

# SPARK



Don Bosco University Newsletter

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## Challenges & opportunities

Cover Story

Prof. Rajneesh Arora, the Chair Person of the UGC Team addresses the staff and students of Don Bosco University on the challenges and the opportunities in becoming entrepreneurs.

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DBU Global aims at becoming a leading provider of Online Degree Programs to students and working Professionals around the world



DBCET, the remote center of IIT Bombay for all the workshops under its mission to enhance the teaching skills, hosts the second online training programme for teachers.



The National Power Training Institute selects DBCET to carry out its training program for the students

## From the Vice-Chancellor

**It's Christmas once again...** There is distinctly a chill in the air. The leaves are falling... the classes are over... the tests have been completed... the goodbyes have begun... Soon you will be heading home... for a well-deserved holiday, and then, for, what we all hope, will be an exciting and challenging year ahead in 2012!

Christmas too is round the corner with its heart-warming story of a God who came in search of us, and still keeps coming... coming especially for the forgotten ones, the lowly ones, the unwanted ones, the struggling and stragglers ones...

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Here is a thought to ponder over as you turn your steps homewards...

*A teacher gave us a quiz years ago at the school. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans our classroom?" Surely, this was some kind of joke, I thought. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s; but, how would I know her name? Again, why should I know her name?*

*I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if that last question would count toward our grade. "Absolutely," said the teacher. "In your lives, you will meet many people... **All are significant.** They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello'."*

*I've never forgotten that lesson. I've also never forgotten to this day that her name was Rebecca.*

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And here is another to keep in mind as we wish each other a "Merry Christmas" and a bright New Year...

*A story is told about a soldier who was finally coming home after having fought in Iraq. He called his parents from San Francisco. "Mom and Dad, I'm coming home, but I've a favour to ask. I have a friend I'd like to bring home with me."*

*"Sure," they replied, "We'd love to meet him."*

*"There's something you should know," the son continued, "he was hurt pretty bad in the fighting. He stepped on a land mine and lost an arm and a leg. He has nowhere else to go, and I want him to come live with us."*

*"I'm sorry to hear that, son. Maybe we can help him find somewhere to live."*

*"No, Mom and Dad, I want him to live with us."*



*"Son," said the father, "you don't know what you're asking. Someone with such a handicap would be a terrible burden on us. We have our own lives to live, and we can't let something like this interfere with our lives... I think you should just come home and just forget about this guy. He'll find a way to live on his own."... At that point, the son hung up the phone.*

*The parents heard nothing more from him. A few days later, however, they received a call from the San Francisco police. Their son had died after falling from a building, they were told. The police believed it was a case of suicide.*

*The grief-stricken parents flew to San Francisco and were taken to the city morgue to identify the body of their son. They recognized him, but, to their horror, they also discovered something they didn't know: **their son had only one arm and one leg.***

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Christmas is always such fun... the lights, the trees, the gaily wrapped gifts, the midnight service, the hugs and kisses... But, then, Christmas can also be such an agony... for the forgotten ones, the poor and needy ones, the sick and ailing ones, the homeless and unwanted ones...

But, then again, Christmas is primarily the story of a God who taught us by his example that the 'divine spark' in us comes to the fore each time we recognize and minister to his image in the faces of the poor, the exploited, the oppressed and the nameless of the world – that's why he urged us to **"go and do the same..."**

Christmas – a wonderful story to guide our steps as our own lives' journeys take us past the smooth and undemanding highways of the world to the by-lanes and the dirt tracks that hide and reveal 'his presence round the corner'...

May God's abundant blessings accompany you and your dear ones this Christmas and right through the new year.

**Fr Stephen Mavelly SDB**  
Vice-Chancellor

## UGC Expert Committee Visits Assam Don Bosco University



The UGC Inspection Team arrived at Assam Don Bosco University campus on 2 November 2011 and they were warmly welcomed by the Vice Chancellor, Fr. Stephen Mavely and his team. The inspection was conducted as a pre-requisite for granting recognition under Section 12B - right to get grants of various types except for salaries - of the UGC Act in addition to the recognition under Section 2(f) - right to award degrees - of the same Act that the University already enjoys.

