

42 YEARS WALKING WITH REFUGEES

“
THE CHURCH SHOULD, ABOVE ALL
BE THE CHURCH OF THE
OPPRESSED, THE REFUGEES.
THOSE PERSECUTED FOR THEIR
FAITH. THOSE RELEGATED BY THE
RICH AND POWERFUL TO THE
MARGINS OF SOCIETY.

In the footsteps of
Fr. Pedru Arrupe S.J.

Newsletter
November 2022



SOUTH
ASIA

Walking with Refugee

42 YEARS OF ACCOMPANIMENT

14th November marks the founding day of the Jesuit Refugee Service in 1980 by Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ. Decades later, we continue to promote his ministry of "being with rather than doing for" our refugee brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Since then, we have been working in solidarity with millions of forcibly displaced people, ensuring that they can heal, learn, and determine their own future. Today we commemorate the people we serve, and those who make our mission possible.

JRS South Asia Regional Office – Urban Project Delhi had the honor of having Reverend Fr. Varkey Perekkatt, SJ as the keynote speaker, who had served as the Provincial of India from 1992-1998, and then as JRS Nepal - Field Director, for the next 8 years. He is an ideal leader who had advocated for thousands of Bhutanese and other refugees in the past to have graced the occasion of the JRS Day Celebration.

We were fortunate to have the Afghan and Chin refugee leaders who reflected on the JRS accompaniment with their respective communities.

JRS students showcased their culture through dance performances and shared the stories of refugees with a small role play.

As part of the JRS Program, we had the opportunity to felicitate students of the Cooking and Baking class for their successful completion of a six-month course, and students were delighted and honored to receive their certificates.



TOT on Personality Development and Effective Communication Skills



The session was conducted on 23rd November by Mr. Austine Albert, at Navjivan Renewal Centre, New Delhi. It was attended by 11 participants (9 female; 2 male). In this session, the resource person emphasized the following points:

- ✿ What is Communication and its components?
- ✿ Message, Sender, Receiver, Medium, and Feedback
- ✿ Barriers to Communication- Linguistic, Psychological, Emotional, Physical, and Cultural
- ✿ Interpersonal communication and Intra-personal communication
- ✿ Mass/Group communication

The above-mentioned topics enabled the teachers to understand how effective communication skills play a crucial role in shaping one's personality and helping individuals to express themselves in the most convincing way. In order to give concrete ideas on effective communication, a few games and activities were conducted for giving emphasize clarity, body language, active listening, maintaining eye contact, and avoiding barriers to communication.

Intrapersonal communication skills and interpersonal skills are deeply connected. Both contribute to emotional intelligence and one's ability to communicate one's needs, goals, and ideas to others in an effective way.

It can also help some work on their self-esteem and confidence. On the other hand, mass and group communication help students develop, problem-solving, critical thinking, team-building, and public speaking skills. Being able to communicate is vital to being an effective educator. Communication not only conveys information, but it encourages effort, modifies attitudes, and stimulates thinking.

During the feedback, teachers felt it was an amazing session, and it was very engaging and interesting. Activities conducted were free of cost through which one can engage the students in the class more effectively.

Teachers felt that it was their responsibility to build the confidence of the students. Teachers expressed their sentiments of gratitude towards JRS for the opportunities provided to enhance their capacities in teaching.



JRS Cooking & Baking students put Food Stall during Chin Winter Sports

The students of JRS Cooking and Baking classes at Chin Centre participated in the Annual Chin Winter Sports Meet for 5 days from the 1st to the 5th of November. The students along with their trainer put up a food stall comprising various dishes and beverages. This initiative helped them to learn to work as a team. This has not only helped them to enhance their cooking skills but also created a platform to understand customer interaction and preferences.



Awareness Session on Menstrual Health and Hygiene with Chin and Afghan women

A group of 13 nurses from Holy Family Hospital took the session on 'Menstrual Health and Hygiene' at JRS Bhogal and Tilak Nagar centers on 19th and 21st November respectively. The nurses are M.sc students, and they presented a skit on the taboos and problems faced by girls especially when they start menstruating.

