaurants, tea shops, workshops, silver polishing units etc. They have run away from home for so many reasons like broken family, death of parents, being sent to work, attraction to city life and above all lack of parental care. We have settled home 70 of them and 25 others have left on their own. We have sent 40 other boys to Don Bosco Home Away from Home near Madras for learning a trade in tailoring, Plumbing, carpentry, Automobile mechanism, Electrical wiring and Welding. The rest of the boys numbering 70 stayed at the shelter home attending regular educational programmes at the special school in the shelter home.

The following table shows the number of boys admitted in formal schools during the current academic year which began in June 1998.

Name of the school in which admitted	Class in which enroled	Number of boys admitted in schools
Arunachalam Municipal School, Salem - 7	VI-2, VII-1, VIII-2	= 5
MGR Primary School, Salem - 7	IV-5, V-1	= 6
CSI Hr. Sec.School Salem - 1	VIII-6	= 6
Don Bosco School Sagayathottam, Arakonam	VI-4, VIII-1	= 5
Our Lady's Centre Thiruveotriyur, Chennai	V-2	= 2
St. Mary's Middle School Kakavery	VI-2	= 2
Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Kavarapet	I to V	= 6
Total		= 32

DAY CARE SERVICE FOR THE CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES:

Day Care service is offered to the children not attending schools, drop out children and children doing odd jobs at home living with their parents. Six centres have been established in the city within the reach out of the children in slums. About 80% of them are from the socially and economically backward communities. These children are aged between 5 to 14. Both boys and girls attend these centres. The girls out-number the boys in these centres. It is because the girls look after the tender ones at home and the household work at home. These children are taught in the centres so as to prepare them for enrolment in the formal schools in the following academic year. They have been taught to read, write and to keep clean. Regular motivation and awareness programmes are conducted in these centres to prepare them for school enrolment in the following academic year.

The following table shows the number of children enroled in the centres last year.

Sl. No.	Name of the centre	Number of children
1.	Selathanpatti	59
2.	Narayan Nagar	65
3.	Kichipalayam	45
4.	Nehru Nagar	32
5.	Makkan Street	27
6.	Sanniyasikundu	9
Total		237

DROP OUT PREVENTION AND CHILD LABOUR ELIMINATION PROGRAMMES:

Regular evening classes are conducted in 8 places in the city to help the school going poor and needy children to continue their schooling. Children working during the day also attend these centres. The working children who are attending these centres are gradually withdrawn from child labour and they are enroled in schools. The vagrant attitude of the children is gradually elucidated.

The table given below shows the number of children attending each centre.

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Number of children
1.	Kichipalayam	150
2.	Narayan Nagar	162
3.	Gandhi Nagar	97
4.	Makkan Street	80
5.	Sathya Nagar	70
6.	Old Bus Stadd	54
7.	Sanniyasikundu	55
8.	Vellakuttai Eri	33
TOTAL		701

SCHOOL ENROLMENT:

Those children who are not attending schools but continue to attend our centres are prepared and motivated to join the regular schools in the following year. The children who are withdrawn from child labour also attend these centres being motivated to join schools in the neighbourhood.

The table given below shows the number of children enroled in schools during this academic year.

Sl. No.	Name of the centre which the children attended last year	Name of the school in which enroled	Class in which enroled	Number of children
1.	Kichipalayam	Municipal Primary school	II-3	= 3
		Salem -13		
		London Mission Schl.	I-17, V-6	= 23
2.	Nehru Nagar	Panchayath Union School, Mungampadi	I-3, III-1,	= 4
		Municipal Hr. Sec. School	VI-1	= 1
		Veeralakshmi Girls' Hr. Sec. School	VI-1	= 1
3.	Narayan Nagar	Municipal Middle School	I-7	= 7
		London Mission Schl.	I-10, II-2, III-4, IV-3, V-4	= 23
4.	Selathanpatti	Govt. Hr. Sec. School Sivadhapuram	IV-5, VII-1, II-3, I-2	= 12
		Sacred Heart High School, Rasipuram	I-2, VI-1	= 3
		St. Nicholas Middle School, R.C. Chettipatti	II-1, III-1	= 2
5.	Makkan Street	Arunachalam Municipal school	I-4, II-3, III-1, IV-1, VI-3, VIII-1	= 13
Total Number of children admitted in schools during June & July 98				= 92

MOTIVATION CAMPS & AWARENESS OUTINGS:

Motivation Camps for the boys at the Shelter Home:

A week long motivation camp was conducted for the boys at the shelter home in April 1998. The boys were taken Yelagiri, a hill station about 150 kilometres from Salem. During the camp the boys were counselled to think better of their future. They had enough time for fun and entertainment, hiking and trekking. They were motivated to join their parents. They had camp fire, video shows which inspired them to think positively. The camp also helped us to understand each boy and to draw up his profile.

The elder boys aged above 18 also had two days of motivation camp at Kotagiri in which 20 boys attended. The counselling sessions helped them to go back to their life and to plan for their future course of action for which they have to labour.

AWARENESS OUTINGS for the boys at the shelter home:

The boys at the shelter home had a day outing to Yercaud a nearby hill resort to relax and reflect on their activities. It was during the month of December. The salesian brothers at Yercaud formation house staged awareness skits and plays.

The boys were also taken to the Juvenile Home at Panchapalli for a days visit. The boys entertained the inmates at the Juvenile home with singing and dancing. They shared their lunch with them.

SUMMER CAMP:

Every year Summer camp is conducted during the month of May for the boys at the shelter home as well as the children attending our reach out centres in the city.