Considering the importance of the visit the University was fully ready with all round preparation. The inspection team thus had a firsthand view of the University set up and standards, and commented positively on its growth potential.

The UGC Inspection Team comprised of:

- Prof Rajneesh Arora, Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Technical University
- Prof V. Shekhar, Osmania University, Hyderabad
- Prof K.K. Bhardwaj, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Prof Chandan Sarkar, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- Prof R. K. Bedi, Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab
- Prof B.K. Nanda, National Institute of Technology, Orissa
- Prof M. B. Shukla, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi
- Prof S Saha, Bengal Engineering & Science University, Howrah.

The team inspected the facilities of DBCET and DBIM on 2

November 2011. They took note of the beauty and cleanliness of the campuses, the discipline among the staff and students and the variety of facilities provided. On the whole, the team was appreciative and supportive of the way the University is carrying out the task of reaching out far and wide with its education programmes.

On 3 November the team held a joint meeting with the Governing body and the Board of Management of the University. They had a thorough discussion on the present programmes of the University and its future plans. Keen interest was evinced in the Online and Distance Education Programmes of the University which aims at reaching out to thousands of students across the globe.

On 3 November, Prof. Rajneesh Arora, the Chair Person of the UGC Team, addressed the staff and students of Don Bosco University at the morning assembly. He held the attention of the audience with his motivating speech on the unlimited possibilities awaiting those who dare to face challenges with an entrepreneurial spirit. He challenged his listeners to be job creators rather than job seekers constantly whining about placement.

He asked the students to take pride in developing the best in our cultures rather than just aping the West. Commenting on the boundless possibilities that await us he said that India can become more powerful than China. In this context he reminded his listeners of Dr. APJ Kalam's dream about India-Vision- 2020.





## DBU Global

### Don Bosco University Global Center for Online and Distance Education

In late 2010, the University undertook a unique initiative in the field of Online Education - christened DBU Global, the Don Bosco University Global Center for Online and Distance Education was setup with the aim of making it a leading provider of Online Degree Programs to students and working Professionals around the world.

In the short duration of a year, DBU Global today has hundreds of students, from all 6 continents of the world, enrolled and studying in the various Post Graduate and Under Graduate Programs the University offers via the Center.

DBU Global uses a custom developed technology platform developed by University18, its partner in this mission, to deliver live lectures, as well as eLearning content to these students over the Web. A student enrolled in a DBU Global course is typically a working professional, who logs onto the system early mornings or after work hours, either to attend

live classes being telecast by the Center, or to study online using the eLearning resources provided for each course.

Students have the flexibility of enrolling for a Program throughout the year, as well as of choosing the pace and manner in which they would like to go through the Program. Once enrolled, one could choose to enroll in four courses (or subjects) together, studying all of them in parallel, or just to undertake the program one course at a time, sequentially.

While enrolled in a Course, the student has access to video lectures (similar to those offered by NPTEL at DBCET), as well as live classroom sessions online, where they can interact with the professor and faculty teaching, as well as other students who would've logged in for the same class at that time.

A student can also attempt his or her Internal Tests online, using an inbuilt online testing system. Once a student has attempted and cleared both the tests associated with a course, a student can simply schedule an examination at the nearest Examination Center, at a date and time of his choosing, within any of the four testing 'windows' each year.

Once a candidate clears all the required courses in a Program, he's ready to apply for a Degree! BUT, all this must be done within the stipulated maximum time period of the Program, making it both flexible, but at the same time, challenging.

Student's access the platform, called uNext, via any inter-





net connected PC, and now, increasingly using an Android or Apple Tablet Device. Classes can be attended using a 3G Connection on a table or iPad, as well as the iPhone or other Android phones (see picture). Students use the platforms forum feature to interact with each other, networking, as well as getting together for group study sessions. With ages ranging from 24 years to 58 years old, Insurance Salesmen study in the same class as the Vice President or CEO of a company, and benefit from the others experiences in business.