A pre-survey was taken with all the participants to evaluate the knowledge related to menstrual hygiene and practices they were following to make them understand in detail the female reproductive system, ovulation cycle, signs of a healthy period, types of absorbent, cultural

practices, how to use absorbent and its advantages and disadvantages, problems, myth, and facts. Special emphasis was laid on a healthy diet which would ensure a good lifestyle during these days. The resource persons encouraged everyone to ask questions and responded to them all.



Arrupe Day

42 Years of Accompaniment

In Tamil Nadu, Arrupe Day was celebrated in four zones with great enthusiasm.

On 12th November, 2022

The Arrupe day was commemorated in the Nellai zone at CARE center, Thirumangalam, Madurai. The programs like Public Speeches, Poem Recital, Dance, and Science Exhibitions were organized. The CEC students took part actively and celebrated the birthday of Fr. Arrupe in a meaningful way.



On 13th November, 2022

JRS Day in Tiruvannamalai zone at Thavasi camp, Cheyyar. The activities like Running, High-Jump, Long-Jump, and other sport-related competitions were conducted for the CEC students.



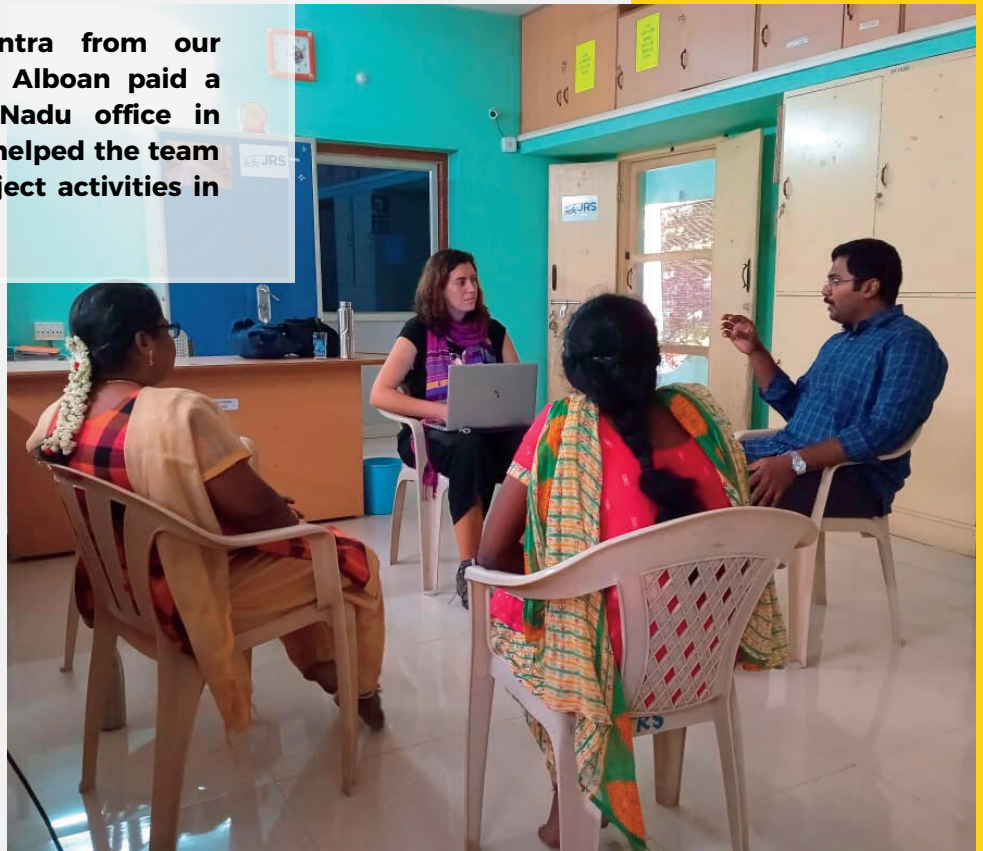
On 19th November, 2022

Arrupe day was commemorated in the Kovai zone at Don Bosco- Anbu Illam, Salem.