Summer camp began this year on May 1, inaugurated by Dr.G.Soodamni Mayor of Salem Corporation. In his enlightening address he appreciated the activities of Anbu Illam and accepted the request for allotting vacant site near the new bus stand to operate an extension centre by which new entrants to the city could be reached out before they fall prey to human brokers and anti socials.

Summer Camp was conducted in all the centres with variety of entertainment and motivation programmes. The programmes included telling stories of values, teaching awareness songs, street plays and skits, competitions in singing, dancing, acting, drawing, Sports and Games. The camp ended on 13th May with a grand celebration at the camping site at Don Bosco Rehabilitation Centre, near the foothill. VIP's present on the occasion were Mr.A.Nedunchzhian, Chairman, District Panchayat Committee, Mr.Adhinarayanan, ANS Kumbakonam Jewellers, Mrs.Ruby Thiyagarajan, Secretary, Salem YWCA and Mr.Bhaskaran, Advocate. Prizes were distributed to the children who won the competitions. Following the camp the children were taken for a picnic to Mettur Dam which is 50 kms. away from Salem.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR PARENTS:

Periodical awareness programme was conducted in each centre for the parents of the children attending the centres. It is to motivate them to send their children to school and to stop child labour. Street plays and skits highlighting the importance of education and health were conducted in each centre.

PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMMES:

CHILD LABOUR WORKSHOP, RALLY, HUMAN CHAIN & CONFERENCE

A District level network of NGOs involved in the elimination of child labour has been formed in which Don Bosco Anbu Illam plays a vital role. The Network has been named as NGO Forum for Elimination of Child Labour. The Forum has unanimously elected the Director, Don Bosco Anbu Illam, as the president. The Forum is active from October 1997. The Forum organised a two days workshop on Child labour on the 9th and 10th of October with the assistance of Unicef, Chennai. On 22nd November A rally of 3000 working children was organised in the city. The District Collector, Mayor and other Government officials took part in the workshop, rally and conference. The Forum is heading for another Advocacy and campaigning programme on child labour in the months ahead.

REHABILITATION SCHEMES FOR STREET YOUTH

Driving Licence:

During the last one year 5 of the senior boys have been trained in Driving light vehicles. They have got the Driving licence issued by the Transport Authority. So far 21 of the elder boys have got Driving licence during the last 3 years.

Housing Allotment:

With our strong persuasion we managed to get 6 more housing units allotted by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board for the senior boys. Totally the Board has allotted 27 houses for the boys at Anbu Illam. Thanks to the TNSCB authorities for their kind favours.

Free DISTRIBUTION OF NOTE BOOKS & STATIONERY:

Note Books and stationery articles were distributed in each centre during the month of July with the assistance of educational institutions in the city. Each centre was assigned to the nearby private school run by religious and individuals, and the needs of the centre was met by the concerned school. It was a sharing between the children who have and the children who don't have. Many thanks to the Headmasters, Sisters who kindly accepted our request.

PROPOSED TRANSIT SCHOOL:

Following the successful implementation of Transit Schools by the NGOs in Chennai for the elimination of Child labour similar programme is proposed to be conducted 10 selected centres in the city. The main activity is to identify the working children in the slums and to withdraw them from child labour gradually. The children identified as working children or children not attending any school will be taught 5 hours a day so as to enable them to enrol in schools in the following year. It will be an orientation cum motivation programme for the children in slums. A proposal has been sent to Child Relief and You (CRY) for assistance. The Programme is part of Community Development Activities carried out by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board in co-ordination with NGOs.

INTRODUCTION OF 'CLE' METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

The Rotary International has come forward to introduce an innovative method of teaching in our centres. This method is designed to teach the children for quick learning. This is exclusively designed to teach the street children all over the world. The term 'CLE' is the acronym of Concentrated Language Encounter'. Already the Rotary International has organised two weeks training programme for the teachers. It will be executed in our centres during this year.

CERTIFICATE FOR BEST SOCIAL WORK:

The Salem Corporation has recognised our work for the street and working children in Salem. A certificate to this effect was given to Fr.M.Vincent Xavier, SDB, Director, Don Bosco Anbu Illam, on the Republic Day celebration held on 26th January 1998.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND X'MAS DAY CELEBRATIONS:

Human Rights Day was observed on 22nd December. A rally was organised in which 400 street and working children participated. The Commissioner of Salem Corporation flagged off the Rally after a small function in which he assured his support for our activities. The children raised slogans and carried placards highlighting the Rights of children. On the same day Christmas was celebrated with the blessing of the crib by the Vicar General. Cultural programmes were held in the evening presided over by Mrs.Kannagi, IAS Director of Social Defence. She also distributed Identity cards for the staff.

OUR HOMAGE TO FR. SCHLOOZ:

It was a day of sorrow for Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Salem, for losing the founder and pioneer of the institution at Salem. His death on the 19th March was an irrecoverable loss for the Salesian Province as well as Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Salem.

OUR THANKS

Our sincere thanks to the well wishers abroad, MISEREOR, CARITAS NETHERLANDS, KINDERMISSIONSWERK, Fr.Mc Ferran, Fr.Rigby, Fr.Karl Oerder, Fr.Harrie Kanters and other generous benefactors abroad.

We thank the Bishop of Salem, Fr.Provincial and his council members, Fr.James Theophilus, Provincial Delegate, Trichy, the Principals and Headmasters of schools in the city, the Rotarians, Mr.Leo Charles, Mr.Anil and other well wishers in Salem city for their voluntary support and contribution.

Our Special thanks to Daily Thanthi, Malai Malar, The Hindu, Dinamani, Indian Express, Dinakaran, Malai Murasu and Dinamalar for their publicity.

Fr.I. LOURDU JEYARAJ, SDB
Assistant Director.

FR.M. VINCENT XAVIER, SDB
Director.

20th September 1998.