The Center has 7 Programs on offer today, both at the Post Graduate and the Under Graduate level, and offers them around the world. Priced at economical levels so as to make them affordable to all, coupled with the credibility of the Don Bosco brand, these programs have seen an enthusiastic response from individuals in every corner of the World.

While it may seem to be a simple task, the geographical spread of the operations makes it far more complex. The Center plays the important role of coordinating with and providing support services to students from as far off a place as the West Coast of the United States, to as inaccessible as Libya, while it has Professors teaching live virtually from the United States, Europe and different states of India. The different time zone's it services makes the center virtually a 24 x 7 Operation.

DBU Global recently also announced a variety of scholar-



ships, with partial fee waivers for those who performed well in their previous education, or belong to the Defence forces, Socio-Religious Organizations, NGO's, or the Academic Society. The Disabled also get considerable support via these Scholarships.

Also notable is the Asha Scholarship, where girls belonging to disadvantaged backgrounds get a full fee waiver to the Bachelors in Business Administration Course. The Center hopes to give out a 1000 scholarships to such students by 2012, amounting to a total of Rs.5 Crores in aid.

The Center is based in the University campus at Guwahati, and is led by Fr Jose Anikuzhikkattil, supporting it in its operations are student offices and technology development centers in Gurgaon, Delhi and Bangalore, with over 40 young men and women working together as Team DBU Global.

Lauding the efforts of the University and the Center after seeing a 'walk through' of the DBU Global platform on a recent visit to the University, Dr. Rajneesh Arora, Vice Chancellor, Punjab Technical University, termed it the 'future of education.' Punjab Technical University is in itself the second largest in the Nation, with over 1 Lakh students.

As the Center grows in its mission to become a world class provider of quality Online Education, it shall see the setting up of 'Student Contact Centers' in 8 Metro Cities in India in the coming two years itself, as well as one in Sri Lanka, to be followed up with offices and presence in many other countries in the years to follow. Aiming for a total enrollment of 1,00,000 students by its 5th year, the Center for now follows as its mantra these famous lines by poet Robert Frost ...

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

**Mr. Raunak Singh Ahluwalia**  
**Executive Director, CODE**

## Higher Education: an Integral Part of Don Bosco Society



A two-day meeting of the Don Bosco Institutions of Higher Education in India was held at Maitreya, Bangalore, on 6-7 November 2011, with the objective of examining and reinforcing the premises on which the institutions are operating – Salesian, national, international perspectives - and to look at opportunities for growth and relevance through the use of ICT and networking.

Fr. Fabio Attard, the General Councillor for Youth Ministry, addressed the gathering and spoke about higher education as an integral part of the Salesian Congregation's mission. He said, "The University as a place for the dissemination of knowledge is a privileged place for the Salesian mission. The Salesian congregation understands the young as the place we need to be - to accompany the young." He further added saying, "By offering them journeys of human, spiritual and professional growth, we journey with them respecting what they are, where they are, and their identity." Touching upon Cardinal Newman's idea of a university, he advocated the 'liberal arts model' of university education that caters to every facet of human formation.

Fr. Fabio also spoke about the role of an academic community, the contribution of higher education institutions to the development of the Salesian mission, and its imperative to reach out to the neighbourhood. Calling the members to focus their attention on the mission, he said that it is important that the IUS are fully integrated in the educative pastoral project of the Provinces, thereby collaborating with and enriching the growth and development of all our presences - schools, colleges and all undertakings of the Provinces.

Fr. Maria Charles, Co-ordinator of Youth Pastoral, South Asia, made a presentation on the need for creating more space for higher education and dwelt on the difference made in this field through Salesian institutions. He touched upon the challenges of technology, the need for innovation universities, the importance of networking and collaborating with the universities abroad, and the call for paying attention to the individuals as well as the community.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, the Executive Secretary of the Associa-

tion, in his welcome address appreciated the participation of all those who came for the meeting. He said, "We are in the field of higher education not by chance, but by choice, and so let us use this occasion to revisit our core values and to maximise our impact through a unique synergy that can be achieved by networking while exploring new avenues for our mission of educating the youth of our country adhering at the same time to the framework of the Salesian Society for higher education."