On 19th November, 2022

In Tamil Nadu: Ms. Santra from our supporting organization - Alboan paid a visit to the JRS Tamil Nadu office in Dindigul. Her interactions helped the team to ably undertake the project activities in an effective way.



Counselling Training for CE Teachers

Counselling Training for teachers in Nellai and Trichy zones was organized in Alverna Illam, Dindigul from 18th to 20th November. The resource persons were from Anugraha Counselling Centre. The participants expressed that the training was so effective that they will now be able to understand the students in a better way and also guide them effectively.



JRS South Asia response to vulnerable unregistered Burmese in India.



JRS believes that our journeying with refugees is the most important way for us to express our solidarity with them and our concern for their wellbeing. In a world where refugees are more than ever in need of welcome, protection, and justice, and yet are increasingly rejected, demonized, and denied their fundamental human rights, JRS offers accompaniment to the Unregistered and newly registered Burmese population of concern (PoC) in Manipur and Mizoram states of India as a sign of hope and greater protection assistance that safeguards their development and wellbeing.

JRS in partnership with JRS USA and with the funding provided by the United States government (PRM) will accompany the Burmese PoC to promote the enrolment and continuation of formal education for unregistered dropout Burmese children under the National Education System (NES) through supplementary education courses and to improve access to psychosocial wellness and social support for the most vulnerable PoC through Mental Health and psychosocial and Reconciliation supports.



JRS North East - Manipur team with some well-wishers

JRS Afghanistan celebrated JRS Anniversary



In the celebration conducted in both camps, we hosted around one thousand participants including students, teachers, some parents, community leaders, and JRS core staff.

The people especially community leaders and parents were really happy to see their children's improvement.

The community leader addressed the gathering, he said that they are thankful for JRS and the services for their children. He added that he witnessed the change that JRS schools have brought in students' behavior. They not just only studied school subjects but learned how to live in a community in a real sense.

JRS Day Celebration - Afghanistan



JRS Bangladesh resumed its activities

The tides of joy swept over the Rohingya children and community as the CB-JRS Multipurpose Child & Adolescent Centre (MCAC) resumed its activities on 1 November 2022. A total of 16 staff members have been reinstalled. The Country Director, Jerry Gomes, SJ conducted an orientation session on the project cycle management and inputs on 4 months' activities to familiarize and motivate staff members about the expectation of the project.

The Rohingya volunteers are an indispensable part of MCAC as they are being empowered and being involved to build the Rohingya community engagement through awareness sessions for parents, and religious and social leaders. Individual case identification, follow-up, referrals, and psycho-social support (PSS) have been provided by case management staff. The team also attends various sector meetings organized by governments and other INGOs. Several pieces of training were held to enhance the skill and capacity of the staff.



On 19th November, 2022

Fr. Dirik Bingener the President of MISSIO Germany and Anne Knorzer, Country Officer of MISSIO along with some important officials of CB and the assistant camp-in-charge of camp- 4 visited a center called Hope.

They witnessed a children's session and handcrafting activities of the adolescent girls. The visitors observed the children engaging in role play and stated that while the center may not provide extensive formal education, it does provide practical education. They have interacted with Rohingya volunteers.



Training of Facilitators - JRS Bangladesh



Complementary Education Class,
JRS Afghanistan

Jesuit Refugee Service

Nonprofit organization

We accompany, serve, and advocate the cause of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, so that they may heal, learn and determine their own future.

For more information:



www.sas.jrs.net

10 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi, 110003

Delivering Significant Change

62,189 people were served
in 2021

JRS South Asia was present in
2 countries

- Accompany
- Serve
- Advocate