The presentations on individual institutions helped the group to have an overview of the works done at various places. It was amply evident that an enormous amount of work was being done by 'Don Bosco India – Higher Education Network' and that there is great scope for harnessing the enthusiasm and initiatives of these institutions into a harmonious instrument enriched with the rich traditions and praxis of the Congregation.

The input session by Fr. Fr Adolph Furtado on 'The needs and challenges of the Network', pointed out the reluctance of our institutions to network fearing loss of autonomy and control, and stressed the advantages of collaborative effort describing it 'as the way to move forward'.

Fr Gregory Thaddeus dwelt on 'The use of ICT and Pedagogy in a Salesian Way'. Explaining the dynamics of cooperative learning, he gave an in-depth analysis of the IUS Virtual Course (CVI) initiated by the Catholic University of Brazil and underlined how the objectives and methodology of the Salesian System of Education are embedded in this Course.

The session on 'DBU Global – a unique opportunity' presented by Raunak Singh Ahluwalia, Executive Director of 'Centre for On-line and Distance Education' of Assam Don Bosco University, and Fr. Stephen Mavelly offered a glimpse into the possibility of an ever expanding network that the members of IUS – India could make use of to make higher education accessible and affordable to a much wider clientele. The members were taken through the online admission procedures and teaching style that ensured the imparting of quality education. The presentation was followed by a discussion on the opportunities for collaboration and participation.

## DBCET adheres with IIT Bombay to enhance Teaching Skills



A two-week workshop on “Software Development Techniques for Teachers of Engineering and Science Institutes” was held at Don Bosco college of Engineering and Technology, which is a permanent remote center of IIT Bombay for all the workshops under its mission to enhance the teaching skills, an initiative which has now become a part of the National Mission on Education through ICT, supported by MHRD.

The workshop, started on 5 November, was spread across five weekends and ended on 4 December 2011. It was to allow interested participants to attend the workshop during the semester. The workshop had live lectures through AVIEW mechanism of interaction on the Internet with par-

ticipants and labs were conducted locally. Siddhartha Roy, Asst. Prof. of DBCET, the workshop coordinator and Bikash Agarwal, Asst. Prof. of DBCET, the remote center coordinator who received rigorous training from IIT Bombay, ably managed the entire programme.

The workshop benefited faculty colleagues teaching in engineering and science institutes, who wished to use open source software tools for all their computational and teaching needs, thereby improving the quality of instruction and learning in their colleges. All the lectures and tutorial sessions have been recorded, and the final edited audio-visual contents, along with other course material will be released under open source for the use of all teachers and students.



At the completion of the workshop, participants were able to:

- use UNIX command line tools to carry out common (mostly text processing) tasks
- generate professional documents
- use version control effectively for both code and documents
- automate tasks by writing shell scripts and python scripts
- realize the impact of coding style and readability on quality
- write mid-sized programs that carry out typical engineering / numerical computations such as

those that involve basic manipulation of large arrays in an efficient manner

- generate 2d and simple 3d plots
- debug programs using a standardized approach
- understand the importance of tests and the philosophy of test driven development
- write unit tests and improve the quality of code

**Siddhartha Roy, Asst Prof, DBCET  
Workshop Coordinator**



## Interactive Meeting with Parents and Guardians



An interactive meeting with the parents and guardians was organized in the college on 5 November 2011. The agenda of the programme included an introductory session to welcome the parents, interaction of parents with teachers, and a concluding open session for exchange of thoughts, opinions and ideas.

The function started with prayer moments, followed by speeches by the Principal, Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, and Fr. A.L. Jose, Rector of DBCET. They spoke on the importance of parents meeting the mentors of their wards to be aware of their all-round performance as students of the college.

The open session at the end, guided by the Principal along with some members of the management, facilitated discussion on various academic issues meant for the overall development of students into successful professionals and responsible individuals. The parents appreciated the sincere efforts of the institution to transform itself into a center of excellence.

*Nabamita Das, Asst Prof, DBCET*

## Training Program on “Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution”

The National Power Training Institute, renowned for quality training, chose DBCET to carry out its training program for the students of Electrical and Electronics branch of Engineering.

The programme was inaugurated on 26 November 2011 by Shri Atish Banerjee, Director /HOI, NPTI-NER, in the presence of Shri K. Muthukumar, Deputy Director, NPTI-NER, Shri Prabhas Ankuri, Asst. Director, NPTI-NER and Shri G.M.Das, Sr. Faculty, NPTI-NER (Chief Engineer, Retired, ASEB) and Assistant.

Shri Atish Banerjee in his inaugural speech commented on the current scenario of power sector in India. He emphasized the diversity and quality of training needed in order to be successful in the sector and asked the students for suggestions on the



course content provided at NPTI. Shri K. Muthukumar and Shri. G.M. Das also expressed their views with special reference to the significance of training and its requirements in the power sector.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, the Vice Chancellor, welcomed the dignitaries and Prof. Manoranjan Kalita appreciated NPTI-NER for its initiatives. A total of 85 students registered for the programme on the spot.

Mr. K. N. Hazarika, Adviser, ADBU, and other faculty members from the concerned branch and Training and Placement Cell were also present for the function.



## An Appreciation Night

The evening of 10 December 2010 in DBCET marked another remarkable event of the year. The staff, along with their families, gathered for an informal get-together. The purpose of the evening was to mingle as the Don Bosco family - sing, have fun, appreciate one another and share a meal. The Atrium was tastefully decorated and a PowerPoint presentation guided the gathering in reflection and gratitude for the year's blessings.

Addressing the gathering, Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice Chancellor of Don Bosco University, spoke about the importance of taking time to appreciate one another. He said, "If there is one single factor that has an incalculable impact on our well-being as persons, it is precisely this: our ability to ap-

preciate and be grateful." With a positive outlook on everyone present he acclaimed, "Here at Don Bosco College, we are deeply appreciative of every one of you and your unique contribution to the building of this college, and we are deeply grateful." "To me, and I hope to each of you too, it makes a tremendous difference when I say in front of your family, friends and colleagues, that we are grateful, and we appreciate your presence in our team and your unique way of being a Bosconian", he added.

He also made it a point to call up each one to the dais and hand over a token of appreciation. The 'Pot Luck' dinner at the end of the programme was a joyful experience.



## Campus Interviews and Recruitment Processes

### Indian Navy

The prestigious Indian Navy arrived at the College for the campus recruitment on 17 November 2011. The team, led by Commander T. S. R. Nagesh, comprised of Commander Rajesh Mukherjee and Commander A. Atul Prakash.

Fifty eight students from all the four branches of the final year B. Tech. appeared for the recruitment drive. The elimination round was in the form of Group Discussion.

Those shortlisted in this round would be eligible to go for the Staff Selection Board. The result is expected in the month of December, 2011.



The selection process was followed by a PowerPoint presentation on the career prospects in the Indian Navy and its offers for the B. Tech. undergraduates. Commander T. S. R. Nagesh explained the salary packages and facilities. He also emphasized the role and responsibilities of the recruited candidates and explained the entire process of selection in the Staff Selection Board.

### Merce Technologies



On 12 November 2011, Merce Technologies, a Mumbai based organization, visited DBCET for recruitment. Ms. Rashmi Phalke, Manager HR and Mr. Santosh Barti, HR Executive of MERCE were the team members that came to conduct the interviews.

MerceTechnologies as a company comprises of two independent Divisions: the Software Services Division and the Product Division. The Software Services Division handles software projects in various areas for corporate

clients and the Product Division is responsible for the development, sale, and support of the Merce suite of products.

Out of the 45 students that sat for the first round of interview, seven students were shortlisted. The second phase was a written round in which the students had to develop programme codes. This was followed by personal interview of the seven students. The selection result is awaited.

We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of State Bank of India towards 'Prajyuktam 2011', the Annual Inter- College Technical Fest of DBCET, Azara

## SYNTEL Inc

On 12 November 2011 Syntel Inc. conducted its online test for the students at the College campus. A total of 190 students drawn from all the branches of engineering and MCA sat for the online test. The test was conducted in four batches at the fully equipped computer labs, in a systematic and streamlined fashion without any interruption, guided by Ms. Mudita Tyagi, Campus recruitment Team Leader from Syntel.

The result of the online test was announced on 17 November 2011 and ten students got through the first round. The second phase of the selection process was held at Kolkata and it was attended by five of the ten students. In Kolkata, the selection process included a Group Discussion, a Technical round and finally an HR round and three students were able to make it through. The result of the final round is awaited.

*Shahnowaz Hussain, TPO, DBCET*



## DBCET Students at Tezpur University for Techxetra



About 40 students from DBCET went to participate in Techxetra, the annual festival of Tezpur University, held on 21-23 October 2011. The entire three days were packed with different robotic events, workshops and programmes such as structure and design, gaming, literary, management, quizzer and many more.

Each day had its own specific activities that brought cheer and excitement. Everyone gave their best to excel in the

chosen area of performance. Some of the events in which the students of the College took part were Propero Arena, Ozone, Constrolix, Circuitrix, Nirman, Coder, Hot Seat, Gaming events, Amazing race, Krytx and Chexnx.

Cultural programmes every evening and workshops on different topics at various intervals were some of the events that enriched the participants.

*Jyotishna Choudhury, DBCET*

## From Campus to Community

It is a universal law that says we have to give before we get.....plant seeds before reaping the harvest. There lies a great joy in giving. It's being able to touch somebody's life. We may not realize that everything we do affects not only our lives but touches others too. We have always been taught since our childhood to love, share and care for others and forgive. But what exactly do these words mean to us? We never had a chance so far to understand the inner meaning of these words until we got the opportunity from our College through the Social Commitment Programs.

During the course of our past few months of study at the College, the students were initiated to a number of programmes like visiting the Old-Age home run by the Missionaries of Charity, 'Shanti Dhan' - an orphanage, Auxilium Snehalaya at Noonmati - a home for street children or children at risk, cared for by the Salesian sisters and a village school - Jungakhuli Anchalik High School - at Boko.

A group of students decided to tackle the problem of ecological crisis. They bought some plants and visited the entire neighbourhood of the College and gave the people an awareness programme and planted some trees in their compound, exhorting them to water them regularly and to take care of them, promising to visit them now and then. The

people were very happy and readily collaborated in this very much needed initiative of saving and nurturing nature, and saving the future of humanity itself.



To crown the entire semester, there was a special programme organized at the DBCET campus itself. It was the advanced Children's Day celebration, on 6 November 2011 for the 'differently abled' children of 'Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre', Barapani, Meghalaya, managed by the MSMHC Sisters.

Life has been good, we feel good that we were able to bring sunshine and smile on many a faces. We are proud to be Bosconians who have learnt the secret of loving by giving and sharing, and thus learning the true secret of living life to the full.

Here is an inspiring thought from Steve Brunkhorst: "Material treasures will serve us for a time and fade away. It is sharing ourselves and our time that creates authentic value; it enriches life with lasting expressions of gratitude and indelible memories. Giving opens our spiritual eyes to the many small blessings before us each moment."

*Shaheen Akhtar Wahab, DBCET*



## A day to remember!

### Children's Day with the Inmates of Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre Meghalaya

6 November 2011 was made memorable by the III Semester Students of B.Tech with an advanced Children's Day celebration, welcoming the children of Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre, Barapani, Meghalaya. There were around 75 children accompanied by the sisters and staff who take care of them.

The children, who were the special invitees of the day, arrived at 9:45 a.m. and students of the college welcomed



them joyfully. The students attended to them, accompanying them through the corridors of the College and trying to



understand and respond to their medium of communication, 'sign language' as they were neither able to hear or speak.

The day was made interesting with a variety of programmes that caught the attention of the children. There were games, sports and a stage entertainment which combined programmes from the students and the children. A sumptuous lunch followed. The kidzee group sponsored the gifts to the children.



The students expressed happiness at having spent such a wonderful day that has left a lasting impression on them. One of them said, "Those five hours spent with them were really marvelous. Looking at those lovely faces, no one could say that they were deprived of speech and hearing. Their serene life has taught me to be grateful to God for all his blessings."

**Barasha Hiloidhari, DBCET**

## PGDCRD Students Celebrate Child Right Day

The students of Post Graduate Diploma in Child Rights and Development of the Don Bosco University, in collaboration with Snehalaya, organized a programme at the Government Children's Home at Jalukbari on 23 November 2011. The programme was held to commemorate "Child Rights Day" which is held all over the world on 20 November, the day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It was a day filled with joy and happiness for the girls of the Government Children's Home of Jalukbari and the girls of Snehalaya as they met together for the first time for a day long programme.

The students of PGDCRD organized the programme and it helped them to interact with each other. The day had an array of fun filled activities, games and an excellent cultural programme which showcased the talents of the children of both the homes. A sumptuous lunch was served for all, arranged by the Snehalaya group.

Speaking on the occasion, the Superintendent of the Jalukbari State Home for Women, Mrs. Deepali Devi, expressed her pleasure at the hosting of the event and thanked Fr. Lukose Chervalel, Director, and the students of PGDCRD for organizing the program. Fr Lukose during his speech expressed his gratitude to everyone present on the occasion for their cooperation and support and for making the program a grand success.



It was a very satisfying experience for all to see the children totally involved and having a great time. Today at the beginning of the 21st century, promotion and respect of the Rights of child must not simply remain an ideal, but must be made into a reality. This might seem a long journey, but it is a challenge for every country, institution, community and individual, and it is a humble step by the students of PGDCRD, Don Bosco University, with the assistance of Snehalaya and Jalukbari State Home for Women towards the realization of the same.

**Mitali Handique PGDCRD  
Assam Don Bosco University**



Often the little hamlets in the outskirts of the cities remain passive on some of the events that mark global importance. But it is heartening to note how Dharapur Taluk Committee and North East Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses

(NESP YM) joined together to observe World AIDS Day on 1 November this year.

Nabanta Hazarika and Silgrak S. Sangma, two students from the Department of Social Work, Assam Don Bosco University, organized a seminar on ‘Strategies to Tackle AIDS’. Dr. Chiranjeev Kakoti, Director of NESP YM, and Simanta Das, Incharge of Mashwara Rehabilitation Centre, were the resource persons. Fr. Jose Karipadam, HoD and Sr. Jeeva Francis, Faculty from the Department of Social Work, ADBU, Dr. Balandra Kumar Das, Principal of Pachim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya, Mr. Parag Kakoti, Secretary, and Prof. Rajat Baishya, President of Dharapur Taluk Committee, were some of the guests that graced the occasion.

**Nabanta Hazarika**  
*Dept. of Social Work, ADBU*

## MSW Students Joins ‘Childline’, Guwahati to Organize Children’s Day

Keeping in mind the objective of Don Bosco University that seeks to mould individuals to be socially committed, the Department of Social Work lays stress on making its students grounded on the present-day realities of the society. The students are initiated to take up various developmental activities in line with the weekly field visits that are part of the curriculum. The group of students entrusted to work with ‘Childline’ had an opportune time to join in organizing the children’s day programme for children on 11 November, 2011.



The students gathered children from the railway station and brought them to the Childline premises at Ullubari, Guwahati, and had programmes that benefited them. They were kept engaged with a number of interesting competitions: drawing, musical chair, cock fight, etc. The children were very alert and actively participated in the events. In spite of

the unorganized life spent in the railway stations and foot paths, having no formal education, the children showed their capacity and potential by their intelligence and smartness.

The day’s programme concluded with prize distribution and refreshments for all.

**Hirohito Habib**  
*Dept. of Social Work, ADBU*

## Awareness Programme on Children’s Right to Education

An awareness Programme on “Children’s Rights to Education” was organized by the students of MSW on 25 November 2011 at Prachya Vidya Niketan School, Roopnagar, Guwahati. It had the objective of educating the parents, guardians, teachers and students on the right to education.

the importance of education which develops human personality and individual talent, bringing a sense of dignity and self worth. About eighty people from the surrounding area gathered to attend the programme. Miss Barsha Talukdar, Programme Coordinator and Mr. Amal, Programme Manager from the Legal Cell for Human Rights, Guwahati, were the resource persons.

Fr. Jose Karipadam, HoD and Mrs. Rachel Kabi, Faculty Supervisor from the Department of Social Work, were present on the occasion.

**Jessie Marak**  
*Dept. of Social Work, ADBU*

The sessions conducted on the occasion clearly explained

## Library Day Celebrated at DBIM



8 October 2011 marks the completion of one year for the Julash Ali Library of Don Bosco Institute of Management that focuses on the enrichment of the North East's research activities and scholarly communication, providing wide range of quality services by offering integrated access to the world of knowledge through books and e-information.

The Library annual day witnessed a special gathering with lively performances by the students of DBIM and DBI. The theme selected for the event was Entrepreneurship in North-East India. Mr. Debajit Chaliha, Chairman, CII Young India-Guwahati Chapter & Director, Green Gold Assam Pvt. Ltd. delivered the theme address; he spoke on the scope, problems and ways of untying the various knots of entrepreneurship activities.

The special attraction of the celebration centred on LibQuiz,

a very professional quizzing platform under the direction of Prof. Amlan Dutta of DBIM. Music band, dance competitions, Best Book Reviewer and Libinar were the other interesting features of the day's celebration. The competitions were judged by Mr. Stephen Aimol, Asst. Manager, UBI, Guwahati and Mr. Pranjoy Arup Das, Entrepreneur, Guwahati. Julhash Ali Library Scholar, a special award, was presented to Arun Sailesh Kandulna, MBA 2nd Year, DBIM.

The library dedicated to the memory of Shri Julhash Ali by his son Iftikar Ali Ahmed stands as a striking testimony to a son's great love for his father, whom he wishes to refer as his best friend. The presence of the family members of Julhash Ali added a touching scene to the whole program. They, along with Fr. V.M. Thomas, Rector of DBIM, gave away the prizes to the winners of the various events.

*Bikash Gogoi, Asst. Prof, DBIM*

## DBIM Celebrates Children's Day at Prajjwal

Don Bosco Institute of management (DBIM) had an anticipated Children's Day celebration on 13 November 2011 under the aegis of 'Prajjwal' for the children of its neighbourhood. Songs, dances and prize distribution for the competitions held earlier related the children.

The blessing by Fr. V.M. Thomas and words of encouragement by Mr. Conrad Saldanha, Principal Advisor, DBIMR, Kurla, Mumbai, added meaning to the day's programme.

DBIM, being part of Don Bosco Society which is known for its service to uplift the poor, has always shown keen interest by taking lead in doing something benign for the society. "Prajjwal" is an initiative of DBIM, launched in November 2009, to promote developmental activities and foster social progress. With a philanthropic goal in view, the members of Prajjwal set out on their journey by holding free education workshops for the children of Joypur, a village in the vicinity. This initiative by the students of DBIM is mentored and motivated by Fr. V. M. Thomas, Director and Prof. Bikash Gogoi, DBIM.

*Bikash Gogoi, Asst. Prof, DBIM*



*Why do the bells of Christmas ring?  
Why do little children sing?*

*Once a lovely shining star,  
Seen by shepherds from afar,  
Gently moved until its light,  
Made a manger's cradle bright.*

*There a darling baby lay,  
Pillowed soft upon the hay;  
And its mother sung and smiled:  
This is Christ, the holy Child!"*

*Therefore bells for Christmas ring,  
Therefore little children sing.*

*Merry Christmas  
&  
A Prosperous New Year*

